

Tuesday, 15 January 2013

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(10.00 am)

THE CORONER: Good morning everybody. The microphone problems from yesterday have not yet been finally resolved, but I am confident that Lambeth are dealing with the matter as quickly as they can. In the meantime we have made arrangements which I hope will be satisfactory for this morning's hearing. I hope that everybody in the room can hear me. Can I ask those at the back to signal whether they can hear me or not?

Thank you very much.

Members of the jury, good morning. I am afraid that your microphones are not switched on, or not capable of being switched on, this morning. I am hoping that the problems with the microphones will be sorted out during the course of today, or certainly before tomorrow. I think that the arrangements that we have in place will be sufficient to enable us to deal properly with today's hearing. Thank you very much, and welcome all this morning. Thank you.

Yes, Mr Maxwell-Scott. I think that we are going to ask Mr Cervi to give evidence first.

MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: We are going to ask Mr Cervi. I'm now wearing a lapel microphone. Can I just have confirmation that it is working and people can hear?

1 THE CORONER: Mr Cervi, before you begin -- I don't want to
2 interrupt you. Could you make sure that you're close to
3 the microphone so that the jury can hear what it is you
4 have to tell them.

5 A. Is that better?

6 THE CORONER: Does that sound all right, members of the
7 jury? Thank you very much.

8 A. All right.

9 I would like to start to talk a little bit about my
10 family, wife and couple kids that I had. I lost my
11 entire family, my wife and my two kids, in the fire on
12 3 July 2009. I met my wife in a Brazilian club. She
13 was dancing and at the beginning I could not get close
14 to her. She did not stop dancing that day, (Inaudible)
15 goes on in the night. Suddenly she stopped for a glass
16 of water. She was not drinking, not smoking, nothing
17 like that. Then after that night we start to have
18 a relation. We had couple meetings after that date, and
19 she told me she had a little daughter, which at the time
20 was three months old when I met my wife. I told her
21 I would like to meet her. Then, after a week, I met the
22 little one. Her name was Thais. After that, I could
23 not leave both of them.

24 My wife was very energy woman, very (Inaudible),
25 very happy. She was excellent wife and even better mum.

1 She was very dedicated in everything she was doing. She
2 loved to dance. She liked to do dance courses and other
3 things. She did couple -- she did more than couple
4 years of English class in Southwark College in Waterloo.
5 She finished all the course -- English course. Just she
6 missed the last exam because I had my son. Like I said,
7 she was very energy. She was putting music in the home
8 and start to dance with the kids, and she was never
9 tired to take kids to park and she got plenty more
10 energy than myself, to be honest. I was more quiet.

11 And on 8 July, we went on holiday to Brazil --
12 sorry, we went on holiday to Brazil before 8 July. When
13 we come back we get married. When married at the time,
14 we were living with my father-in-law and his mum and
15 Thais. Thais was a beautiful baby, beautiful girl. As
16 soon as I saw her the first time, I was sure that was
17 the -- my dream daughter. She was excellent in school,
18 always doing well. I never had any complain. All the
19 meetings that I had at school with the teachers, I was
20 the one which always liked to go there and check on her,
21 that everything was fine. Everything was always lovely
22 with her. She got plenty energy, very clever kid. She
23 used to wake up in the mornings and instead of going and
24 wake me up, she was going and make hot chocolate, sit on
25 sofa watching cartoon.

1 Just a month before the tragedy, I was start to
2 teach her to ride a bicycle without the step wheels,
3 safe wheels. She was lesson two or three times. She
4 was already doing so well, so after that almost every
5 day after work I had to take her to -- downstairs to the
6 flat to ride a bicycle with my son. At that time I had
7 Felipe. I bought both -- bicycle for both of them.
8 Felipe didn't want to. He want to play football. He
9 didn't care about the bicycles. She was kind of
10 sweetness girl that I saw, she was -- she was with
11 ideas. She always listen, completely different than her
12 brother. Felipe was a little naughty, always doing
13 crazy things. One of the crazy things was like
14 a simple -- I was in my father-in-law's house. He went
15 to the bedroom and he took the -- there was a big pot of
16 hair gel. The next thing we saw he was all over the
17 hair gel. He put it on his head and his face,
18 everywhere on him. Took us, I would say, more than two
19 hours to get off of there.

20 Felipe was all right in school. We didn't have any
21 complaint about him. I had to go with him the first
22 week, almost stay with him whole class, so he can get
23 used to be there. He was more close with my wife, I was
24 more close with my daughter, which for me was working
25 well, because she can control better him and I can

1 control better my daughter, so we can control the
2 responsibilities. I don't want to mention much about --
3 about things they done, otherwise I'm going to stop here
4 crying, doing -- no-one's going to understand nothing
5 I'm going to say. I think the main thing, my wife she
6 was -- she was planning to have a bank -- get a job in
7 a bank. She used to do that in Brazil and she was
8 planning to do the same here. She did not have much
9 time to do that. My daughter, when she was grow up, she
10 could be whatever she wanted. She was clever. My son,
11 probably he was going to be trouble like I was when
12 I was teenage with my mum. My mum always say I'm going
13 to pay with him everything that I did with her.

14 Felipe was three years old when he passed away. My
15 daughter, she was six, and my wife she was 26 at the
16 time. I lost three of them. That afternoon I saw
17 everything that I build, everything that I dream of was
18 over in, say in three hours, maybe less than that.
19 I would like to thank you for listening but I cannot do
20 anymore.

21 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Mr Cervi, could I just
22 ask you just stay there at that and moment. We'd like
23 to ask you some questions.

24 A. That's fine.

25 THE CORONER: Are you happy to continue or do you want

1 a break?

2 A. No, just do it.

3 THE CORONER: Thank you very much for reading your
4 statement.

5 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Cervi, you will have heard the coroner
6 yesterday explaining to the members of the jury that at
7 the end of the inquests they will need to complete some
8 forms, and one of the things they have to put on the
9 forms is correct details of the names and dates of birth
10 and places of birth of those who died.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Can I just check those with you so that we can make sure
13 that that's accurate. Dayana, is it right she was born
14 in Brazil?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Was her date of birth 14 December 1982?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was Thais also born in Brazil?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Was her date of birth 25 September 2002?

21 A. (The witness nodded)

22 Q. Their surname was Francisquini for both of them; is that
23 right? Both Dayana and Thais?

24 A. Dayana and Thais, yes.

25 Q. And then Rafael, is it right that his surname was

1 Francisquini Cervi?

2 A. Felipe.

3 Q. Sorry. His surname was Francisquini Cervi?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So Felipe Francisquini Cervi, and he was born in the
6 United Kingdom?

7 A. He was born in London, United Kingdom, yes.

8 Q. And was his date of birth 19 September 2005?

9 A. 2005.

10 Q. What would you like the members of the jury to put for
11 occupation for Dayana?

12 A. Mum.

13 Q. Thank you. Mr Cervi, we're going to hear evidence from
14 at least ten people who were residents in Lakanal House
15 in July 2009.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. We would like to ask each of them some general questions
18 about their awareness of fire safety advice and of the
19 layout of the building so that we can build up
20 a complete picture. Because you were also a resident of
21 Lakanal House at the time I am going to ask you
22 essentially the same set of questions.

23 Firstly, just so we can put it into perspective, so
24 we can understand things better, do you remember which
25 year you and your family moved into Lakanal?

1 A. 2005.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 A. Not really -- wrong was 2005. Sorry, sorry, 2006.

4 Felipe was born in 2005. He was born a year when we

5 moved to the flat.

6 Q. Do you remember ever seeing any written leaflets or

7 advice from the London Fire Brigade?

8 A. About ...?

9 Q. About fire safety matters? There's no particular reason

10 why you should have done, but just so we can build up

11 a picture. If it would help, I can show you an example.

12 A. That would help, yes.

13 Q. Yes, okay.

14 Mr Clark, in the series of the four files of

15 documents relating to this part of the inquests, it's

16 page 1050, which I think should be in file 3. (Handed)

17 That is a four-page document. If you just take

18 a moment. All I want to know is whether you recognise

19 it. As I say, there is no particular reason why you

20 should have done, but just so we can build up a picture.

21 Just those first four pages.

22 A. No, I never saw that.

23 Q. No, that's fine.

24 A. Fire is the signs on few doors?

25 Q. I will ask you about those in a moment, if that's okay.

1 Just in the same set of documents at page 1054, so just
2 continuing straight on, there's another similar leaflet.
3 Just check -- it's two pages long -- if that's something
4 you recognise at all.

5 A. I'm sorry, but the way it's printed here, I could not
6 really read what it is.

7 Q. On the second page, I agree.

8 A. 1055.

9 Q. 1055, I agree. But perhaps if you had seen it before
10 you would recognise it from the rest of the document?

11 A. Not as far as I remember.

12 Q. Exactly. So you don't recognise it?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Thank you. Did you, or as far as you know your wife,
15 ever look for any fire safety advice, for example on the
16 London Fire Brigade website?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. Do you remember if you or your wife ever received
19 a home safety visit from the London Fire Brigade, where
20 they send a firefighter to somebody's home and give them
21 some general advice?

22 A. Not as far as I recall, no.

23 Q. Thank you. The final document I am going to ask you to
24 look at on this topic, in the same file, page 1068.

25 A. 1068?

1 Q. 1068. If I just explain what it is. It has a "page 27"
2 towards the bottom right hand corner. So it's page 27
3 of a longer document and it continues for three pages.
4 It may come from some form of handbook. Just again the
5 same question essentially: do you recognise ever having
6 seen that before? Not that one, Mr Cervi, just the
7 three before that.

8 A. No.

9 Q. You don't recognise it. Thank you.

10 You can put that file away. You won't need to look
11 at it again. I am going to ask you about your
12 understanding of different ways in which one could get
13 out of a flat.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. We've seen a lot of the images yesterday and we'll be
16 asking other residents the same set of questions so we
17 can build up this picture. Were you aware that you
18 could get out of the lower floor of your flat through
19 not only the front door but also a door under the
20 stairs?

21 A. I was aware of that, yes.

22 Q. Do you think your wife was as well?

23 A. We discussed about the (Inaudible).

24 Q. If we imagine, then, going upstairs within the flat,
25 were you aware where the balconies led to?

1 A. Yes, we have, yes.

2 Q. Can I just bring up an image. I'm just going to bring
3 up a photograph of one of those doors. If you look that
4 door there at the end of the balcony, you knew that that
5 was a route that could potentially be used to get out of
6 the building?

7 A. I knew that.

8 Q. And you think your wife would have known that?

9 A. She was.

10 Q. Thank you. Did you know that there were 14 floors to
11 the building?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you know how many flats there were in the building?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did you know how many flats there were on each floor?

16 A. I thought I knew, but after yesterday, I was wrong.

17 Q. Okay. Did you know that all of the flats in the
18 building were essentially identical?

19 A. I thought so.

20 Q. Thank you, Mr Cervi, for answering those questions about
21 the layout. That's very helpful. I'm now going to move
22 on and ask you some questions about the events of
23 3 July 2009 itself.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. It may help you -- because I'm sure your memory was

1 better at the time -- if you have your witness statement
2 available. That's in file 1 of the witness statements
3 bundle, starting at page 3. (Handed) Mr Cervi, if
4 I need you to refer to it, if I think it's going to help
5 you, I will let you know. If you think it's going to
6 help you, just say so at any stage.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Is it right that you went to work that morning at about
9 7 in the morning?

10 A. That was right.

11 Q. You were working in the area near London Bridge station?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. The first you knew of any problem was you had a missed
14 call from your wife?

15 A. After I finished my work, yes.

16 Q. After you had finished work?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That was perhaps just before 4.30 in the afternoon?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. I think you have had a chance to look at some records of
21 telephone calls?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. If I could ask you to be shown this document, which is
24 in file 1 of the documents at page 129. There are three
25 pages. Do you see in about the middle of the page at

1 16.27 your wife's name is there in cream colour?

2 A. I can see that, yes.

3 Q. So a call from her, and then to the right of that in

4 green is your name?

5 A. (The witness nodded)

6 Q. So that's probably the missed call. Then, just three

7 lines down, you called her straight back at 16.28?

8 A. 28.

9 Q. Take it from me that from then until 17.24 you made ten

10 telephone calls to her.

11 A. Seems to be right.

12 Q. You heard yesterday that by the time your wife called

13 you at 16.27, the London Fire Brigade had already come

14 to Lakanal and they'd been there for about five minutes,

15 just to put the times together, okay?

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. So you called your wife at 16.28 and then, a little

18 lower down, you called your father-in-law,

19 Mr Francisquini, immediately afterwards?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Is it right that because he was closer to Lakanal than

22 you were, you asked him to go there straight away,

23 because he might get there before you?

24 A. He was working closer than me so he can just walk there,

25 would be faster than me.

1 Q. You called Dayana again to say you're coming straight
2 back?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. In one of those early telephone calls with Dayana, she
5 said that the least smoke was in the bathroom; is that
6 right? Do you want to have a look at your --

7 A. In one of the calls, yeah.

8 Q. In one of the calls?

9 A. She mention -- I ask her where was there less smoking.
10 She said it was in the bathroom.

11 Q. So because she said the least smoke was in the bathroom,
12 you said to her: "Go to the bathroom, because that's
13 where there is least smoke"?

14 A. Yeah, she said she couldn't get out, so I told her it
15 was the best option. You've got water, you've got
16 everything in case of ...

17 Q. I understand. Then you got home as quickly as you
18 could?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Taking a taxi rather than a bus?

21 A. Yeah, took a black cab to get there, yeah.

22 Q. And you made a 999 call from the taxi?

23 A. From the taxi.

24 Q. The records show that that was at 16.42?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. The tape of that call, when typed up, shows that you
2 said you were five minutes from your house, or three
3 minutes from your house, and in your witness
4 statement --

5 A. Something like that.

6 Q. -- you say you were at Burgess Park when you made that
7 call. Does that sound right?

8 A. Yeah, I was passing by with the cab, so I thought if
9 I mentioned the park she knew I was close to the house.

10 Q. Thank you. Is it right that in one of the telephone
11 calls you had with Dayana she said that there was
12 a neighbour there with her and that the neighbour had
13 a baby with her?

14 A. Yeah, she told me that she was scared and she came for
15 help in my house.

16 Q. Were you aware that there was another family with your
17 wife as well, a husband and a wife and two children?

18 A. No, the only thing -- the only thing she been told is
19 someone was there and decide to leave and left. But
20 I think my wife say she couldn't leave because she had
21 been told to stay inside. That's the only thing I'm
22 aware about. I didn't know there was another family
23 there apart from his wife and his baby.

24 Q. Can I just check what you were saying a moment ago. At
25 the time, did you understand that at one point some

1 other people had been in the bathroom and had then left?

2 A. No, I didn't know that.

3 Q. Okay. There came a time when the taxi got you to
4 Lakanal. If you could be shown a document at page 128
5 of the same bundle that you were just finding those
6 documents in. Mr Clark, file 1. It's 128, a diagram
7 that looks -- exactly, that's it. (Handed)

8 This may help to just refresh your memory. That is
9 diagram that you drew in August 2009, and what you said
10 in your witness statement is that when you arrived you
11 stood on location A?

12 A. No, when I arrived I went straight to F. I run down the
13 street towards Lakanal House and I been stopped by
14 policemen and firemens which was blocking the street.
15 Once I get to this -- to this police -- I don't even
16 recall if it was a policeman or -- it should be in my
17 statement -- he told me I cannot pass through.
18 I mentioned to him I had my wife and my kids stuck in
19 flat 81, 11th floor. He took me straight to point A,
20 which was few police -- Fire Brigade officers over there
21 which was a plain clothes responsible for -- for the
22 action at the time. I mentioned to him about it. He
23 told me he knew about it, that they were dealing with
24 that.

25 Q. So just stopping there so the members of the jury can

1 follow this. Location A, looking on your screen, is
2 around the corner of Dalwood Street and Sedgmoor Place;
3 is that right? If you compare it with your diagram.

4 A. Yeah, Dalwood Street and -- I left the minicab straight
5 where seeing there. You are facing north, so I came
6 through the north and down into Dalwood Street. When
7 you get to the junction -- that was the mark F on my
8 plan -- that's the first time -- first person that
9 I spoke about it. After that I move just by point A
10 which was just by the other building there which the
11 other officers were.

12 Q. Point A is around the corner of Dalwood Street and
13 Sedgmoor Place, near the other building, Fontenelle?

14 A. Yes, between Lakanal House and the other place on a
15 grass floor.

16 Q. So we've already seen that you were trying to do
17 everything you possibly could to help your family. You
18 were getting home as fast as you could. You called
19 Dayana's father because he was closer?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. You called 999?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. And you were giving Dayana advice and reassurance over
24 the telephone?

25 A. Yeah, which I mention when I arrive there.

1 Q. You may have wanted to go into the building and try and
2 rescue them yourself, but of course the London
3 Fire Brigade couldn't let you through the cordon, could
4 they?

5 A. I tried a few times. One of the times I been hold by
6 a fire officer.

7 Q. Being outside the cordon may have left you feeling
8 slightly powerless to assist?

9 A. Useless, to be honest. I feel like -- it's hard when
10 you see what happens and you try to do something, you
11 couldn't, and you see -- you don't feel like no-one else
12 doing nothing about it, so it wasn't a good feeling.

13 Q. But you kept trying, and you kept talking to people from
14 the emergency services?

15 A. I spoke with a lot of people there, that's right. I had
16 to get information.

17 Q. You gave some more practical advice to Dayana over the
18 telephone because in one of the calls, is it right that
19 she said she was scared and you told her to move the
20 mattress and the curtains from the bedroom?

21 A. Because I was outside, I could have a better view of
22 what's happen, and the flat 79, if I'm not wrong. The
23 fire was coming really close to my daughter's bed, my
24 kid's bedroom, and I had a mattress and a curtain over
25 there, so I asked my wife to go there and just rip off

1 the curtain and remove the mattress, just in case the
2 fire get close there. I thought the fire -- the
3 mattress and the curtain was going to spread quicker
4 than if it's not in the corner there.

5 Q. So you were continuing to think and try anything you
6 possibly could to help?

7 A. That was the last time I give advice by myself. After
8 that, I been supported by one of the members -- one of
9 the members over there. I cannot recall -- I was too
10 nervous at that time. I cannot recall which uniform he
11 was wearing, but then he -- I mentioned to him what I
12 did about the toilet, about the curtains, and he said
13 I did the right thing, she should stay there, and
14 I don't know how -- he said he's talking with her on the
15 phone as well. So I was a little bit more calm at that
16 time because I had professional advice.

17 Q. If I could ask you to look at a couple of photographs
18 that just cover what we've been talking about, and
19 I think Mr Clark has some for the jury as well.

20 (Handed) If I just check that you have these two
21 photographs?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. I'll just wait for everybody else to have their copies.
24 Looking first at the photograph with people in emergency
25 services clothing, the person that you spoke to who said

1 they had spoken to Dayana, were they dressed wearing
2 a uniform that looked like one of those?

3 A. They were in uniform but I cannot recall exactly which
4 colour or which type of uniform. If I'm not wrong, then
5 he's wearing this white head-cap, safety helmets, and he
6 was wearing a no leaves [sic] jacket on that time, if
7 I'm not wrong about that. I've tried to remember so
8 many times but I couldn't remember. I know it was
9 a light dark colour of his skin, about --

10 Q. You give a description of him in your statement. You
11 spoke to him twice. He was a light-skinned black man,
12 37 to 39 years old, slim build, 170 centimetres tall, in
13 uniform?

14 A. That's right but I could not recall the -- I was focused
15 looking at the fire then. I cannot remember.

16 Q. But you know that he had been talking to Dayana on the
17 telephone?

18 A. He came from nowhere. I was staying in there. I don't
19 know how he find out I was the father and husband, so he
20 came -- approached me and say, "Don't worry, I've been
21 talking with her on the phone." I mentioned to him
22 about where she was. He said, "No, you did the right
23 thing. She need to stay there. Don't worry, I'm
24 talking with her. She's fine."

25 That's the first -- first time he came to me. He

1 came after few times, and the last time he came he just
2 said, "Don't worry, she's fine", and I spoke with my
3 wife, I think, ten seconds before. She said no. I told
4 him, "No, she's not fine. She just hang up on me
5 because my son could not breathe anymore." So that was
6 the last time I spoke with him, because then I figured
7 out he was lying, because he mentioned my wife was okay
8 and I'm just talking with her now, and she hang up on me
9 and say my son could not breathe anymore, stop
10 breathing, so I didn't want to see him anymore at that
11 time.

12 Q. If I could ask you just to have a look at the other
13 photograph.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. This was taken at 4.52 in the afternoon. If you look up
16 to where your flat was, flat 81?

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. It's the series of windows not on the top floor, the one
19 below that. If you count from the left to the fourth
20 set of three windows, is it right you can see curtains
21 in the first two windows and then a blue colour which is
22 a blue mattress in the third window?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. I don't need to show you the later photographs because
25 Dr Mansi described it yesterday, but by 17.02 your wife

1 had come out and removed the mattress?

2 A. The mattress and the curtains from there.

3 Q. You saw her do that, didn't you?

4 A. I saw her, yeah. She was covering her mouth with what
5 I think was a baby towel and with her other hand she
6 removed them.

7 Q. Is it right that she did it immediately after you had
8 had a telephone conversation with her, giving her that
9 advice?

10 A. Yeah, that's right.

11 Q. I can tell you that you, according to the records, spoke
12 to her at 4.55 and also at 4.59, so she probably did it
13 immediately after one of those two calls?

14 A. Probably, yeah.

15 Q. Your final conversation with Dayana was at 5.24 in the
16 afternoon?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. In it, she said to you that Felipe was not okay?

19 A. Yeah. That was the last time I spoke with her.

20 Q. After that, of course, you made a lot of further calls
21 to her mobile but they weren't answered?

22 A. It was off. Mobile went off. It don't even ring.

23 Q. Then some time later on you were driven to King's
24 College Hospital?

25 A. A while -- while after that, I been drive to -- I been

1 drive there. I was around the building for more than
2 an hour trying to get information.

3 Q. At King's College Hospital you identified your son
4 Felipe's body?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. And whilst you were there you were told that Dayana had
7 died and that she had been taken to St Thomas' Hospital?

8 A. After I recognise my son, I was worried about my wife
9 and my daughter.

10 Q. Of course.

11 A. But by that time no-one knew where she was, so
12 I Bluetooth a picture to one of the -- the members of
13 staff over there, and he start to email the pictures to
14 the hospitals until they -- they told us my wife was --
15 she passed away and she was in St Thomas Hospital. My
16 father-in-law went there to recognise, and he came back
17 with the -- with the news.

18 Q. At that time, you still didn't know what had happened to
19 Thais?

20 A. No, I didn't know what had happened my daughter.
21 I tried to find out. It's like -- I had a -- I had the
22 world lost. I had three. I had my son, I was expecting
23 my wife to be alive. Then, after an hour, they find out
24 my wife as dead. Then I was expecting my daughter to be
25 alive, at least one of them. But I could not find her.

1 I had been told the next day in the afternoon she was
2 been left inside the flat. So I don't have -- it's
3 different than when you have a car crash in which all
4 your family die in once. I had to -- I had to suffer
5 three different times, which I wish each one of them was
6 alive and -- one after an hour and a half, another one
7 after an hour and another one after 12 hours. So that
8 was not easy. It's still not easy.

9 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Cervi. I hope you know that
10 everybody in this court feels enormous sympathy for your
11 loss.

12 A. Thank you.

13 Q. I have no further questions for you.

14 THE CORONER: Mr Cervi, if you could just stay there. Does
15 anybody have questions for Mr Cervi? Yes, Mr Hendy.

16 Questions by MR HENDY

17 MR HENDY: I am going to speak as loudly as I can because
18 I don't have microphone.

19 THE CORONER: There is a roving microphone if you would like
20 to use it.

21 MR HENDY: I don't know if the people at the back and the
22 shorthand transcriber can hear me and the members of the
23 jury.

24 THE CORONER: All right. Well, that seems fine.

25 MR HENDY: Then I'll speak loudly.

1 Just a couple of additional questions, Mr Cervi.
2 The first time that you spoke to Dayana on 3 July when
3 you were on your way back to Lakanal House, you --
4 sorry, let me start in a different way. You made
5 a statement to the police. I think Mr Maxwell-Scott has
6 put a copy in front of you?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. If you look at page 4 of that, you describe the events
9 of that afternoon. I want to ask you about a couple of
10 passages in it. The first is on page 4. The jury do
11 not have this in front of them, so you're going to have
12 to tell them.

13 THE CORONER: Are you on internal page 4, or the number at
14 the bottom of the page?

15 MR HENDY: Yes, it's the number in the middle of the bottom
16 of the page. Do you have that? It's the second page of
17 your statement.

18 A. Yeah, number 4.

19 Q. Yes. If you look at the paragraph that begins
20 "I finished work at 4 pm"?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. A few lines further on, we see your mobile telephone
23 number.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And there you state:

1 "I discovered I'd just had a missed call from
2 Dayana. I then returned Dayana's call. She said,
3 'There's a fire in the building. I can't leave.
4 There's a lot of smoke in the house.' I said, 'Where
5 are you?' She said, 'I'm in the bedroom.' I said,
6 'Where inside the house is the least amount of smoke?'
7 She said, 'The toilet.' I said, 'Get into the toilet,
8 because the extractor fan is in there. Fill the bath
9 half full of water in case of fire to make yourself and
10 the children wet. Get some towels, make them wet, put
11 them over your mouth and to make a mask to stop you and
12 the children inhaling the smoke. Everything's going to
13 be fine. I'm on my way home.'"

14 Is that accurate as far as you can recall now?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. On the next page, at page 5, you deal with a 999 call
17 that Mr Maxwell-Scott asked you about?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And if you look about six lines down from the top, you
20 see that you say, as you told Mr Maxwell-Scott, that you
21 were by Burgess Park, and you wrote then:

22 "I called 999 from my mobile phone and asked for the
23 fire service. I said to the operator: 'There's a fire
24 in Lakanal House, Camberwell.' They told me they were
25 aware of that. I said, 'My family are in flat 81 inside

1 the bathroom on the 11th floor. There are four children
2 and two adults in there.' They told me they were
3 dealing with it. I then ended the call."

4 Is that right?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Obviously your wife was one adult and your two children
7 were two of the children. Did you know who the other
8 adult and the other two children were?

9 A. No, she just mention one of the neighbours. She didn't
10 mention who it was.

11 Q. On that same page, you describe how the black cab that
12 you caught dropped you off at the junction of
13 Southampton Way and Sedgmoor Place, and you write:

14 "I ran up Sedgmoor Place and approached a member of
15 the Fire Brigade and could only see the side of Lakanal
16 House. I said to him: 'My family are in there. There
17 are six people in there, four kids and two adults.
18 They're on the 11th floor, inside the toilet in flat
19 number 81.' He said, 'Did you speak to her?' I said,
20 'Yes.' He said, 'Okay, come with me.'"

21 And then he took you from Sedgmoor Place to the
22 location A that you described to Mr Maxwell-Scott, and
23 you write in your statement:

24 "He took me to that location and there were three or
25 four fire officers on the other side of the fence.

1 I spoke to a white male. He was in fire uniform. The
2 first fireman told me this person that I had told him
3 that my family were on the 11th floor in flat 81. He
4 asked me where exactly. I said, 'Inside the bathroom
5 there are four kids and two adults, my family and the
6 neighbour. I've spoken to my wife on the phone.' He
7 said, 'Are they fine? We're going to send someone up
8 there.' I can't recall what I replied to that."

9 Is that right?

10 A. That's right.

11 THE CORONER: Mr Hendy, could you just go a little bit more
12 slowly for the transcription people, please.

13 MR HENDY: Do forgive me, madam. Then, at the bottom of
14 that page, Mr Cervi, you write -- this is after the
15 conversation with those fire officers:

16 "I then called Dayana again. She said the kids are
17 still scared because the woman is crying and screaming
18 in the bathroom. I said, 'I'm already here. Don't
19 worry. The fire is not catching at our flat. I've
20 already spoken to someone, and he'll send someone to get
21 you.' The conversation finished."

22 Is that right?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. Did you know who the woman was who was crying in the
25 bathroom?

1 A. No, I didn't.

2 Q. Then you describe how you met up with your father-in-law
3 who had obviously arrived before you, and if you look
4 about ten lines down, you say:

5 "At the time, myself and Fernando looked at the
6 fire, and it seemed to be stopping and did not appear to
7 be spreading to our flat. Another male appeared from
8 nowhere. He was a light-skinned black man, 37 to 39,
9 slim build, one metre 70 tall."

10 This is the man that you described to
11 Mr Maxwell-Scott a few minutes ago?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. "He walked towards me. He said, 'I already spoke to
14 her. You did the right thing. She needs to stay
15 there.'"

16 And you said:

17 "I sent her to the toilet where there was the least
18 amount of smoke, told her to fill the bath half full,
19 wet towels, because there was an extractor fan in
20 there."

21 He said:

22 "That's right, they need to stay there. We're going
23 to send someone there. Don't worry."

24 Is that right?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. I just want to ask you about the last time you spoke to
2 Dayana on the mobile phone. You describe that at the
3 bottom of page 6 and the top of page 7. I'm not going
4 to go over that phone call again, but after that phone
5 call, you say:

6 "The light-skinned black fireman approached me again
7 and said, 'Did you speak with her?' I said, 'Yeah.' He
8 appeared to be holding his mobile to his mouth. He
9 said, 'I just spoke to her. She's okay. I told her to
10 lay on the floor and stay with the kids.' I looked at
11 him and said, 'I've just called her. She told me Felipe
12 is not okay.' I then said to him he's dying. I told
13 him this because of what Dayana had said and to make
14 them do something."

15 Is that right?

16 A. Yes, sorry.

17 Q. After the space in the page between two paragraphs, you
18 say:

19 "I recall that someone from the Fire Brigade said
20 that people were getting out at the back of Lakanal
21 House from the fire exit. I then ran down Havel Street
22 at the end of Fontenelle house, turned left to a place
23 [which we need not trouble to identify] at the rear of
24 Lakanal House, where there were two officers stood at
25 a cordon which was between the rear of Lakanal House and

1 the other buildings which is known as the Saturday club
2 buildings. I could see that there were lots of
3 Fire Brigade members, about 30 to 40, standing and
4 sitting in this area behind Lakanal House."

5 Is that right?

6 A. Yeah, they're sitting there.

7 Q. You say:

8 "That was about one and a half hours after I had
9 arrived."

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. I think those are the only questions I have for you,
12 Mr Cervi. Thank you very much.

13 THE CORONER: Thank you, Mr Hendy. Members of the jury, do
14 you have any questions that you would like to put to
15 Mr Cervi? Thank you very much.

16 Mr Cervi, thank you very much for coming today.
17 Thank you very much for the statement which you read to
18 us and thank you very much for the evidence which you
19 have given. I know that it can't be easy. Thank you
20 very much for coming.

21 A. You're welcome.

22 THE CORONER: Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, I wonder if this might be
25 a convenient moment for the morning break.

1 THE CORONER: Yes, I think that would be a sensible idea.

2 If we have a break for about ten minutes, so if we could
3 be back in the room by about 11.15. Is that convenient
4 to everybody? Thank you very much.

5 (11.06 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.23 am)

8 THE CORONER: Thank you. Yes, members of the jury, thank
9 you very much. I have the questions which you have
10 handed in. I think that I do not need to ask Mr Cervi
11 to deal with answers to these. What I am proposing to
12 do is just to discuss with the advocates how to give you
13 as full an answer as I can at this stage, so I'll come
14 back with an answer to the question later today if
15 that's acceptable to you. Thank you very much.

16 Yes.

17 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, before calling the next witness,
18 can I ask that you, the members of the jury and others
19 in court with jury bundles, insert this photograph with
20 a number 1 at the bottom behind tab 14. We'll use that
21 to add additional photographs to the bundle. If you
22 wanted to make a note on it, the time of the photograph
23 is 16.52.

24 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you.

25 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, the next witness is Mbet Udoaka.

1 THE CORONER: Mr Udoaka, would you like to come forward to
2 give evidence, please.

3 MBET UDOAKA (sworn)

4 THE CORONER: Thank you, Mr Udoaka. Do sit down.

5 A. Thank you.

6 THE CORONER: Help yourself to a glass of water before we go
7 any further. The microphone is in front of you.
8 I don't want to keep interrupting you, but it would be
9 helpful if you make sure you speak to the microphone if
10 you can, so the members of the jury and those in the
11 room can hear you. Is that all right?

12 A. Okay.

13 Questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT

14 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Udoaka, I understand that you have
15 a statement that you would like to read to the jury?

16 A. Yes, sir, my witness statement. It's about my family.

17 My wife, Helen, and our baby daughter, Michelle,
18 both died in the fire. Helen was 34 years old and
19 Michelle was just 20 days old that day. Both Helen and
20 I were born in Nigeria. We met in about 2003, whilst
21 studying at the University of Lagos in Nigeria. I asked
22 her out for a drink and from there we started dating.
23 She was a very nice person. She was a very open person
24 who would tell you when she's sad or not, so you always
25 knew what she was feeling, how she was feeling. We had

1 a very -- I have a very strong Catholic religion, and
2 also Helen. She will sometimes ask me to accompany her
3 to the church service. She was an excellent cook and
4 liked cooking dishes, especially African soups. She was
5 also a very tidy person and would like to keep
6 everywhere clean.

7 In June 2005, I came to UK to study business
8 studies. This study was sponsored by my cousins, who
9 all lived there. But I missed Helen, and
10 in January 2007, I went back to Nigeria and married her
11 in the registry and African traditional ceremony.
12 In July 2007, she was able to join me in UK. We both
13 live in Lakanal House, which was rented by -- which was
14 owned by my cousin, Eno. He was not there during the
15 week and most time he was always working outside London.

16 Helen has studied business administration and she
17 has a degree in business administration, and also work
18 as an administrative officer in social care in Nigeria
19 as well. When she came to UK, she did an NVQ training
20 in care and social services at Lewisham college
21 and started working as a carer. Meanwhile, I have
22 started studying an MBA in business administration.
23 I was just starting then, and then I was also doing
24 part-time work in security firm.

25 We were absolutely thrilled when Helen found out

1 that she was pregnant. She was even more delighted when
2 she found out that it was going to be a girl, because
3 that was what she had always wanted as a first child,
4 and then on 19 June 2009 our baby daughter was born. We
5 brought her home the next day.

6 Michelle was a very lovely and happy baby, who was
7 always smiling. We were both very attached to her, and
8 we were delighted to have such a beautiful baby as
9 a daughter. We had a Christening ceremony conducted by
10 our local Parish and Catholic priest in our flat, and
11 a few friends and family came as well.

12 At the time of her death, Helen was on maternity
13 leave and was breast-feeding and looking after Michelle
14 full time, and I had gone out for work, for job, that
15 day. I have been very shocked and traumatised to have
16 lost both Helen and Michelle in such a manner. We had
17 planned to have three kids as quick as possible, and we
18 might have had at least two of them by now, and I think
19 by now Michelle will have been four years old, if she
20 had lived. But unfortunately she had a very short life.

21 Helen's father, Mr Ojeyokan, who was in his 70s and
22 who lived in Nigeria, also died of heart attack the
23 night he was told that Helen was dead. It was three
24 weeks after Helen had died because we didn't want to
25 tell him.

1 My life will never be the same again, and I can
2 never get over these deaths, over the death of my
3 wonderful Helen and lovely Michelle. I am really hoping
4 that one day I'm going to see them. This is what I keep
5 saying to Helen each time I visit the cemetery, because
6 the cemetery wasn't what we planned. Like I said, I'm
7 really hoping that one day, hopefully, we'll get to live
8 together.

9 THE CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr Udoaka.

10 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Udoaka, you heard some of the
11 questions that I asked of Mr Cervi earlier, and you know
12 that the coroner told the jury yesterday about the forms
13 they were going to have to complete at the end of these
14 inquests. Can I just check with you names and dates and
15 places of birth for Helen and Michelle?

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Is it right that Helen was born in Nigeria on
18 31 May 1975?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. What would you like the jury to put down for her
21 occupation?

22 A. Helen had a degree in business management, so I'd say
23 that she was management consultant.

24 Q. Thank you. Is it right that Michelle was born on
25 13 June 2009 in London?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. As I said to Mr Cervi, we're going to be hearing
3 evidence from at least ten people who were residents in
4 Lakanal House in July 2009, and we would like to ask
5 each of them some general questions about their
6 awareness of fire safety advice and of the layout of the
7 building so that we can build up a general picture of
8 people's knowledge and understanding. Because you were
9 also a resident of Lakanal House, I'm going to ask you
10 the same set of questions. Before doing so, is it right
11 that you moved into Lakanal House in 2005?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And your wife moved in in 2007?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Could I ask that you're given the bundle which has
16 page 1050 in it and ask you to look at a leaflet there.
17 (Handed) Just take a moment. It's a four-page London
18 Fire Brigade leaflet. All I'd like you to do is see
19 whether or not you think you recognise it and then tell
20 us whether or not you think you've ever seen it before.

21 A. I can't remember seeing it.

22 Q. You can't remember seeing it. Thank you. Then if you
23 turn on to page 1054, that's a two-page leaflet, so 1054
24 and 1055, and it's the same question. Have a look, see
25 if you recognise it and then just tell us whether you

1 think you do or whether you think you don't.

2 A. I can't remember seeing it.

3 Q. You can't remember seeing it. Did you ever look on the
4 London Fire Brigade's website for any information or
5 safety advice there?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Do you think your wife ever did?

8 A. I have seen but not the one in the flats. But
9 I wouldn't know if my wife did.

10 Q. Okay. Did you ever receive a home safety visit from the
11 London Fire Brigade? This is where they send
12 a firefighter to your home, to your flat, and they come
13 in and they give you some general advice. Do you
14 remember ever receiving a visit like that?

15 A. Not to my knowledge.

16 Q. Did your wife ever mention to you, perhaps if you were
17 out at work, that she had had such a visit?

18 A. Not to my knowledge.

19 Q. Then if you turn on to page 1068, just take a moment to
20 look at this. In the bottom right hand corner you'll
21 see the number 27. Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Then there are three pages of it, the third of which has
24 "29" in the bottom right hand corner.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. So it's taken from a larger document, from a handbook,
2 and it's the same question as before. Have a look and
3 just ask yourself whether or not you think you recognise
4 it and then tell us if you think you've ever seen those
5 pages before or not.

6 A. Not to my knowledge.

7 Q. You don't remember ever seeing it?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Thank you. You can put that file away now. You won't
10 need that again.

11 Can I ask you then about your knowledge of some
12 aspects of the layout of Lakanal House and the flats in
13 Lakanal House. If you think about the lower floor, did
14 you know there was a route out of it onto the central
15 corridor not only through the front door but also under
16 the internal staircase?

17 A. I know there was a door there.

18 Q. Do you think your wife knew that as well?

19 A. She knew?

20 Q. Yes?

21 A. She would have known because obviously it was a door.

22 Q. Thank you. Now, if you imagine going upstairs within
23 the flat, where you have access to a balcony through
24 a door from the kitchen and, on the other side of the
25 building, access to a balcony from the door out of the

1 lounge, can you imagine being on the balcony. If you
2 look in one direction, you can see a door. I'll show
3 you the image. Did you know where that door led?

4 A. I know it was an exit door, but I never knew --
5 I knew -- I knew it was an exit door.

6 Q. I didn't quite hear what you said?

7 A. I knew it was an exit door.

8 Q. You knew it was an exit door?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you know where you could get to if you went through
11 that?

12 A. Not at all.

13 Q. Did you know that if you went through it you could make
14 your way onto the central staircase and then walk down
15 and get out of the building?

16 A. I didn't know because I've never used it. But I know it
17 was an exit door.

18 Q. Did you know it was an exit door that could get you to
19 the bottom of the building?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you think your wife's knowledge would have been the
22 same as yours?

23 A. I wouldn't know.

24 Q. You don't know. Did you know how many floors there were
25 in the building? Did you know that there were 14

1 floors?

2 A. Yes, I knew.

3 Q. Do you think your wife knew that as well?

4 A. Definitely, because in the lobby there were signs.

5 Q. Did you know how many flats there were in the building?

6 A. Yes, I know.

7 Q. 98?

8 A. I knew.

9 Q. Do you think your wife knew that as well?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you know how many flats there were on one corridor on

12 one side of the staircase and how many on the other? In

13 other words, that there were eight flats on one corridor

14 and six on the other?

15 A. Yes, I knew.

16 Q. Did you have an understanding of how the flat numbering

17 system worked? So for example, if you met somebody

18 outside the building who said they lived there in flat

19 57, would you have been able to have an understanding of

20 where that was in the building?

21 A. There are signs down -- if you're coming in from the

22 flat, there are signs, so from there you could -- it's

23 easy to pick it up.

24 Q. So even if you didn't know exactly --

25 A. Even if you didn't know exactly, there were some on the

1 flats at least, and the levels, yes.

2 Q. Did you know that all of the flats were essentially
3 identical?

4 A. Yes, I know.

5 Q. I'm now going to move on to ask you about the events of
6 3 July 2009 itself. There's a witness statement that
7 you gave on 7 July 2009. It's four pages, and given
8 that that was so shortly after these tragic events it
9 may help you to look at that. Mr Clark will give you
10 a copy now.

11 So on the morning of 3 July you went off to work
12 early; is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. It was a normal day until around 4.30 in the afternoon,
15 when you had a telephone call from your wife, Helen?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. If you could be shown the document that lists the
18 different colours of various phonecalls to and from
19 people just to help you refresh your memory. (Handed)
20 It has page 129 at the bottom. That's the first page in
21 time. You're shown on it in a colour code that is
22 a light orange colour and your wife is shown in a light
23 green colour, so you can see where there are calls
24 between the two of you and where she has calls with
25 other people. The first call that she made to you, do

1 you see, was at 16.24? It's about a third of the way
2 down page 129.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. If you look at your witness statement, the second page
5 of your statement, in the middle of the page, do you see
6 it says:

7 "Helen said to me on the first call ..."

8 THE CORONER: Can you see that, Mr Udoaka? The number at
9 the bottom of the page is 14.

10 A. Okay.

11 THE CORONER: If you look halfway down the page you can see
12 it says:

13 "So Helen said to me on the first call ..."

14 Do you have that?

15 A. Yes.

16 THE CORONER: You have that?

17 A. Yes.

18 THE CORONER: Thank you. Yes.

19 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: So Mr Udoaka, it says in your statement:

20 "Helen said to me on the first call there is fire in
21 the building and she doesn't know exactly where."

22 You couldn't hear anything else in the background.

23 You said, "What are you talking about?" and she said

24 everywhere is covered with smoke and she couldn't

25 breathe. She was in the bedroom that you shared in your

1 flat, flat 82. What do you remember doing after you had
2 had that telephone conversation with your wife?

3 A. Then I was at work. Straight away I left -- I left work
4 and I made my way home.

5 Q. Looking at these records, you can take it from me that
6 you and Helen had over ten further telephone
7 conversations between that first one at 16.24 and
8 a final one at 17.30. To put some of these times into
9 context with what else was going on, by the time that
10 Helen first called you, you will remember that we heard
11 yesterday that the London Fire Brigade had already been
12 at Lakanal for about two minutes. They arrived there at
13 16.22, just to put some of the times in perspective.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. You just mentioned to us that you left work straight
16 away. Is it right that you wanted to get home as
17 quickly as you could so you got a minicab?

18 A. (The witness nodded)

19 Q. You telephoned Helen from the minicab?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Is that right, I think? Several times?

22 A. Several times.

23 Q. In the course of you travelling home and talking to
24 Helen on several occasions, there came a time when she
25 said that she was now in the bathroom of flat 81; is

1 that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. She had already said to you that the amount of smoke in

4 flat 82, in a earlier call, had become too great, and so

5 she was going to move?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Is it right that Helen said to you that she had been

8 told to go into the bathroom and close the door, but she

9 didn't say who had given her that advice?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Were you aware of who else was in the bathroom with her?

12 Michelle was with her?

13 A. Michelle was with her, yeah.

14 Q. And did you know that there were people who lived in

15 flat 81 itself who were there?

16 A. I knew they were (Inaudible) and there were other

17 families there as well.

18 Q. Did you know that there was another family that didn't

19 live in flat 81, a man and a woman and their two

20 children?

21 A. Yes, I knew, because I spoke with the man.

22 Q. Because you spoke to him?

23 A. While they were in there.

24 Q. On the day, did you ever become aware that at some point

25 that family -- the man, the woman, and their two

1 children -- left the bathroom in flat 81?

2 A. Yes, I knew, because I could see them from down -- where
3 I was outside, from the ground floor, I could see them
4 by the balcony. When I arrived at the building, I could
5 see the man on the -- by the balcony, while I was stood
6 downstairs.

7 Q. I'm just putting up on the screen -- this is
8 a photograph of Mr and Mrs Nuhu on the balcony, the east
9 side.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. This is another photo of them there at 17.27.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. So you remember seeing them?

14 A. Yes, I remember.

15 Q. On the balcony?

16 A. Yes. I was just downstairs (Inaudible) that it was
17 down.

18 Q. Did you, at the time, realise that they had come from
19 the bathroom of flat 81 where Helen and Michelle were?

20 A. Yes, I knew, because I could see them but I couldn't see
21 Helen and Michelle.

22 Q. I understand that you could see them on the balcony, but
23 did you realise that they were the same people who had
24 been in the bathroom of flat 81?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 THE CORONER: How did you know that, Mr Udoaka?

2 A. How did I? Because I spoke to Nuhu on my wife's phone.
3 That was before they left, before they separated.

4 THE CORONER: Thank you.

5 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: As we've been discussing, you were trying
6 to do everything possible that you could to help your
7 family at the time.

8 A. Yes, because when I was downstairs -- I even said to the
9 guys down that I want to go up because I knew exactly
10 where my wife was. I want to go upstairs myself. But
11 they wouldn't let me.

12 Q. You had taken a minicab to get home as fast as you could
13 and you were trying to keep your wife's spirits up and
14 her mood positive by talking to her and reassuring her
15 as much as you could?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And as you said, you wanted to get into the building
18 yourself and try and rescue them yourself but of course,
19 the emergency services couldn't let you do that?

20 A. Of course.

21 Q. And being outside the cordon may have left you feeling
22 powerless to assist?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. But you kept doing what you could from where you were,
25 talking to people in the emergency services and talking

1 to your wife on the telephone?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. When you talked to people in the emergency services, is
4 it right that they told you that they were aware that
5 there were people trapped in the bathroom in flat 81?

6 A. That's what they repeatedly told me.

7 Q. The last time that you spoke to Helen was at 5.30 in the
8 afternoon?

9 A. About then. I can't remember.

10 Q. That's what the records show.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. And it fits with what you remember. If you look in your
13 statement where you have the number 15 at the bottom of
14 the page in the middle, about two thirds of the way down
15 the page, do you see a sentence that starts on the right
16 of the page and then continues to the next line, where
17 it says "The last words she said to me"?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So what you said in your statement was:

20 "The last words she said to me is that the smoke was
21 too much, she can't bear it anymore, Michelle, our
22 daughter, is going to heaven. She said if I didn't see
23 her again then she would be going to heaven. Then she
24 was trying to talk but she couldn't. I could hear noise
25 but then I couldn't hear her and the line went silent."

1 A. Then I lost her.

2 Q. And then some time later is it right that you saw
3 Michelle being brought out of the building and you
4 travelled with her in the ambulance to King's College
5 Hospital?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And you didn't see Helen at that time?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Then later on still you identified Helen's body and
10 Michelle's body?

11 A. Michelle body, I -- I went in the ambulance with
12 Michelle to King's College, so Michelle literally was in
13 my arms but I didn't see her then. I saw Michelle in
14 that evening.

15 Q. Some time later you identified their bodies formally for
16 the case?

17 A. I didn't identify some time, I think. Days later
18 I identified.

19 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Udoaka. I hope you're aware
20 that everyone in this court feels enormous sympathy for
21 your loss, and I don't have any further questions for
22 you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 THE CORONER: Mr Hendy, do you want to ask me questions?
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Questions by MR HENDY

MR HENDY: Mr Udoaka, just a couple more questions if you don't mind. In your witness statement that Mr Maxwell-Scott's taken you to, at page 14, you describe the first call from Helen and then you say -- if you look down the right hand side, there's two holes punched in the page. If you look down to the second, the lower hole punch, there's a line which ends:

"I asked her at the end of this first call to call the 999 emergency number."

Do you see that?

A. Yes.

Q. Yes. I'll just read on and ask you about it. It says:

"At the end of this first call --"

THE CORONER: Mr Hendy, not too fast, please. Would you start again, not too fast.

MR HENDY: "I asked her at the end of this call to call 999, the energy number. She said she would. The call finished. I called 999 on my mobile phone and I had asked her to do the same. After I called 999, I then called her back from my mobile phone to hers. I don't know the exact time this was. She said she had called 999 and she told me she had been told by the 999 operator to remain where she was and not to panic and that they were aware of the situation. She said she was

1 remaining in 82, but there came a point when she said
2 the amount of smoke was too great and she was going to
3 move."

4 Is that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Next I want to take you just over the page to page 15.

7 By the upper hole punch, there's a line which begins
8 with the words "Downstairs at the base of the flats, at
9 the cordon", and then it reads on, if you have it:

10 "... I spoke to a male police officer, a white man,
11 about 6 foot 2 inches tall, slim in build. It was
12 a police officer and not a community support officer.
13 I didn't record his shoulder number and can't describe
14 him any further. I said to him that there were people
15 trapped in the bathroom of flat 81. He got onto his
16 radio and made enquiries about this and told me that the
17 firemen are aware. I spoke to this officer a number of
18 times over the next hour, telling him the same thing.
19 He assured me that the Fire Brigade knew about it and
20 were doing something about it. I spoke to a number of
21 firemen about the same thing."

22 You say that a couple were white firemen and
23 a couple were black firemen. Is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. The final thing I wanted to ask you about -- you've

1 described how you learned of your daughter's death, and
2 you went with her in the ambulance to hospital. What
3 about your wife, Helen? How did you find out that she
4 had passed away? Can you tell us when that was?

5 A. All I could remember is that when -- when I got to
6 King's College Hospital with Michelle, after about
7 15 minutes, I was told that Michelle has passed on, so
8 okay, that's fine. And I asked them -- asked someone,
9 I think maybe a police, one of the guys, one of the
10 police guys that escort with the ambulance, I can't
11 remember exactly, and they said to me: "Helen is fine.
12 She's been taken to St Thomas' Hospital. She's okay."
13 I sent some people, a few of my family, (Inaudible),
14 a church member. They went to St Thomas' Hospital.
15 They couldn't find her. They come back to King's and
16 said they couldn't find her. Then I said, "Oh, she's
17 been taken to Lewisham hospital."

18 Q. To Lewisham hospital?

19 A. They went back to Lewisham hospital and they couldn't
20 find her, and they returned back to the hospital. So
21 I didn't -- to my knowledge, I can't remember exactly
22 how I knew, but all I knew was that I wasn't told at
23 that time that Helen has passed away.

24 Q. And was it that day or the next day that you discovered
25 that Helen had actually died?

1 A. I can't remember knowing that day. I think it's the
2 next day or something, and they asked for the body, but
3 I couldn't identify the body until about the Tuesday,
4 which was on the 8th.

5 Q. I think there's an error in one of the documents that we
6 have. The jury don't have it so it probably doesn't
7 matter, but you made that identification at the
8 mortuary?

9 A. At the mortuary, yes.

10 Q. Yes. Thank you very much, Mr Udoaka.

11 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Members of the jury, do
12 you have any questions for Mr Udoaka? Can you just hold
13 on a moment while we change the microphones. (Pause)
14 Yes, thank you.

15 Questions from the jury

16 A JUROR: Mr Udoaka, I just want to establish this, please,
17 with you: where did you say you met your wife for the
18 first time?

19 A. 2003.

20 A JUROR: Where?

21 A. In Nigeria.

22 A JUROR: At university, you say?

23 A. Yes.

24 A JUROR: You said she had a degree in business studies?

25 A. Not -- not in 2003. I said she had -- she's got

1 a degree in business management.

2 A JUROR: That's her qualification?

3 A. That is her qualification, yes.

4 A JUROR: London-based university?

5 A. I said in Nigeria in Lagos.

6 A JUROR: Oh, in Nigeria. Ah, right. So she did not have

7 any qualification in London?

8 A. No.

9 A JUROR: Thank you.

10 A. Not a degree, but she's got NVQ qualification, as I said

11 in my statement. NVQ qualification, not a degree.

12 THE CORONER: Thank you. Thank you very much.

13 Mr Udoaka, thank you very much for coming today.

14 Thank you for reading us your statement, and thank you

15 very much for the evidence that you've given to us. I'm

16 sure it wasn't easy. Thank you very much for your time.

17 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: The next witness is Eno Udoaka.

18 THE CORONER: Is he in court, Mr Eno Udoaka? If he's not,

19 does somebody know where he can be found?

20 MR HENDY: He was here this morning, madam. I don't know if

21 he's popped out.

22 THE CORONER: Oh, I'm sorry, at the back. Please do come

23 forward.

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ENO UDOAKA (sworn)

THE CORONER: Thank you. Mr Udoaka, do sit down. I suggest you pour yourself a glass of water before we go any further. You can see the microphone, the lower one in front of you. That is the one which is amplifying your voice. If you could perhaps move it a little closer to you, please, that would be very helpful, just so that everybody can hear you and in particular the members of the jury can hear what you're saying. Thank you.

Questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT

MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Udoaka, Mbet is your cousin?

A. Yes.

Q. And there was a time when you lived at 82 Lakanal House?

A. Yes.

Q. But in the three or four years or so before the fire you had been living elsewhere?

A. Yes, in the Isle of Man.

Q. In the Isle of Man. First Mbet in 2005 and then Helen with him from 2007 had been living in the flat?

A. Yes.

Q. On the day of the fire, 3 July 2009, you were in the Isle of Man?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. And the first thing you knew about it was when you had a telephone conversation with Helen?

1 A. No, Mbet called me firstly.

2 Q. You went on to have a number of telephone conversations
3 with Helen?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If you could be shown this document here, which has the
6 schedule of telephone calls. Can you just take a moment
7 to have a look at that. It summarises telephone calls
8 to and from various people, including you and Helen.
9 The first reference to you trying to call Helen is on
10 the second page, towards the top, at 16.54, where it
11 says "unsuccessful call attempt" and then a call itself
12 at 16.55. Do you see that?

13 A. Yes, I can see that.

14 Q. You made that call because Mbet had already told you
15 that there was a fire and you had said to him that you
16 would speak to Helen and try and find out what was going
17 on?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then, over the next 35 minutes or so, you tried to call
20 Helen eight times in total, according to this, and
21 certainly on three of those occasions the call was
22 successful and you spoke to her?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If you could be shown your witness statement dated
25 12 July 2009, which starts at page 20 in the witness

1 statements bundle, a two-page statement. (Handed) If
2 you would turn to the second page.

3 At the top of the page, you say that you phoned
4 Helen, but first you tried to phone the landline in the
5 flat, which would have been flat 82.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. But no-one answered. You then telephoned Helen on her
8 mobile phone and she answered. Then your statement
9 says:

10 "I asked her where she was and she said she was in
11 flat 81 with some friends. At some stage she said she
12 was in the bathroom of this flat with these friends.
13 I asked her to tell me the conditions. She said there
14 was a fire in the building somewhere."

15 At that stage, did she say anything further about
16 the conditions in the bathroom, whether it was hot or
17 smokey, or anything of that nature?

18 A. I didn't really say much about it. I just told her --
19 I consoled her that the fire service knew exactly where
20 she was and they were going to definitely come and help.

21 Q. Just to make sure I heard that correctly, you told her
22 that the fire service knew where she was?

23 A. I told her that the fire service knew exactly where she
24 was.

25 Q. And that they were they were going to come?

1 A. And that they were going to come and help her.

2 Q. You spoke to Mbet again?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. The last conversation that you had with Helen, according
5 to the records that we have which are summarised on the
6 sheet in front of you, was at 5.29 in the afternoon.
7 You talk in your witness statement about the last time
8 that you spoke to Helen. So if you could have a look at
9 your witness statement. Again, it's the second page of
10 it, about two thirds of the way down the page. Do you
11 see it says "On the last time I called and spoke to
12 her"?

13 A. Yes, I can see that.

14 Q. So in your witness statement you say:

15 "On the last time I called and spoke to her I could
16 hear everyone coughing in the background. She said she
17 and the baby couldn't breathe anymore, the smoke was too
18 great and the fire was coming nearer. She said, 'Tell
19 Mbet I love him, Michelle loves him.' She told me to
20 look after Mbet when she had gone."

21 You say in your statement that you didn't know what
22 to say to her and that you were crying on the phone. Is
23 that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did you continue trying to call her after that?

1 A. I -- I knew -- I knew it was all over at that stage
2 because they were coughing and she dropped the phone at
3 that stage. The words she give to me at that stage --
4 I knew that something had gone wrong. I knew something
5 had gone wrong at that stage.

6 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Udoaka. I don't have any
7 further questions for you.

8 THE CORONER: Thank you. Mr Hendy.

9 Questions by MR HENDY

10 MR HENDY: Mr Udoaka, just one point. I think according to
11 your statement it was you who suggested to Mbet that he
12 should call 999?

13 A. Yes, after he had given me the first call, I told him he
14 should ring 999 straight away.

15 Q. You spoke to Mbet afterwards to check that he had called
16 999?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Thank you very much.

19 THE CORONER: Thank you. Members of the jury, do you have
20 any questions for Mr Udoaka? Thank you very much.

21 Mr Udoaka, thank you very much for coming today and
22 thank you very much for the evidence which you've given
23 to us.

24 A. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you.

2 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, the remaining programme for today
3 is there's a statement from Mr Philip Hickman, which
4 I understand you are proposing to read to the jury, and
5 Mr Mark Bailey is going to give evidence, though I think
6 it would be appropriate to have a short break before he
7 does so.

8 THE CORONER: Yes.

9 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: And this afternoon Mr Fernando
10 Francisquini is going to give evidence.

11 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you very much.

12 Members of the jury, you heard it said yesterday
13 that Mr Philip Hickman, the father of Catherine Hickman,
14 is not attending these inquests, and that's entirely
15 understandable. He has asked that a statement about
16 Catherine and her life be read to you so that you should
17 know something about her. As he's not here to read it
18 for himself, I'm going to read it on his behalf.
19 Indeed, not just on his behalf, but on behalf of the
20 whole family.

21 So this is a statement on behalf of Philip, who
22 calls himself Pip, and Veronica, who's known at Flo, so
23 Philip and Veronica Hickman, the parents of Catherine
24 Hickman, and also on behalf of her younger sisters,
25 Elizabeth, who's now aged 33, and Sophie, who's aged 30.

1 Catherine was born on 15 July 1977. She was 31 when
2 she died but she would have been 35 now. She was the
3 first born daughter of Pip and Flo. She was almost the
4 perfect baby. After her came two more daughters, Liz
5 and Sophie. For a while, Catherine gained the name
6 "Cuckoo" from young Liz, as Liz could not pronounce the
7 name "Catherine". Cuckoo would keep herself
8 immaculately clean while little Liz would have her face
9 layered with ice cream and her clothes covered in dirt.
10 While big sister Catherine was inside the home, being
11 mummy's number one helper, Liz was more the outside
12 girl, hanging around with dad on the farm, and Sophie
13 was too young to do anything except cry.

14 Catherine went on to start school in 1982 at Wellow
15 Primary School, where she soon became a model pupil.
16 She was still a mummy's girl though and rather shy,
17 especially when a poor young male admirer at the school
18 came running for a kiss, and poor Catherine ran straight
19 into a wall and chipped her front tooth in her haste to
20 flee. Still she was already showing signs of really
21 looking after her clothes and having a keen eye for
22 fashion. At home she enjoyed the outside life, among
23 the many pets the family had over the years, and
24 especially enjoyed riding when she had her own pony,
25 Merrylegs.

1 Catherine went on to St Anne's Catholic School for
2 Girls. As Pip and Flo recognised that their first
3 daughter was a shy girl, they thought it would suit her
4 personality to be there. At St Anne's she began to come
5 out of her shell. She studied well and made great
6 friends, and most importantly developed an artistic
7 flair that would lead on in her later years to the job
8 of her dreams.

9 After completing her GCSEs, she travelled daily to
10 Salisbury College to complete a BTEC national diploma in
11 fashion and textiles, where her artistic qualities began
12 to come into their own. At 18, Catherine left home to
13 study at the Winchester School of Art. She stayed in
14 halls of residence for the first year and for the
15 following two years found and shared a home with people
16 who became her lifelong friends. She partied out and
17 about in the town of Winchester with her friends, but
18 would still come home for many a weekend to spend with
19 her close family. She helped her dad outside as well as
20 Flo in the house. She helped with the haymaking and
21 driving tractors, despite suffering from hayfever.
22 Cleaning and painting the flats that Pip had acquired
23 was also a chore she enjoyed, and helping her parents
24 was never a problem to her.

25 In 1998, Catherine graduated from the Winchester

1 School of Art, receiving a BA honours in Fashion and
2 Textiles. Up to London she went, and along with her
3 great pal Siobhan, started to enjoy the buzz of London
4 life, a world away from the countryside girl she had
5 been in childhood. Whilst living in New York for just
6 a few months, she created her very own label,
7 Moi et Cat, and between April 2000 and December 2002,
8 she designed and promoted six collections which were
9 stocked in New York stores: Steven Alan, Takcashimya
10 and Hedra Pru. She also stocked accessories in Japan at
11 a shop called Lucy. The famous singer Bjork
12 commissioned Moi et Cat to create several looks for her
13 and these creations also took part in various catwalk
14 shows, such as Gen Art, Fresh Faces, New York Fashion
15 Week and Iceland Fashion Week.

16 Catherine later did freelance work for mineral
17 recruitment, where she temped for various companies
18 between 2003 and 2004. From August of that same year
19 to December 2005, she worked at French Connection as
20 a pattern cutter and sample room assistant.

21 In 2003, Catherine met Mark Bailey, a hair stylist
22 working celebrity circles and which took him travelling
23 around the world. They fell in love and enjoyed their
24 life mixing and entertaining with all sorts of colourful
25 and entertaining characters, both in London and

1 New York, many with famous faces, and in 2007 they
2 decided to move in and live together and finally commit
3 to a relationship which Catherine loved.
4 In December 2005, Catherine became employed by One,
5 an exclusive one-off designer shop in the trendy
6 Ledbury Road, Notting Hill, owned by her employer,
7 Marcel. There she really did finally start to leave her
8 mark, with all wanting Catherine's beautiful one-off
9 dress designs.

10 The family travelled up to London when time allowed
11 to spend time with their much missed sister and daughter.

12 The final step in her career was to make dresses for
13 the exclusive shop D and Me in Brompton Road,
14 Kensington. The path she had followed with her chosen
15 career had finally paid off and she was embarking on
16 a fabulous adventure in fashion. Sadly, this was not to
17 be, and fate chose to send her on a very different path,
18 as we discovered on Friday, 3 July 2009.

19 To describe in words Catherine and her attributes
20 would take us through day and night. Here are just
21 a few: beautiful, kind, loving, warm, genuine,
22 trustworthy, loyal, funny, proper, sweet, pure, classic,
23 talented, unique, and irreplaceable. Catherine lived
24 a London life but was a true country girl at heart,
25 a life cruelly cut short when it was a life that was

1 continues to be the case. Thank you very much.

2 I just want to start this afternoon, before we
3 invite in the members of the jury -- as I mentioned, we
4 have a question from the jury. It is in two parts. The
5 questions are as follows:

6 "How does communication happen between people inside
7 the building and emergency workers? Do firefighters
8 speak directly to those inside the building or is it
9 relaid through a third party?"

10 The second part is:

11 "Could an emergency worker on the ground outside the
12 building speak (by mobile) to someone inside the
13 building?"

14 So I think that all PIPs have a copy of those
15 questions. I would like to take brief submissions from
16 everybody on how they would like me to answer that. So
17 Mr Maxwell-Scott, do you want to start?

18 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Certainly, madam. Madam, I would suggest
19 saying to the jury something along the lines, in
20 relation to the first part, that this is an issue that
21 we will be exploring in evidence, and you can also say
22 to them that the first witness who was an emergency
23 worker that we will be hearing from is Crew Manager
24 Willett and that I, on your behalf, will be asking him
25 about this issue in relation to firefighters.

1 THE CORONER: Thank you.

2 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: The second part of the question -- the
3 jury could be told as a matter of fact that the
4 telephone records establish that Ed Daly of the London
5 Ambulance Service --

6 THE CORONER: Sorry, say again? Telephone records establish
7 ...?

8 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Ed Daly of the London Ambulance Service
9 spoke on a mobile telephone to Dayana Francisquini on
10 her mobile telephone on seven occasions. I can give you
11 the times. They're from the schedule we've been looking
12 at this morning. They are 16.47, 16.57, 17.08, 17.17 --

13 THE CORONER: 17.17?

14 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Yes. 17.18, 17.20, 17.21, and 17.28.
15 More generally, again, this is an issue --

16 THE CORONER: Sorry, I've written down eight times there.
17 Perhaps I have it wrong. 16.47 --

18 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: You're absolutely right, madam; it is
19 eight times.

20 More generally, they could be told that this is
21 an issue which we will explore in evidence with
22 witnesses from the emergency services.

23 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you. That's helpful. Would
24 anybody like to take issue with that, or add to that, or
25 suggest something different? Mr Hendy?

1 MR HENDY: Madam, the only point that I would add is that of
2 course people who are in the building wouldn't know the
3 telephone numbers of the individual emergency workers on
4 the ground unless, as in the case of Mr Daly, they had
5 been given that number, so that anybody in the building
6 would normally have to dial 999, which would mean the
7 message would be related through the control to the
8 emergency workers.

9 THE CORONER: Yes.

10 MR HENDY: But on the other side of the coin, the emergency
11 workers on the ground of course could always use
12 a telephone belonging to a relative or occupant who was
13 outside the block of flats or ask for the number from
14 a relative.

15 THE CORONER: Well, there's quite a lot of speculation in
16 that second element, is there not?

17 MR HENDY: Well, we know that Mr Daly must have obtained the
18 telephone number of Dayana from somebody, so I would
19 have thought that it's hardly speculative to say that
20 that is a possibility.

21 THE CORONER: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else?

22 MR WALSH: I just ought to add to that on behalf of the
23 London Fire Brigade. Mr Maxwell-Scott says that
24 Mr Willett is to give evidence as the first emergency
25 attender. He's obviously not an expert in

1 communication. He, of course, can be asked, from his
2 own personal point of view, how a communication might be
3 made with people within the building, either personally
4 or by telephone, if he's aware of it, but there will be
5 evidence in due course about communications in general
6 and those who have responsibility for it. So while
7 I hear what Mr Hendy says and he may well be right about
8 some of the speculative suggestions -- may well be right
9 about it -- it will emerge in the evidence as it
10 develops. That's why I more or less agree with
11 Mr Maxwell-Scott with that way of dealing with it.

12 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Would anyone else like
13 to make any submission on that? That's very helpful.
14 Thank you very much. Well, I'll adopt the suggestions
15 made, save, Mr Hendy, I think that I'm not going to go
16 down too speculative a route, because I think that will
17 simply raise more questions than it answers at this
18 stage.

19 Thank you very much. Could we please ask the jury
20 to come back.

21 (In the presence of the Jury)

22 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, thank you very much for
23 coming back. I'm sorry to have kept you waiting. There
24 was a short matter I just wanted to raise before we
25 began with you this afternoon.

1 This morning you handed in a sheet with a couple of
2 questions on, and I thought it might be helpful if
3 I dealt with the answers to those straight away, before
4 we go on to the evidence we're going to hear this
5 afternoon. The first question you raised was this:

6 "How does communication happen between people inside
7 the building and emergency workers? Do firefighters
8 speak directly to those inside the building or is it
9 relaid through a third party?"

10 Well, this is an issue which we will be exploring in
11 evidence and there will be a great deal of evidence over
12 the coming days and weeks which will be touching on
13 this. The first emergency worker who will be attending
14 as witness in these inquests is Mr Willett and we shall
15 be asking him about this question of communication when
16 he gives his evidence as a firefighter.

17 The second question that you have asked is:

18 "Could an emergency worker on the ground outside the
19 building speak by mobile to someone inside the
20 building?"

21 Well, the first point of course is that the person
22 inside the building and the person outside the building
23 would have to have some way of establishing each other's
24 mobile phone numbers, but the telephone records do
25 establish that a Mr Daly of the London Ambulance Service

1 spoke on a mobile phone to Dayana Francisquini on, in
2 fact, eight occasions, starting at 16.47 hours and
3 finishing at 17.28 hours. But this is an area where
4 there will be a great deal of evidence to come, so
5 I hope that the question will be answered more fully
6 over the coming days and weeks as we hear evidence on
7 that point. So I thank you for your very thoughtful
8 question and I hope that that is a helpful answer at
9 this stage. Thank you very much.

10 Yes. Shall we continue, Mr Maxwell-Scott?

11 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Yes, madam. The first witness this
12 afternoon is Mark Bailey.

13 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Mr Bailey, would you
14 like to come forward.

15 MARK BAILEY (sworn)

16 THE CORONER: Mr Bailey, thank you very much. Do sit down.
17 Do help yourself to a glass of water.

18 A. Thanks.

19 THE CORONER: I think that your microphone is on, so I think
20 that that should be fine.

21 A. Okay.

22 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Yes.

23 Questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT

24 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Bailey, I understand that you have
25 a statement that you would like to read to the jury?

1 A. Yes.

2 THE CORONER: Please do.

3 A. I, Mark Bailey, of 10 Alby Building, Buoyfield
4 Street(?), will say as follows: at the time of her
5 death, Catherine -- I called her Cat -- and I were in
6 a relationship and we had lived together at 79 Lakanal
7 House. We were in a relationship for at least six years
8 and lived together for three years. Prior to moving in,
9 Cat lived in Stoke Newington with a friend and I would
10 often stay overnight there with her. I then lived with
11 her there for a few months whilst I was in between
12 flats.

13 In mid-2007, I realised I was not happy in my flat
14 as I was spending most of the time with Cat in her flat
15 in Stoke Newington. Andrew, a friend of mine, suggested
16 that I should housesit his flat, as he was working out
17 of the country for three months. I moved into
18 79 Lakanal House around September 2007, and Cat helped
19 me move and shortly afterwards I asked if she would like
20 to move in with me to the flat and she agreed.

21 I loved Catherine, and we would often talk about our
22 future and what we wanted. We had met in our 20s. We
23 talked about moving somewhere better, nearer our work,
24 and building our lives together.

25 Cat was very much a family person. She often

1 visited her family in Southampton and I had visited her
2 family a couple of times. I wish I had got to know them
3 better, as they have been very supportive to me since
4 her death.

5 I was not in London at the time of the fire; I was
6 in New York, and the first I knew about the fire is when
7 I was contacted at approximately 11.30 local time
8 New York. I took a flight home to London in the late
9 afternoon of 3 July to get myself home as quickly as
10 possible and to go down and see her family. I arrived
11 at Heathrow airport around 6 am on Saturday 4 July.
12 I arrived at Catherine's parents' house in Southampton
13 in the New Forest at 8 am and I stayed with them until
14 Tuesday. We were not officially informed until Monday
15 or Tuesday that they had found Catherine's body. During
16 that time, I was feeling indescribable. I was
17 overwhelmed by grief and I would wake up every night
18 screaming and crying. I would think Cat was next to me
19 and then realise what had happened and break down
20 crying. All my belongings were destroyed in the fire,
21 but more importantly in the fire I lost Cat and my life
22 hasn't been the same.

23 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

24 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Bailey, I understand from your
25 statement that you moved into Lakanal House in

1 around September 2007 and Catherine moved in there

2 shortly afterwards. Was that also in 2007?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Then the two of you lived there from 2007 until this

5 tragic incident in July 2009?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Did you both live there all of the time?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. I think each of you travelled for work from time to
10 time, but otherwise that was your home?

11 A. Exactly.

12 Q. So in other words, you are another resident of Lakanal

13 House, like the ten or more people we're going to be

14 hearing from in due course?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And so therefore, in the same way as I asked questions
17 this morning of Mr Cervi and Mr Udoaka, I'd like to ask
18 you questions about your awareness of fire safety advice
19 and of the layout of the building, so that we can build
20 up a more complete picture.

21 If you could be shown page 1050 in the bundle of

22 documents. Mr Clark will find that for you. (Handed)

23 This is a London Fire Brigade document leaflet. It

24 starts on page 1050. It is four pages long, continuing

25 to 1053. All I would ask you to do is take as much time

1 as you need and just see whether you think you recognise
2 it or not. I'm not suggesting there's any particular
3 reason why you should recognise it. All we want to know
4 as best you can remember is if you think you've seen it
5 before.

6 A. I haven't seen it before.

7 Q. Thank you. Then if you go straight on at the end of
8 that document to the two-page document that starts at
9 page 1054.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. It's the same question. Just take a moment to think
12 about whether you recognise that document or think you
13 may have seen it before.

14 A. No, I haven't seen it before.

15 Q. Thank you. Did you ever, for whatever reason, look on
16 the London Fire Brigade website for any form of fire
17 safety device?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Are you able to assist the court with whether Catherine
20 may have ever done so?

21 A. I don't know, but I can tell you that she was asking
22 specific questions about what's our escape routes and
23 what would we do in case of a fire.

24 Q. I'll ask you about that in a moment.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. But as far as you're aware, she never said to you that
2 she had looked that sort of information up on the London
3 Fire Brigade website?

4 A. I'm pretty sure she hadn't, no.

5 Q. Did you, whilst living at Lakanal House, ever receive
6 a home fire safety visit from a firefighter?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did Catherine ever say to you that while you were out
9 but she had been at home she had had such a visit?

10 A. She hadn't had such a visit.

11 Q. If I can ask you then to move on in the same bundle to
12 page 1068.

13 A. Got it.

14 Q. If you look towards the bottom right hand corner of the
15 page, you can see the number 27.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Over the page there is page 28 of the same document.
18 Over the page again, the extract ends with page 29 of
19 the same document.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. So it's three pages, pages 27 to 29, of what is clearly
22 a significantly longer document, as I understand it
23 a handbook. Take a moment and ask yourself whether you
24 recognise that document or not. Again, I'm not
25 suggesting that you should have done for any particular

1 reason. I just want your best recollection of whether
2 you think you've seen it before or not.

3 A. No, I haven't seen it before.

4 Q. I am now going to move on and ask you about the topic
5 which you were introducing yourself, which is about
6 escape routes. Were you aware of the escape door out of
7 one of the bedrooms, under the stairs and out into the
8 central corridor on the lower floors of the flat?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you think that Catherine was as well?

11 A. Yeah. It was -- it was kind of a strange one though,
12 because it's a small door and it was just not far at all
13 from the front door, so it didn't make sense to us that
14 it would be useful.

15 Q. Then if you imagine moving upstairs within the flat, up
16 the internal staircase. You were aware, I'm sure, that
17 there were doors on one side from the kitchen out onto
18 a balcony --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- and on the other side of the building from the lounge
21 onto the balcony. If you were on either of those
22 balconies and looked towards the central staircase --
23 which, of course, flat 79 was close to -- you would have
24 seen a door which would have looked like this; is that
25 right?

1 A. Yeah, that's right, and --

2 Q. Did you know where it led to?

3 A. I -- I did. I'd explored it before.

4 Q. When you say you had explored it, do you mean you had
5 gone through it?

6 A. Oh, yeah. Yes, I had. I'd gone through the door. It
7 closes and locks behind you so you can't reenter, and
8 there's no access to get into it, only to exit it. We
9 were the flat right closest to it so felt safest because
10 we were close to the fire escape exit -- this upstairs.

11 Q. So having gone through it, you found yourself in a lobby
12 area from which you could go through another set of
13 doors and make your way to the central staircase?

14 A. Yes. When you were in that room, it wasn't obvious --
15 to me, anyway -- at first that there was going to be
16 another staircase. I mean, it was obviously a fire
17 escape, but it seemed like a bit of an odd room. You
18 had to go through this door and then another door and
19 round corners. I don't know. It was ...

20 Q. Did you know from having tried it yourself that you
21 would make your way into the central staircase?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you may have walked down that whole central
24 staircase to try it out. Can you let me know if you
25 did, or did you just know that that would get you to the

1 bottom it necessary?

2 A. I just knew that I could get through there, yeah.

3 Q. So you knew that that was a fire escape door, that if

4 you went through it you couldn't get back on the

5 balcony?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. But that you could walk through it to the central

8 staircase, and you correctly worked out that you could

9 then walk to the ground floor and out of the building

10 using the central staircase?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. There are quite a lot of parts to that. How many of

13 those parts do you think that Catherine herself knew?

14 A. We discussed it just a week or two before, and she'd

15 found it a little confusing. She knew that you went

16 through there as a fire escape, but then there was

17 another room and then another door, which is a little

18 bit confusing. I'm not sure if she tried it or went out

19 there by herself.

20 Q. So you discussed it a few weeks before?

21 A. Correct. She'd asked me: "Shouldn't -- we live in this

22 high rise. Shouldn't there be" -- I swear to God she

23 said, "Shouldn't there be a plaque or a poster on the

24 wall showing an escape route or what we do in case of

25 a fire?" I said, "Presumably there might have been one

1 in the past but I don't know, Cat, you know. That's the
2 fire escape there."

3 Q. Did you tell her in that conversation that yes, it was
4 the fire escape and that also if you follow the logical
5 route, perhaps the only route you can take, you would
6 end up in the central staircase?

7 A. That's right, yes, I had.

8 Q. It may just help to look at a couple of photographs to
9 illustrate that.

10 That is a view --

11 A. Of the back of the door.

12 Q. Of the back of the door we've just been looking at?

13 A. That's right, yeah.

14 Q. So you've been through that door?

15 A. I did. I came through this door and if you were walking
16 through it and turning right into -- there's another --
17 quite a large room, concrete room. I'd used that room
18 to spray-paint some pieces I was making for my work.

19 Q. If you look at the photograph that's now on the screen.
20 This is number 15 in the jury bundle at tab 13. Through
21 that door is the area you've just been describing where
22 you did some spray-painting?

23 A. Yes, if you went through that door there's a large room
24 there, and it's quite ventilated, which is why I was
25 spray-painting in it, because there's a lot of air in

1 there.

2 Q. Moving away from specifically the topic of escape routes
3 to more general questions about the layout of the
4 building, did you know that it had 14 floors?

5 A. I did. I'd explored the staircase and to try to get
6 onto the roof.

7 Q. Did you know that it had 98 flats?

8 A. Maybe. Not precisely, no.

9 Q. Did you know that there were 14 flats on each pair of
10 floors?

11 A. No. Well, maybe, but I wasn't thinking about it, yes.

12 Q. On the corridor that you lived on, did you know that
13 that was a corridor with six flats?

14 A. I'd never counted them.

15 Q. Did you know that all of the flats were essentially
16 identical?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. If somebody had said to you when you were standing
19 outside the building: "My friend lives in flat 32.
20 Where is that? How do I get there?" is that something
21 that you would have been able to help him with?

22 A. I would -- I would tell him to look at the numbers.
23 Downstairs, where the lift was, there's numbers relating
24 to each flat, what floor they'll be on and whether you
25 turn left or right when you come out the lift. I could

1 have -- I could have helped them with that. The layout
2 was confusing. I often used to try to imagine how they
3 went together, as we had a leak a few times coming in
4 through the roof. Maybe somebody's bathtub or something
5 was overflowing. It wasn't major. Trying to work out
6 the layout was a little bit confusing though.

7 Q. If you look at the photograph that's now on your
8 monitor. This is tab 13, photograph 8 in the jury
9 bundle. That's the sign at ground floor level by the
10 two lifts.

11 A. Yeah, I recognise that.

12 Q. So you could have used that to discuss with somebody how
13 they might make their way to flat 32, or some other
14 flat, for example?

15 A. Yeah, that's easily -- that's quite easy, just knowing
16 whether to turn left or right once you're on that floor,
17 but then they were, again, on each door there.

18 Q. On each door there are --

19 A. Yeah, when you come out the lift.

20 Q. There's a panel and it gives you the numbers for each
21 flat on that side of the corridor?

22 A. Indeed, yes. There's locked doors outside the lift, so
23 if somebody had access to the building and had come up
24 in the lift, then they couldn't access the corridor
25 where your flats were, so added security, and it was

1 clearly marked what flats were on the left or what flats
2 were on the right. These doors.

3 Q. Those doors there -- close-up image there?

4 A. Yes, and there's the close-up of the flats there on
5 those buzzers.

6 Q. Thank you, Mr Bailey. Mr Bailey, I hope that you too
7 are aware that everyone in this court feels enormous
8 sympathy for your loss. Those are the questions I have
9 for you.

10 A. Thank you, Mr Maxwell-Scott.

11 THE CORONER: Does anybody have any questions for Mr Bailey?

12 Yes, Ms Al Thai.

13 Questions by MS AL TAI

14 MS AL TAI: I apologise, I'm not sure if this is working.

15 Can you hear me okay?

16 THE CORONER: You need to be quite close to it, I think.

17 MS AL TAI: There we go. Does that sound better?

18 Mr Bailey, I just want to ask you one brief question
19 and it's in respect of what Catherine was like as
20 a person. Can you just tell us what she was like as
21 an individual?

22 A. Yeah, she was a lovely, sweet girl. She was very
23 trustworthy, quite pure. She was quite simple in the
24 respect that -- you know, easily pleased. She knew what
25 she wanted. Quite old-fashioned almost, you know. She

1 really cared a lot. She was very caring. She had grown
2 up in the countryside, around animals and stuff, and she
3 once -- she even reduced my friend to tears once talking
4 about why his cat was fat. And yeah, she was very
5 talented. She could draw. She could draw you, just
6 sketch you, and it would be -- make you look really
7 good. I have to say she was probably the most
8 trustworthy person. I had never had any doubts with
9 her.

10 Q. Thank you very much.

11 A. She was beautiful and quite humble.

12 Q. Thank you, Mr Bailey.

13 A. I could go on.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 THE CORONER: Thank you. Members of the jury, do you have
16 any questions? Yes. Could I just stop you, sorry? If
17 you please the switch at the base of the microphone, and
18 the red light -- yes. Could you just wait one moment.
19 The transcription people need to be ready to catch up
20 with you. Could you just wait one moment. (Pause)
21 Yes, that's fine. Thank you.

22 Questions from the jury

23 A JUROR: I was just wondering: we saw the pictures as far
24 as where the flats were located in numbers. Is there
25 any information given with the picture at all, a map of

1 the place?

2 A. No, no map, no. Nothing like that. May I add as
3 well -- I don't know, it's high in my mind. Two weeks
4 before, I was in Burgess Park, the one just down the
5 road, anyway, from us. I was approached by a fireman on
6 a mountain bike, quite an expensive-looking mountain
7 bike. He offered me a free packet to keep my cigarette
8 butts in. You know, these stubby things that are
9 fireproof and you can have them in your pocket? And
10 I said, "Don't you think that's -- what a waste of
11 money, you know, your bike, your stubby thing. I live
12 in this high rise down the road and my girlfriend was
13 just asking me how to get out and why we don't have any
14 things to show us our escape routes. Could we have home
15 visits or something?" And he was like: "Oh, that's
16 nothing to do with me, that." I didn't quite understand
17 why he was in the park on a mountain bike giving out
18 these things. I felt like the whole scheme cost quite
19 a bit. I don't know, sorry.

20 A JUROR: Thank you.

21 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

22 Mr Bailey, thank you very much for coming today.
23 Thank you very much for reading us your statement and
24 thank you very much for the evidence that you've given.
25 I know it's not easy.

1 A. Thank you.

2 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, the last witness today is

5 Mr Francisquini.

6 THE CORONER: Yes, come forward, Mr Francisquini, and

7 I think you have an interpreter with you. Could you

8 swear the interpreter first, please.

9 (The interpreter was sworn)

10 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

11 FERNANDO FRANCISQUINI (sworn)

12 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Do sit down, both of

13 you. There's only one microphone and you do need to be

14 quite close to it for the sound to be amplified, so if

15 you could make sure that in turn you have access to it,

16 that would be very helpful. Thank you very much.

17 Questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT

18 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Francisquini, I believe I'm right in

19 saying that you don't want every word to be interpreted

20 for you, but that you will use the interpreter if there

21 are any particular words that you don't understand, or

22 you need any particular assistance?

23 A. Yes. Some words I don't understand, I ask my

24 translation.

25 Q. So we will proceed with questions and answers in English

1 without interpretation unless you ask for it?

2 A. Yes.

3 THE CORONER: Yes, if you could take the questions shortly
4 so that if Mr Francisquini would like to have them
5 translated then it's easier to do so.

6 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I understand that you would like me to
7 read a passage from your witness statement about your
8 daughter and your grandchildren?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. "I married my wife, Elsa Aparecida Vaz Francisquini on
11 24 December 1983. We had three children: Dayana
12 Aparecida Vaz Francisquini, Renato Vaz Francisquini and
13 Danylo Vaz Francisquini. We lived in Pinhais, Curitiba
14 in the state of Paran, Brazil, during the last three
15 years. I arrived in England on 28 March 2002, and on
16 16 July 2002 my wife, Elsa, came with the children
17 Renato and Danylo. Dayana and Thais, her two-month old
18 daughter, came afterwards in November 2002. We were all
19 living together in a house in Peckham.

20 "Dayana met Rafael Cervi at the beginning of 2003.
21 She went to live with Rafael about six months after they
22 met and went to live in Manor House. I moved to
23 an address in SE5 approximately five years ago. Dayana
24 married Rafael about five or six years ago, and after
25 that they had Felipe Francisquini Cervi, born on

1 19 September 2005. Elsa and I were the very proud
2 grandparents of a girl and a boy whom we loved very
3 much. Dayana came to visit with the children about two
4 or three times a week and regularly at the weekends,
5 when we looked after them to allow Rafael and Dayana to
6 go out. The children were she happy and smiley. Felipe
7 was always full of energy and Thais was our princess who
8 loved to draw."

9 THE CORONER: Thank you.

10 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Francisquini, I'll now ask you some
11 short questions about the events of the day of the fire
12 itself. If Mr Francisquini could be shown the document
13 at page 129, which lists some telephone calls, that
14 would assist, thank you. (Handed)

15 Mr Francisquini, your recollection in your witness
16 statement was that Rafael phoned you at about 4.20 in
17 the afternoon, and the records show that that's
18 essentially correct. There's a record of him calling
19 you at 4.29 in the afternoon.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Does that sound right?

22 A. Yes, about right.

23 Q. Thank you. Is it right that he said that Dayana was
24 inside the building with the children?

25 A. Yes, correct.

1 Q. Did he ask you to go there immediately to see if there
2 was anything you could do?

3 A. Yes, correct.

4 Q. I think that may have been because you were closer to
5 Lakanal House at the time than he was?

6 A. Yeah, I work in Camberwell Station Road.

7 Q. You then immediately went from Camberwell Station Road
8 to Lakanal House?

9 A. Yes, I went quickly.

10 Q. You got there before Rafael?

11 A. Yeah, I went there before him.

12 Q. And there came a time when he arrived and met up with
13 you?

14 A. Sorry?

15 (Question interpreted)

16 Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. Also at the scene there were many firemen and police
18 officers?

19 (Question interpreted)

20 A. Yes, that's correct.

21 Q. You and Rafael were doing everything you could to tell
22 the firemen and the police officers that your family
23 were trapped?

24 A. Yes, we did.

25 Q. In the witness statement that you gave to the police,

1 A. Yes, I had seen her.

2 Q. In your witness statement you said that suddenly lots
3 and lots of smoke came out of the window at the end of
4 the corridor on the left side of the building?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you remember that happening?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You said:

9 "It was a very black, dense smoke. I tried to call
10 Dayana again but she no longer answered the call."

11 A. Yes, correct.

12 Q. Again, the statement goes on to say:

13 "Dayana was no longer answering her phone."

14 A. Yeah, that's correct.

15 Q. Much later on that day, you were in King's College
16 Hospital with Rafael?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. When he was told about the deaths of members of his
19 family?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. A police officer then suggested taking you to St Thomas'
22 Hospital?

23 A. Yeah, I asked him at the time, because they say all dead
24 and I ask them: "If you don't know, you should take me
25 there to make sure."

1 Q. So it was agreed that you would go to St Thomas'
2 Hospital, where you saw your daughter's body and
3 identified her?

4 A. Yeah, I went there.

5 Q. Many days later, according to your statement, on
6 20 July, you viewed the bodies of Dayana, Thais and
7 Felipe?

8 A. Yes, correct.

9 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Francisquini. I hope that you,
10 too, are aware that everyone in this court feels
11 enormous sympathy for your loss.

12 A. Thank you.

13 Q. Those are my questions for you.

14 THE CORONER: Does anybody have any questions for
15 Mr Francisquini? Would you like to ask some questions,
16 Mr Dowden?

17 MR DOWDEN: Yes, just one or two questions.

18 If I could ask you to turn to the second page of
19 your statement, please. About five lines down.

20 THE CORONER: Sorry, can I just stop you for a moment? Yes,
21 thank you, just so that they're picking up on the
22 transcription. Thank you. Yes.

23 MR DOWDEN: About five lines down. You were working in
24 Camberwell Station Road and as soon as you heard that
25 something was wrong, you drove immediately to Lakanal

1 House?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. I think you recall that to be about 4.30 that you got
4 there?

5 A. Yes, right, correct.

6 Q. You said:

7 "The firemen were already there in a group, and
8 would not let us approach."

9 (Question interpreted)

10 A. Yeah, that's correct. That's correct. They stopped me.

11 Q. "I then phoned Dayana at about 16.45. She answered the
12 phone and I told her to stay calm, as I saw there was
13 not much fire. We only spoke for a short while.
14 I tried to calm her down."

15 A. Yes, correct.

16 Q. I think just before that in your statement, you had said
17 that when you arrived:

18 "I saw there was fire only in one flat at the time."

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. Just going to the bottom of that page, you see the
21 section where you're talking about Rafael. You say:

22 "When Rafael first arrived, it was around 5 o'clock.
23 He'd been on the phone to Dayana and informed this to
24 a man who appeared to be a firemen. He was dressed like
25 one."

1 Do you see that? Is that right?

2 (Question interpreted)

3 A. Yes, correct.

4 Q. "The fireman told him that he'd already spoken to Dayana
5 on the phone and that she and the children were all
6 right, that he'd told her to stay in the bathroom as it
7 was safer."

8 (Question interpreted)

9 A. Yeah, that's correct.

10 Q. Again, to continue:

11 "We kept telling him that she was there with the
12 children and that we needed information. They said they
13 had to follow procedures and would give us information
14 when they had it."

15 Is that correct?

16 A. Yeah, that's correct.

17 Q. Yes, thank you.

18 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, do you have any questions
19 for Mr Francisquini?

20 Mr Francisquini, thank you very much for coming.
21 Thank you for coming over to this country to give
22 evidence today, and thank you for giving us your
23 statement. I know it's a very difficult thing to do.

24 And thank you very much for the translation.

25 A. Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you, Mr Maxwell-Scott. Is that all
3 of the evidence that is planned for today?

4 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: It is, madam.

5 THE CORONER: Thank you. So perhaps we could just look
6 ahead at tomorrow, which will also give the members of
7 the jury an understanding of what we'll be dealing with
8 tomorrow.

9 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Yes. The first witness tomorrow will be
10 Jade Spence, who was the occupant of flat 65 who made
11 the first 999 call. Then the plan is after that to call
12 Crew Manager Willett, who was the first incident
13 commander.

14 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Good. Thank you very
15 much.

16 Members of the jury, we've finished all of the work
17 which we were planning to do in open court with you
18 today, so you have an early finish and you're free to
19 go. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you very
20 much for your patient and careful concentration today.
21 Please remember to take your papers with you into the
22 jury room, not to take them out of the building, and
23 please remember everything which I said yesterday about
24 not talking to anyone at all about the case or trying to
25 undertake any research of your own. Thank you very

1 much. We aim to start tomorrow again at 10 o'clock, so
2 if you could be here in good time for a 10 o'clock start
3 that would be very helpful. Thank you very much.

4 (In the absence of the Jury)

5 Housekeeping

6 THE CORONER: Yes, does anyone have any points to raise
7 before we start again tomorrow morning?

8 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, there's a couple of points to
9 raise. There are people in court who are understandably
10 conscious that Mr Willett is scheduled to give evidence
11 tomorrow and that Mr Davey's report has not yet been
12 served.

13 THE CORONER: Yes.

14 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: By way of an update, we would anticipate
15 serving his report signed at around 5 o'clock this
16 afternoon, perhaps by email. If people wished, and if
17 you wished it to happen, the conclusions could be
18 circulated by email within the next 15 minutes. But
19 it's entirely a matter for you.

20 The other point to note --

21 THE CORONER: Sorry, just so I understand all that, has
22 Mr Davey finished his conclusions?

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: The conclusions have been finished for
24 a little time and the report just needs to be checked
25 finally and signed.

1 THE CORONER: Yes.

2 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: And scanned.

3 THE CORONER: I imagine it would be useful for everybody to
4 have those conclusions in advance of the full report.
5 Can I see anyone shaking his head? No. In that case,
6 yes, I think that would be very helpful. Thank you.

7 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: The other point was that I understand the
8 London Fire Brigade have kindly brought into the
9 building some examples of breathing apparatus and other
10 high rise kit. I haven't seen it yet. I was going to
11 go and have a look at it now, but potentially there
12 might be time tomorrow afternoon, depending on
13 submissions and ultimately your decision, for that to be
14 shown to the jury in open court, and if that were to
15 happen I would have thought that Dr Mansi, whom the jury
16 have already heard from, would be a suitable person to
17 explain it to them.

18 THE CORONER: I see. Well, that's helpful. It seems to me
19 that it probably would be helpful for jurors to see
20 a firefighter wearing the sort of kit that was worn on
21 the day, and for jurors to be able to see this before
22 they made their site visit on Friday. Does anyone have
23 any objection to that as a proposal? All right. The
24 suggestion that Dr Mansi might briefly talk through how
25 kit works seems to me to be a sensible one. Does

1 anybody have any objection to that? Good. If we can
2 make time for that tomorrow I think that would be
3 helpful.

4 All right, thank you very much. Does anybody
5 else -- yes, Mr Walsh.

6 MR WALSH: Just to touch upon that really for the timetable
7 tomorrow. If there is to be a period of time during
8 which Mr Mansi explains the use of BA equipment -- I'm
9 conscious of the fact that the report to which
10 Mr Maxwell-Scott has referred is being served in two
11 sections, if we get the conclusions first and then the
12 body of it after that. It's obviously going to be
13 necessary, certainly for the London Fire Brigade, to
14 digest the contents of that report before any --
15 particularly the first incident commander gives
16 evidence. I've no idea how long the report is. I'm
17 slightly concerned if Mr Willett is to be timed tomorrow
18 morning quite early. It might be possible, if it is
19 necessary for us to digest this report over longer than
20 just a couple of hours, to deal with the display, as it
21 were, of the BA equipment first and during that time
22 absorption of the material can take place. So I might
23 be asking -- I only flag it up now -- for Mr Willett to
24 give his evidence in the afternoon. It depends how much
25 time is taken up reading the report.

1 THE CORONER: Yes, I can see there's some force in that. Is
2 that something that can wait until tomorrow morning?
3 MR WALSH: Yes, it can.
4 THE CORONER: All right. Let's review that tomorrow morning
5 when you've had a chance to see that. That's helpful.
6 Anything else at this stage? Yes, Mr Hendy.
7 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, the question of transcripts. You
8 were going to give a ruling on the editing and
9 dissemination of the transcripts. Last night you
10 thought that the transcripts of yesterday would be on
11 the website last night, but we've been unable to find
12 them and we haven't received them by email either, so we
13 just wondered what the arrangements are and whether
14 you'd be in a position to give your ruling on what the
15 protocol is to be for the transcripts. I hope I'm not
16 pressing you, but --
17 THE CORONER: No, Mr Hendy, you're quite right to press me
18 and I did promise that I would sort out the protocol
19 last night and I confess I was overtaken by all sorts of
20 other matters and I did not do so. I did actually check
21 last night the transcript from yesterday and last night
22 sent three minor corrections and asked that once those
23 corrections had been made that the transcript then
24 immediately be put on the website. Whether that has
25 been actioned or not I don't know.

1 MR DOWDEN: It has now.

2 THE CORONER: Oh, it has. Thank you very much. I would
3 hope that I will be able to sort out the protocol before
4 we meet again tomorrow morning, and my apologies for the
5 delay in that.

6 MR HENDY: Can I just ask whether the way in which the legal
7 teams are to get the transcripts is simply via the
8 internet? That's not a problem.

9 THE CORONER: No, all PIPs -- and the Residents' Association
10 as an exception -- are supposed to be getting theirs by
11 email directly. If that's not happening, then I'll try
12 to make arrangements to ensure that it is.

13 MR HENDY: I don't think it is, in fact. Certainly not for
14 our team.

15 THE CORONER: In that case, that's something that I'll try
16 and chase up.

17 MR HENDY: Thank you very much.

18 THE CORONER: I'll try and get that sorted. Anything else
19 that needs sorting? Very well, until 10 o'clock
20 tomorrow morning then.

21 (2.49 pm)

22 (The Court adjourned until 10 o'clock the following day)

23

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