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Friday, 22 March 2013

(10.00 am)

THE CORONER: Yes, good morning. The faithful band.

(In the presence of the Jury)

THE CORONER: Members of the jury, good morning. Thank you very much for coming in this morning. I've had your question, thank you very much. I've just had a look at that. What we're proposing to do is we'll circulate the text of that to the advocates, because you can see many of them are not actually here this morning, and hope to be able to give you a reply when you come in at 1 o'clock, before lunchtime. Is that acceptable?

THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Thank you.

THE CORONER: Thank you very much. If you have any other questions in the meantime, then please let us have them and we'll try and deal with them as quickly as we can. Good. So there are no other questions at the moment? In that case, please go back to your room and carry on with your deliberations and I'll see you at 1 o'clock. Thank you.

(The Jury retired again at 10:01 am)

THE CORONER: Good, thank you. Just so that those of you who are here know, as I've said, we've had a question from the jury. Mr Atkins is going to circulate the text of it to everybody who's not here. He obviously can

1 show you now what it is and then circulate our
2 suggestion for the way in which we should be answering
3 it. So if we could get any response in by 1 o'clock,
4 that would be helpful, and we can give the jury the
5 answer.

6 MS SANDERSON: Yes, madam.

7 THE CORONER: All right? Thank you very much.

8 (10.02 am)

9 (A short break)

10 (12.56 pm)

11 (In the presence of the Jury)

12 THE CORONER: Thank you very much for coming in, members of
13 the jury. I did say that we would be able to give you
14 an answer at 1 o'clock. I've been anxious that we
15 should canvass what I'm going to say with all of the
16 advocates but some, as you know, aren't in the building
17 and we're still waiting to hear from a couple of them.
18 I've told them that we shall be giving you an answer at
19 2 o'clock, come what may. Have a break for lunch now
20 and come back refreshed in the afternoon, and I'll see
21 you at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

22 (In the absence of the Jury)

23 THE CORONER: Thank you.

24 (12.58 pm)

25 (The short adjournment)

1 (1.58 pm)

2 THE CORONER: Thank you. Yes, members of the jury, thank
3 you.

4 First thing this morning, you handed in a written
5 question. I'll just read that out so that we remind
6 ourselves of what that was. The question was this:

7 "When discussing issues such as the speed with which
8 the fire spread (whether between or within flats), is it
9 preferred that we say 'a medium fire growth', 'at 15.38
10 the fire broke through the window, at 15.46 "...the
11 sofa was alight?' or 'within ten minutes the fire took
12 hold?', or something else entirely?"

13 So that, thank you, was your question.

14 Let me answer the question like this, and I shall
15 answer it on the assumption that the times that you've
16 included in your question -- that is 15.38 and 15.46 --
17 are there for the purpose of illustration only. I see
18 you're nodding, because I note that both of those times
19 are earlier than the time the fire started on
20 3 July 2009.

21 Putting that to one side for the moment, it is for
22 you, members of the jury, to make your findings of fact,
23 and to choose the words that you use in your verdicts,
24 subject only to the points which we set out in the
25 written guidance which I gave you yesterday. It's not

1 for me to express any preference; it is entirely
2 a matter for you. So that, I hope, answers your
3 question.

4 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Thank you.

5 THE CORONER: Anything else that you want me to deal with
6 before I ask you to go back this afternoon? Thank you
7 very much. Then please if you could return to your jury
8 room and carry on with your discussion, and if you send
9 me a message roughly when you've finished then we'll
10 sign you off for the weekend.

11 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Okay, thank you.

12 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

13 (The Jury retired at 2.00 pm)

14 Again.

15 THE CORONER: Good, thank you.

16 (2.01 pm)

17 (A short break)

18 (3.39 pm)

19 (In the presence of the Jury)

20 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you very much. Yes, members of the
21 jury, I gather that you've come to a convenient stopping
22 point for this afternoon? Good. Well, thank you very
23 much for your efforts today. Please come back on Monday
24 and carry on, and please, over the weekend, just put
25 this to one side of the mind. Don't fret about it, but

1 make sure that you come back refreshed on Monday to
2 carry on. Thank you very much.

3 You know I'm going to remind you, please, not to
4 take any of the papers out of the building. Please
5 leave all your papers in the jury room, and please don't
6 talk to anyone at all about your discussions or indeed
7 about the matter at all. It's a matter just for the 11
8 of you, together in the jury room, and not for anybody
9 else. And please don't carry out any of your own
10 research.

11 Have a good weekend and we'll see you on Monday.
12 Thank you very much.

13 (In the absence of the Jury)

14 THE CORONER: Would any of you like to raise anything before
15 we finish?

16 MS SANDERSON: No, thank you, madam.

17 THE CORONER: Well, thank you very much for staying and
18 supporting Mr Atkins. At least he's not all by himself.
19 Thank you very much.

20 (3.41 pm)

21 (The Court adjourned until 10 o'clock on Monday, 25 March
22 2013)

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Day 46 OF Transcription of the
Lakana1 House Fire
Inquest - 22/03/13
Corrected