

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Thursday, 17 January 2013

(10.00 am)

(Proceedings delayed)

(10.10 am)

Housekeeping

THE CORONER: Gentlemen, good morning. Any matters to raise before we ask the jury to come in?

MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, Mr Hendy and I were having a discussion just before we came into court when he was asking the possibility about jurors being able to see documents that witnesses are being asked questions about but which are not thought to be within the category of documents that we would want to have remain in the jury bundle --

THE CORONER: Yes.

MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: -- because the plan is that the jury bundle does not become overwhelmingly large and that it, at the end of the case, only has within it really key documents.

That of course means that there will be a category of documents which are looked at with witnesses when they're asked questions from the advocates' bundle, it could be a passage in their witness statement, which the jury need to follow the questioning but not retain the document, and he discussed with me the feasibility of

1 that being done electronically using the monitors.

2 The short point is that, as I can demonstrate now
3 with Mr Atkins' assistance, it would be extremely easy
4 to do. It's simply a question of indicating the
5 relevant bundle and the relevant page number. We have
6 on this laptop at the moment all the contents of the
7 witness statement bundles and all of the contents of the
8 advocates' bundles, save for a couple of additional
9 documents that have emerged since these were sent around
10 to everybody, but we could have those on within a matter
11 of a couple of minutes.

12 So it's really a question for you, madam, whether
13 you think that would assist the jury and you will no
14 doubt want to hear other people's views on that.

15 THE CORONER: Yes, does anyone else want to add to that?

16 MR HENDY: Madam, I strongly support that. I think it must
17 be very difficult for the jury when a witness is being
18 asked about a document that they can't actually see.
19 I think it would be very helpful if they could.

20 MR MATTHEWS: I would respectfully agree.

21 THE CORONER: Can I just ask for dissenting voices then? I
22 see there are none. Well, I accept that entirely.
23 I think it is quite difficult to sit and listen to
24 something that is being read to a witness. If you can't
25 see it in front of you, then it's more difficult to take

1 it in and this solution seems to me to be an excellent
2 one, and let's work that and see whether that's going to
3 be feasible. But it sounds a good idea to me, so yes,
4 please, if that could be done.

5 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: That's absolutely fine, and when Mr Hendy
6 asks questions and indeed other advocates, if he
7 indicates page numbers, we will do our best to get them
8 up promptly on screen.

9 THE CORONER: Okay, well if everybody could just bear in
10 mind that there may be just a little bit of time needed
11 for Mr Maxwell-Scott and Mr Atkins actually to find
12 documents, so don't rush into it too fast.

13 MR HENDY: I'm so sorry, madam, just to finesse on that, of
14 course Mr Clark has been kindly providing the witness
15 with the actual bundle, and probably we ought to
16 preserve that so the witness is not just restricted to
17 what he or she sees on the screen, but can flick through
18 the pages if they want to get their orientation and so
19 on.

20 THE CORONER: I agree, I think that's ideal. Yes.

21 Mr Walsh?

22 MR WALSH: Just a point of clarification, I think we're
23 talking here about documents which are in the advocates'
24 bundles rather than all the documents.

25 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: That's what we had, and that would

1 include witness statements, within the advocates'
2 bundles.

3 THE CORONER: Well, if there's any document that anyone
4 wants to refer to that can't be called up on the screen
5 then we'll have to sort out a way of dealing with it at
6 the time, but shall we proceed on those lines and see
7 how we go? Thank you very much. Anything else?

8 Good, can we ask the jury to come in. Whilst the
9 jury are coming in, can I just mention transcripts.
10 I've asked Abi, who's sitting in the corner, who I think
11 you all know, to collect from anybody by 9.30 any
12 corrections from the previous day's transcript, and
13 those will then be passed to the transcribers and the
14 transcript can be put on the internet straight away. So
15 I hope that that will be feasible.

16 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, we will circulate Abi's email
17 address just to check that everybody has it.

18 THE CORONER: Okay, yes, that would be very helpful. Thank
19 you very much.

20 (In the presence of the Jury)

21 THE CORONER: Yes, good morning, members of the jury. Thank
22 you very much for coming. I'm sorry we've had a late
23 start again but I'm aware there were local problems at
24 Victoria which has given a lot of people travelling
25 problems, so well done for arriving all of you.

1 In a short moment we'll continue hearing evidence
2 from Mr Willett and then we'll hear evidence from
3 a couple of the residents at Lakanal House and one of
4 the other firefighters. Then at the end of the day
5 we're going to give you a full briefing about the site
6 visit tomorrow.

7 What I do just want to say at this stage, just to
8 put minds at rest for yourselves and for the families,
9 to make it absolutely clear that in site visit tomorrow
10 we shall be taking you no further than the fourth floor
11 in the building and you will not be shown any of the
12 areas which were damaged by fire. I hope that that will
13 help.

14 Yes, so can we ask you to continue with Mr Willett,
15 please, Mr Maxwell-Scott, or have you finished your
16 questions?

17 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I'd concluded my questions, madam.

18 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

19 Yes, good morning, Mr Willett, thank you very much
20 for coming and you are still on oath. Thank you very
21 much. Yes.

22 CM BARRY WILLETT (continued)

23 Questions by MR HENDY

24 MR HENDY: Good morning, Mr Willett.

25 A. Good morning.

1 Q. John Hendy, I'm representing three of the families.
2 Mr Willett, can I just ask you how long you've been in
3 the fire service? I think you told us how long you'd
4 been at Peckham, but how long in the fire service?
5 A. At the time of the fire at Lakanal?
6 Q. Tell us the year you started.
7 A. 2001.
8 Q. 2001. I just wanted to ask you about the number of
9 firefighters who arrived at an early stage. In the jury
10 bundle -- I wonder if Mr Clark could provide you with
11 the jury bundle, and the jurors can look at it at tab 12
12 at page 2. (Handed)
13 We can see that your Peckham pump ladder, E371,
14 arrived at 16.23.57, that's the fifth entry down.
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. Yes? Then at 16.26.16, E351, the Old Kent Road pump
17 ladder reported in attendance, yes?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. The jury could note there that Watch Manager Howling was
20 on board that pump ladder, was he not?
21 A. He was, yes.
22 Q. Then the next entry is 16.26.22, E372, Peckham pump.
23 That had CM Clarke on board, didn't it?
24 A. Sorry, not Echo 372, no, he would have been on Echo 352.
25 Q. 352, right. So we write "CM Clarke" under 352 which is

1 the next appliance to arrive, yes?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you keep your finger in that page and go back to
4 tab 8, we can see that the two Peckham appliances, 371
5 and 372, had eight firefighters on board, and yesterday
6 you told us -- and the jury might want to note this as
7 well -- you, Firefighter Badger, Firefighter Farmer and
8 Firefighter Sharpe were all on 371.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. So the other four, Dennis, Crowley, Fournier and Simons
11 were all on 372.

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. I don't know if the jury managed to get all those names
14 together but it was Willett, Badger, Farmer and Sharpe
15 on 371, the rest all being on 372.

16 So if we go back then to tab 12 at page 2, there's
17 a handy blank column at the side which is meant for
18 videos and photos and things, but we could usefully use
19 it by writing the number of firefighters in relation to
20 each appliance. So can we do that together, Mr Willett?
21 E371, that had four firefighters aboard.

22 A. Four firefighters on, yes.

23 Q. E351, that had five firefighters aboard.

24 A. Yeah, could I just clarify that E372 arrived -- actually
25 arrived before E351, the discrepancy in this may have

1 been taken from the incident log, which records what
2 time the appliance arrives. That's recorded by a --
3 there used to be a system on board the front of the fire
4 engines where we press a button to say which status
5 we're in. Sometimes those messages can get through
6 a bit slowly because it's a radio message and sometimes
7 the chronology that is recorded on the incident log
8 doesn't actually reflect the chronology of the order
9 they arrived on the incident ground.

10 Q. Right, but presumably the difference of time of arrival
11 between 351 and 372 is a matter of seconds?

12 A. No, E372 arrived exactly the same time at as E371.

13 Q. Very helpful, thank you.

14 A. We were in convoy when we arrived. We arrived at the
15 same time.

16 Q. I understand. So probably for 372 we should put in the
17 same time as 371, should we?

18 A. Yes, we should.

19 Q. Okay. So shall we alter 16.26.22 to 16.23.57?

20 A. Yes.

21 THE CORONER: Well, without access to records, Mr Willett,
22 I'm not sure how you know whether you advance 371 to
23 372, or retard 372 to 371 on this page.

24 A. Sorry, madam, can you repeat the question?

25 THE CORONER: You're being invited to marry up the two at

1 a particular time, but I'm not sure how you can be
2 confident which of those two times is correct?

3 A. I can't be confident which time, but I know E371 arrived
4 first because I was the appliance commander. I know
5 E372 arrived exactly the same time as us, because when
6 I stepped off the appliance I was able to speak to the
7 commander of E372 immediately.

8 THE CORONER: Thank you. A couple of minutes later, E351
9 turned up?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Right. Well, I'm sure that the precise timings are not
12 crucial to anything that the jury has to consider, but
13 it's helpful to have your view on it. So we've got 351
14 with five firefighters, 372 with four firefighters, and
15 352, the Old Kent Road pump, with four firefighters, am
16 I right?

17 A. I can only go by the documentation here, I don't
18 remember exactly from the day.

19 Q. Right. The documentation, if we go back to tab 8, shows
20 four firefighters on board 352. It has CM Clarke,
21 Firefighters Bennett, Mason and Mechen on board.

22 A. That sounds correct.

23 Q. Sounds correct. If it is correct, by 16.27, or a few
24 seconds past it, there were then 17 firefighters?

25 A. That would have been correct, yes.

1 Q. Then if we go over the page of tab 12 to page 3 of
2 tab 12, we see that a couple of minutes later, 16.29.20,
3 E355, aerial ladder platform, arrived, and by looking
4 back -- and I won't trouble everybody to do it -- we can
5 see that that had two firefighters on board?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Of course that was after you had handed over incident
8 command.

9 A. Yeah, looking at the times gave in this we would still
10 be doing the handover.

11 Q. Still be doing the handover at that time?

12 A. Because it takes a couple of minutes to handover.

13 Q. Right. So by 4.30 in the afternoon there were then
14 19 firefighters and five appliances?

15 A. That would have been correct.

16 Q. Right, I think we can put the jury bundle away for
17 a minute and turn to something else. Yesterday
18 afternoon you were asked about your knowledge of the
19 block of flats. I wonder whether we can have on the
20 screen volume 3 of the advocates' bundle at page 1127.

21 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, we're going to try to
22 show you on the screens the documents which witnesses
23 are being asked to look at, but where we're not going to
24 give you hard copies, so that you don't end up with too
25 much paperwork. So we're going to try to pull that up

1 on the screen each time.

2 MR HENDY: I'm told this is actually in the jury bundle at
3 tab 15. But let's look at it on the screen or however
4 you have it in front of you, Mr Willett.

5 A. I have it on screen.

6 Q. I'm grateful. This is the Operational News quarterly
7 newsletter for all London Fire Brigade operational
8 staff, issue 10, November 2008. Mr Maxwell-Scott asked
9 you some questions about it.

10 THE CORONER: Mr Hendy, not too fast please, for the
11 transcribers.

12 MR HENDY: Forgive me. Mr Maxwell-Scott asked you some
13 questions about it yesterday. First of all, the
14 introduction:

15 "We're all aware of the significant challenges
16 present when dealing with fires in high rise buildings.
17 Following the recent publication of generic risk
18 assessment number 3.2 for high rise firefighting and the
19 results of recent safety event investigations, the
20 policy note for dealing with incidents in high rise
21 buildings has been updated and re-issued."

22 I'm going to ask you about that later on, but I just
23 want to be clear, the generic risk assessment number 3.2
24 for high rise firefighting, is that a document that as
25 a watch manager you would have been aware of?

1 A. Sorry, just to clarify, I'm not a watch manager, I'm
2 a crew manager. I'm a watch officer, one of the
3 officers on the watch, but my role or rank is actually
4 as a crew manager.

5 To answer your question: no, it's not a document
6 that I would have been aware of.

7 Q. Right. That sort of a document -- we'll look at it
8 later -- would come to officers above your grade, so to
9 speak?

10 A. (The witness nodded)

11 Q. I think you have to say yes or no --

12 A. Okay, yes.

13 Q. -- otherwise it doesn't come out on the transcript.

14 Let's just look across the page under the heading
15 pre-planning. It says:

16 "Fire crews should be familiar with all high rise
17 premises on their ground and be aware of access water
18 supply, security measures and fixed installations for
19 firefighting and ventilation. Building layout can be of
20 particular importance."

21 That advice, guidance, instruction, is something
22 that you were well aware of?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You were familiar with Lakanal House?

25 A. Sorry, could you repeat the question?

1 Q. You were familiar with Lakanal House by July 2009?

2 A. Yes, I'd attended incidents at Lakanal house before.

3 Q. Yes. But you were familiar with it?

4 A. As familiar as, you know -- in context, there's a lot of

5 high rise buildings on the -- on the station's ground.

6 I was as familiar with Lakanal as any of the others.

7 Q. If we could look in volume 4, please, at page 1324.

8 These are the notes of what Mr Maxwell-Scott described

9 yesterday as a debriefing after the event. They are

10 only in handwriting, but if you go to -- sorry, I've

11 lost my reference, just give me one moment. (Pause)

12 If you go to page 1325 -- could we have that up --

13 we see by the first -- we see about one third of the way

14 down there's reference to:

15 "Watch Manager Howling arrived with two appliances

16 and an aerial. Briefed him. He [Watch Manager Howling]

17 took over."

18 A. I can't see the bit you're looking at.

19 THE CORONER: Would you like to look in the bundle,

20 Mr Willett, you may find that easier.

21 A. Yes, please.

22 THE CORONER: Yes, bundle 4, please. Page 1325.

23 A. Oh, sorry, yeah, I see where you're looking at now.

24 THE CORONER: So do you need the bundle?

25 A. It might be easier, madam, the handwriting's a bit hard

1 to see on the screen.

2 MR HENDY: It is, it's not easy. (Handed)

3 THE CORONER: Do you have that now, by the hole punch?

4 A. Okay, I have that now.

5 MR HENDY: Okay, and do you have the bit that says:

6 "From Chair's Qs [questions, obviously] understood
7 that three pumps en route. Crews familiar ..."

8 A. Yeah, I see that.

9 Q. " ... therefore don't need to check route card."

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. "Attended lifts and rubbish fires."

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Which is explaining how they got that familiarity, yes?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Then just go back to 1324 if we can, right at the
16 beginning. It says:

17 "IC1 [that presumably is you, the first incident
18 commander] ordered at 16.21SH call to fire, 9th floor.
19 Familiar due to other minor incidents."

20 Would I be right in saying that that is what you
21 were saying to this debriefing inquiry?

22 A. I imagine it was.

23 Q. Thank you. Then we can put that away -- no, one moment.
24 Can we look, please, at 1210 in the same volume? This
25 appears to be a London Fire Brigade inquiry and report

1 on the operational response. We can see that this is
2 more than three years after the fire, and that it's
3 dated on the cover. If you go to page 1218 --

4 A. Yes, I have that.

5 Q. -- whoever wrote the report says at paragraph 3.3.9:

6 "The statements of the initial crews who attended
7 from the local station, E37 Peckham and E35 Old Kent
8 Road, indicate that they had knowledge of the building
9 through the pre-planning visits, training, operational
10 incidents attended and home fire safety visits as
11 described above. This is demonstrated with the
12 following extracts."

13 Then there's a quotation from you, we can look at
14 that in your witness statement, and a further quotation
15 from you at the top of the next page. Do you agree that
16 whoever wrote this report is right in believing that the
17 crews who attended from Peckham and Old Kent Road had
18 knowledge of the building through visits and training
19 and operational incidents and so forth?

20 A. I couldn't speak for the crews from the Old Kent Road,
21 but certainly the crews from Peckham would have done,
22 yes.

23 Q. Right, I think we can put that aside. I just wanted now
24 to ask you about the witness statements that you made
25 which are referred to in the last document, but we might

1 as well look at copies of the original. If you go to
2 page 44, you made a statement --

3 THE CORONER: Can you just wait one moment for it to come up
4 on the screen?

5 A. I have that page now.

6 MR HENDY: Thank you. You made a statement to the police,
7 and that statement is dated 11 July 2009, so a week or
8 so after the fire. We can see in paragraph 44, the
9 paragraph before the last one on that page says:

10 "I am familiar with this building and have attended
11 this building on several occasions on operational
12 incidents."

13 Yes?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. If we go then to page 54, you made a second statement
16 a year later, or nearly a year later. I'm going to take
17 you back to page 53 in a moment, but the first complete
18 sentence at the top of that page says:

19 "I attended both buildings frequently but had
20 probably been to Lakanal on more occasions."

21 A. I see that.

22 Q. Yes. Can we just go back to page 53 and see what you
23 did know about Lakanal House?

24 A. I see that page, yes.

25 Q. The bottom paragraph on that page, you've written:

1 "Prior to this incident, my understanding of the
2 internal layout of the building was that it consisted of
3 a central staircase leading to two corridors with the
4 flats coming off each corridor and that the flats
5 consisted of two floors. I knew that the corridors were
6 on the odd floors, as this was the access when you used
7 the lifts. I knew that there were escape balconies, but
8 was not entirely sure of the access to them. I did not
9 know the detail of the layout of the inside of the flats
10 and do not recall if I had been inside one of the flats
11 on a previous visit or incident, et cetera."

12 Then we get the passage that we looked at a few
13 moments ago. I think you told us yesterday in fact you
14 had been inside one of those flats prior to July 2009?

15 A. I think I did say that yesterday, yes. I do recall
16 an incident when I went inside.

17 Q. You went upstairs to the lounge/kitchen area in whatever
18 flat it was that you went to?

19 A. Yes, I believe I made that statement.

20 Q. Yes. You were aware that there were escape balconies
21 and that those balconies were on the even-numbered
22 floors, that's to say where the kitchen/lounge was?

23 A. I did say in my statement that I knew there were escape
24 balconies but not entirely sure of the access to them.
25 I don't recall saying that I knew they were on the

1 even-numbered floors.

2 Q. Did you not know that they were on the even-numbered
3 floors?

4 A. As I recall now, I couldn't recall if I knew that before
5 the incident.

6 Q. Right. I know it's difficult.

7 A. I do know now.

8 Q. Of course.

9 A. There's been, you know, a lot of coverage and revisits.

10 Q. Just to clarify one point that you mentioned yesterday,
11 of course you knew that in each corridor, as you walked
12 down it, whether north or south, the flats would open
13 off on both sides of the corridor?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. I wonder if I could finally on this ask whether you
16 could be shown volume 1 of the advocates' bundle at
17 page 259. (Handed)

18 A. Sorry, page 259?

19 Q. 259, yes.

20 A. I have that page now.

21 Q. Yes. If you look at the top of it, it says:
22 "We received an ordering --"
23 This is another statement that was made for,
24 I think, a further or maybe the same Fire Brigade
25 inquiry.

1 A. This was a statement made the day after to
2 a Fire Brigade officer.

3 Q. The day after?

4 A. The day after the Lakanal incident.

5 Q. Oh right, thank you very much.

6 THE CORONER: So on 4 July?

7 A. That would be correct madam, yes.

8 MR HENDY: Thank you. At the top of page 259 you say:

9 "We received an ordering at about 4.30. I was
10 riding in charge of the pump ladder. The ordering was
11 to fire on the 9th floor of Lakanal. This is a building
12 that I'm familiar with from incidents and targeted
13 calling, et cetera. There are several buildings of the
14 same design. I don't recall carrying out any 72Ds
15 recently."

16 It's really saying much the same that you said in
17 your other statements, but I wanted to ask you about the
18 72Ds. Mr Maxwell-Scott mentioned those yesterday. They
19 are formal visits to buildings to ascertain what the
20 firefighting environment is and the resources that might
21 be available and the problems that might be confronted.

22 A. That's correct, yes.

23 Q. Do you know why no 72D visits were carried out to
24 Lakanal recently, in July 2009?

25 A. I can only say I didn't carry out a 72D visit there.

1 Obviously, I'm not at the station all day, every day.
2 Some of the other watches may have carried them out.
3 Other -- the watch I was on may have carried one out
4 whilst I was on leave or on a training course. So
5 I only spoke for myself when I said I hadn't carried out
6 any 72Ds.

7 Q. If other watches had carried out 72D visits, how would
8 you and your watch find out what it was that they had
9 discovered?

10 A. I think I mentioned yesterday in my testimony, if
11 there'd been a -- a serious issue with something
12 resulting from the inspection, as an example dry riser
13 main outlets missing, this information would be handed
14 over in the station handing over book. If everything
15 was okay and there was no issues arising from the
16 inspection, obviously a familiarisation visit is
17 a familiarisation view, you can't pass over the
18 knowledge of a familiarisation visit.

19 So the appointments for all 72Ds that the station
20 was required to carry out came -- we have a station
21 diary and the appointments appear for us to diarise at
22 the top of the diary. It would just wait until it come
23 round to the Green Watch's -- until one appointment for
24 the Green Watch came round where we'd diarise it and
25 carry out the visit.

1 THE CORONER: Could I just ask you both please not to go too
2 fast?

3 A. Sorry.

4 MR HENDY: Each appliance carries an operational information
5 folder, doesn't it?

6 A. It does, yes.

7 Q. Mr Maxwell-Scott told us yesterday that there was
8 nothing in the operational information folder on your
9 appliance relating to Lakanal House, correct?

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 Q. Could we look, please, at the generic risk assessment
12 document. I appreciate you're not familiar with it, but
13 the advocates have it in the advocates' bundle at
14 page 1498. I think that's volume 4. I'll just show you
15 the cover of it, if I may.

16 I'm sorry, Mr Atkins, if you could just put up 1494
17 first? That's what it looks like on the outer cover.
18 I think Mr Maxwell-Scott described it yesterday as
19 national guidance. Can we go to 1498? Just give me one
20 moment. (Pause)

21 It is in fact 1499, sorry -- 1498, I'm so sorry,
22 I had it right the first time.

23 This part of the document is talking about hazards
24 and risks and, as we see, a third of the way down the
25 page deals with building height and design, and at the

1 bottom of the page, "complexity of internal layout" and
2 then says:

3 "Large or complex floor layouts and a lack of
4 information on the internal layout of the building can
5 challenge crews seeking safe access and egress routes to
6 and from the scene of the fire and may increase the risk
7 of crews becoming disorientated or lost."

8 Now, as a general principle that's one that you
9 would obviously agree with.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you not think that the floor layout at Lakanal House
12 qualified as large or complex?

13 A. Not particularly.

14 Q. Do you agree with me that information as to the layout
15 of the floors at Lakanal House should have been included
16 in the operational information folder?

17 A. It simply wouldn't be practical to have floor plans for
18 every building on the station's ground contained in an
19 operational information folder. It would require
20 a library to contain that much information.

21 Q. What about the fireman's box, which is, as I understand
22 it, a box kept at a building that contains plans of it?
23 Are you familiar with that concept?

24 A. I'm familiar with the concept, yes.

25 Q. Do you agree with me that it would have been wise to

1 have had a fireman's box at Lakanal House in the
2 vicinity of the dry riser main that would have given
3 plans to any firefighters called there in a emergency?
4 A. It could have been of assistance, I don't think it would
5 have helped initially on our attendance.
6 Q. It wouldn't have assisted you, is that what you're
7 saying?
8 A. Not initially, no.
9 Q. But later perhaps?
10 A. Perhaps later, if they were briefing BA crews, then
11 floor plans are always helpful to assist in the briefing
12 of breathing apparatus crews.
13 Q. Just going back to 72D visits, you mentioned an example
14 that would go into the handover book at the station as
15 being where an inlet or outlet valve or connection was
16 missing from the dry riser main, yes?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. What about drop bolts that failed to operate; is that
19 something that should be detected on a 72D visit?
20 A. It is something that should be detected on a 72D visit,
21 yes.
22 Q. What about security doors that couldn't be opened?
23 A. Yes, that should be something that should be picked up
24 on a 72D visit.
25 Q. What about radios that had difficulty communicating from

1 upper floors?

2 A. Possibly that could be included, yes, but radio signals
3 can work one day and not the next, they're not always
4 thoroughly foolproof.

5 Q. My question wasn't very well worded. What I'm talking
6 about is not a defect in the radio --

7 A. No, I understand, but if it was a consistent problem,
8 then, yes, that could be something that could be
9 reported back. The trouble with something like that is
10 there's not much you can do to solve it. If the radios
11 don't work because of walls or something like that,
12 there's simply not much way around it. But it would be
13 useful to have that information if it was a consistent
14 problem.

15 Q. It would obviously be useful to know that there is
16 a transmission problem from a particular floor --

17 A. It would, yes.

18 Q. -- or floors in a particular building.

19 A. It would.

20 Q. Can I ask you about something else? For this we need
21 page 945 of the advocates' bundle, which I think is in
22 volume 3. This is part of a log kept by control of
23 communications with appliances --

24 A. I see that.

25 Q. -- as I understand it. If you look at 945, halfway down

1 the page, the big entry, 16.21.21, "Mobilise, mobilise,
2 mobilise," and various things, "65, 9th floor, Lakanal
3 at Havil Street", and so on. That's obviously the
4 message that alerted you and your watch and your
5 companion watch from Peckham to jump onto the appliances
6 and go to Lakanal?

7 A. That's correct, that's the information we would have had
8 come off the teleprinter.

9 Q. If you go to the next page, please, at 946, and look at
10 the fourth entry down, which is 16.23.57, there's
11 a message directed to your appliance, E371, am I right?

12 A. Sorry, could you give me the -- which entry that is
13 again?

14 Q. I make it the fifth entry on that page, 16.23.57.

15 A. Yes, yes I see that one.

16 Q. You see that? "LB", and then -- "LB" I think is the
17 name of the person making the call, "E371" is the
18 intended person or machine to receive it.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We see there that E371 reports in attendance at
21 incident. That means that at the moment in time the
22 button was pressed on your appliance.

23 A. Yes, we may have been at the time -- we may have been
24 transmitting this by voice message rather than button
25 message. I don't remember which system was working that

1 day.

2 Q. Right, okay. Then further down the page, four entries
3 up, we can see 16.24.41, E371, incoming message from
4 your appliance, "make pumps four," and that's your
5 message to make pumps four. You explained all that to
6 Mr Maxwell-Scott.

7 Can we go over the page to 947, and there's an entry
8 exactly halfway down the page for 16.26.08, do you have
9 that?

10 A. I have that, yes.

11 Q. JB to E371, it's an outgoing message to your appliance,
12 and it says:

13 "To 371, for your information we have a caller on
14 line who's trapped in Flat 79, Lakanal House on the 11th
15 floor, is heavily smoke-logged, caller unable to leave."

16 As I understand it, at the moment in time you were
17 obviously off your appliance and busy commanding
18 operations with your crew, and you did not anticipate
19 receive that message at that time?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Is that a message that would have come on the radio, or
22 would it have appeared on some sort of --

23 A. It would have been a voice message sent over the main
24 scheme radio, which is the radio fixed to the fire
25 engine.

1 Q. Right. As I understand it, all such messages would in
2 fact be received by all the appliances, so other
3 appliances going to Lakanal House would also have heard
4 that message had anybody been on the appliance
5 listening?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. Then if you go over the page to 948, the fourth or fifth
8 entry down the page is 16.29.59, incoming message, it
9 says:

10 "Unable to raise E371. Info passed to E351 and E355
11 for action."

12 That shows that none of your crew were on the
13 appliance and none of them received the message, so the
14 message was repeated to 351 and 355?

15 A. That's the way I read it, although it does say "incoming
16 message", which usually on these says it's a message
17 going from an appliance into control, so I don't
18 understand who sent the message.

19 Q. Well, it looks as if it was LB.

20 A. Yeah, so that's not something that I was aware of, so
21 it's purely speculation on my part.

22 Q. Right, but the information that somebody was trapped in
23 Flat 79 on the 11th floor, which was heavily
24 smoke-logged, was in fact passed on to Crew Manager
25 Clarke when he took over as incident commander, wasn't

1 it?

2 A. Crew Manager Clarke didn't take over as incident
3 commander; Watch Manager Howling took over as incident
4 commander.

5 Q. Forgive me.

6 A. I believe so, but again I don't recall exactly how that
7 unravalled at the time. That wasn't something that
8 I was dealing with.

9 Q. So if you look at your witness statement, if we could go
10 back to that, which is at page 55 -- let's pick it up at
11 54. You can just pick it up two paragraphs from the
12 bottom of that page, you say:

13 "At the time Watch Manager Howling arrived I told
14 him ..."

15 Then you explain what you told him and you say:

16 "At this point I had no information on flats
17 requiring rescue. I don't recall a briefing on the
18 layout of the flats themselves with Watch Manager
19 Howling. I don't recall discussing that the flats were
20 maisonettes. Watch Manager Howling then took command."

21 You stayed with Watch Manager Howling and relayed
22 messages between Mr Howling and the bridgehead:

23 "I was on the radio almost constantly but can't
24 remember the detail of the messages. Crew Manager
25 Clarke then arrived. He had a" --

1 THE CORONER: If I could stop you a moment, you've gone over
2 the page.

3 MR HENDY: Forgive me, page 55. Sorry, onto page 55, thank
4 you:

5 "Crew Manager Clarke then arrived. He had a list of
6 flats that he'd got from control and that Firefighter
7 Crowley had regarding someone trapped in their flat,
8 which he had intercepted from control as he resited the
9 appliance. I believe that the list CM Clarke had was
10 the list Firefighter Mullins had compiled. I was not
11 involved thereafter."

12 Thinking about it, that message about someone
13 trapped in their flat is probably a reference to the
14 message about somebody in Flat 79 on the 11th floor in
15 a flat that was heavily smoke-logged, do you agree?

16 A. Sorry, what was the question?

17 Q. The information that Firefighter Crowley passed to
18 Mr Clark regarding someone trapped in their flat was
19 probably the message about Flat 79?

20 A. It probably was.

21 Q. When you wrote there that Firefighter Crowley had
22 intercepted that message from control as he resited the
23 appliance, what that means is he'd got into the
24 appliance, started the engine and moved the appliance to
25 a better position, and while he was doing it, this

1 message came over the radio.

2 A. I believe that to be correct, yes.

3 Q. We looked at a passage a moment ago where you say you
4 don't recall discussing that the flats were maisonettes.

5 A. Yeah, I believe that's the second last paragraph on
6 page 54, yes.

7 Q. Yes. Would it not have been sensible to tell Watch
8 Manager Howling that the flats were maisonettes?

9 A. It could have been. I didn't say I didn't, I just
10 didn't recall. He was -- you appreciate, at the time
11 I was trying to brief him and he also had Crew Manager
12 Clarke speaking to him about the list that he had
13 compiled, so there was a -- it was quite hectic in those
14 initial few minutes, and I don't recall whether I told
15 him, which is what I've put in my statement.

16 Q. Of course, and indeed he may have known.

17 A. He may have done.

18 Q. Anyway, you stayed with him and you assisted him by
19 operating the radio to the bridgehead conveying what he
20 wanted to say to the bridgehead and what the bridgehead
21 wanted to say to him.

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. But after Crew Manager Clarke arrived, you ceased to
24 fulfil that function and were sent on other duties.

25 A. Not immediately, no.

1 Q. You stayed until fire broke out lower down the building?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. Did you pass on your familiarity with Lakanal House to
4 the subsequent incident commander or commanders?

5 A. I don't recall.

6 Q. If we could go back to page 47 of the witness statement,
7 please. If you look at the top of the page, it deals
8 with the time subsequently when you were asked to lay
9 out a jet at the ground floor to attack the fires that
10 were breaking out on the lower floors, yes?

11 A. That's correct, yes.

12 Q. Then if you look to the bottom of the page, we see that:
13 "A decision was made to get the area platform from
14 the Old Kent Road into position to see if they could
15 effect a rescue. We had to roll a car onto its side to
16 allow the aerial ladder platform to get close enough to
17 the building to set up. At this time I remember
18 a massive influx of personnel as more crews arrived.
19 I still had on my BA set at this time."

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. Are we talking about dozens of firefighters at that
22 point?

23 A. I honestly couldn't give you a honest recollection.

24 Q. But from that time onwards, you were carrying out
25 important firefighting duties, you went up into the

1 building with your breathing set on, but at no point
2 were you working closely with an incident commander?
3 A. That's correct, yes.
4 Q. Would it be fair to say that unless subsequent incident
5 commanders either had themselves or had available to
6 them personnel with familiarity with Lakanal House --
7 no, let me leave that.
8 THE CORONER: I think that is a matter for others, is it
9 not?
10 MR HENDY: Yes. One other matter: did you know that there'd
11 been a fire in Flat 81 back in 1997?
12 A. No, I didn't.
13 Q. When you arrived at Lakanal House, you found that there
14 was burning debris falling from the building.
15 A. That's correct, yes.
16 Q. That burning debris included window frames?
17 A. It's what I took to be window frames, yes.
18 Q. I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.
19 A. It's what I took to be window frames, yes. They looked
20 like aluminium, rectangular shaped or right angles,
21 about the right size of a window.
22 Q. I don't know if we need to turn it up, but you say:
23 "As we pulled into the approach road there was
24 debris, such as window frames, falling from the
25 building."

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The burning debris falling down was such that a cordon
3 was set up in due course to keep people away in case it
4 fell on them?

5 A. That's correct, yes.

6 Q. What it meant was that if window frames were falling out
7 and burning debris was coming down, that the fire was
8 not contained within Flat 65 where it started?

9 A. In the terms of the way we use -- it would have been
10 contained to that compartment, it's either contained to
11 that compartment or spread to another compartment. It
12 was what we would call free burning, as in it's
13 ventilated and bringing in air from the outside, but it
14 will still contain to that compartment.

15 Q. Well, let's just examine that. I can see how you can
16 say it didn't spread to another compartment, but to say
17 that it was contained when there was burning debris and
18 window frames coming out of the flame doesn't make
19 sense, does it?

20 A. That's the terminology we use in the Fire Brigade. It's
21 either contained to the compartment or it's spread
22 beyond the compartment to another compartment. That's
23 the way I was describing it; it was only burning in one
24 compartment. It's true the flames were coming out the
25 window, but it hadn't spread to a second compartment

1 or -- well, had not spread to a second compartment.
2 There was only one compartment showing signs of fire.
3 Q. If flames were coming out of the window as you
4 describe -- and we've seen photographs of them -- and
5 burning debris was falling down, it was obvious that
6 there was a risk of other flats being ignited.
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. The fire survival guidance, that's a term you're
9 familiar with.
10 A. It is, yes.
11 Q. FSG. That's advice that's given to people at or near
12 a fire as to how to escape or how to protect themselves.
13 A. Or what actions to take.
14 Q. The first rule is get out and keep out, yes?
15 A. If there's a fire in your own flat, yes.
16 Q. Yes. If that is not feasible, or there's smoke or
17 flames in your flat, then -- sorry, let me put it
18 another way. If there's smoke or flames in your flat,
19 then get out and stay out, if it's safe to stay in your
20 flat, then stay put?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. The stay put advice is on the basis that residential
23 buildings are designed to contain a fire for a hour.
24 A. That's my understanding.
25 THE CORONER: Mr Hendy, I'm not sure Mr Willett is the

1 appropriate person to go dealing with broad questions of
2 this sort.

3 MR HENDY: Madam, I'm not going to ask him to deal with
4 these matters but just so see how what he did on that
5 day impacts on those matters.

6 THE CORONER: Well, if you limit it to that, please.

7 MR HENDY: Yes, I'm grateful.

8 What was apparent to you from the burning debris and
9 window frames falling down was that the compartments
10 might not be safe for an hour?

11 A. Is there any particular compartment you're referring to?

12 Q. Well, any compartment in Lakanal House. After you've
13 seen fire coming out of Flat 65, it's quite clear that
14 there's a risk to other compartments, isn't it?

15 A. There is potentially the risk, yes.

16 Q. Can I ask you this: in a high rise building, have you
17 ever seen the exterior actually burn before July 2009?

18 A. No.

19 Q. That is what you saw at Lakanal House, isn't it?

20 A. Eventually, yes.

21 Q. Well, you say eventually, but --

22 A. Well, when we turned up only the windows had gone. For
23 the windows to pop out during a fire in any compartment
24 is perfectly normal. I think you -- thought you were
25 referring to the facades, the bits that were coloured

1 green that we see in the photos.

2 Q. I was.

3 A. They weren't burnt out when we arrived.

4 Q. Were they burning when you arrived?

5 A. Not on the outside.

6 Q. But you saw them burn eventually, at some point?

7 A. I didn't watch them slowly become engulfed in the
8 frames. If you understand, I was carrying out other
9 tasks.

10 Q. You were occupied?

11 A. But at one point I looked up and they had burned
12 through, yes.

13 Q. Yes. How long after you arrived was that point? Can
14 you help us at all? I know it's very, very difficult?

15 A. I really couldn't recall at all. Sorry, if I could add
16 to that, at the point when we moved the aerial ladder
17 platform, all the firefighting -- all the holding area
18 for all the firefighters and the command and control
19 moved to the east side of the building, and all the
20 flats affected by fire on the exterior were on the east
21 side of the building.

22 So apart from the pump operator we would have been
23 under cover from the falling debris, there was sort of
24 a concrete ledge. There would have been no-one on that
25 side externally to witness that coming through, or at

1 least I don't think there would have been. The vast
2 majority of people moved to the east side of the
3 building.

4 Q. This was a hot, sunny July day.

5 A. It was.

6 Q. Many windows were open.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You're aware of what firefighters refer to as the Coanda
9 Effect?

10 THE CORONER: Mr Hendy, Mr Willett isn't here to give us
11 opinion evidence or to assist us with technical matters
12 of this sort, and this is going to be covered by others
13 later in the inquest and I don't want Mr Willett to feel
14 unfairly pressurised to try to answer questions which
15 maybe he's not comfortable with.

16 MR HENDY: No, I'm not going to ask any technical questions
17 at all, I just wanted to ask whether he was familiar
18 with these concepts.

19 Are you familiar with the concept that fires do
20 sometimes break out lower down a building?

21 A. I wasn't at the time, no.

22 Q. It was obvious to you, though, that with burning debris
23 and wind, and windows open, that was a risk?

24 A. Not necessarily, no. It didn't occur to me at the time
25 as being a risk. It's not something I'd ever

1 experienced before.

2 Q. Right. Can I just ask you to look at the generic risk
3 assessment document again which is in volume 4, and
4 I think it's going to be 1498. (Handed)

5 We looked at this earlier on, but if you look under
6 building height and design, the second entry is "falling
7 objects and burning debris". It says:

8 "Falling objects will be hazardous to personnel
9 working at ground level. Debris can be ejected
10 explosively from the building or, in the case of glass
11 and curtain walling, can plane and travel over
12 a considerable distance. Burning debris may fall from
13 the building, conceivably as a consequence of
14 firefighting actions, and can cause secondly fires."

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. Is that not a proposition that you were familiar with
17 before?

18 A. Not in the context of causing secondary fires within the
19 building. I've experienced burning debris falling onto
20 cars in the street and causing secondly fires within
21 cars parked in the street, and if I'd read this previous
22 to the incident at Lakanal, I would have taken it to
23 have meant that.

24 Q. I follow.

25 Just a couple of final matters, Mr Willett, if you

1 would.

2 Breathing apparatus timing: there's an issue which
3 rather concerned my clients, and I was just wondering if
4 you could clarify this for me. If you look in the third
5 volume at page 1037 -- you were taken to this yesterday.

6 (Handed)

7 A. Yes, I have seen this now.

8 Q. Your name, "Willett", is the last but one on the page.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. There's a column headed "BA wear details (breathing
11 aid)". The entry there for first one is 17.43.47, and
12 just below that, 17.30.01, yes?

13 A. Yes, I see that.

14 Q. I don't know if the jury have that, I hope so.

15 THE CORONER: It's on the screen.

16 MR HENDY: Five lines up. Mr Maxwell-Scott said that 17.42
17 is the time recorded but there was an error on the
18 computers and it was 17.30.001, and you said that sounds
19 about right, or words to that effect, yes?

20 A. Quite possibly, yes.

21 Q. We can put that away, and I want to ask you to clarify
22 something that appears in your statement at page 57.

23 It's the last answer there, where you're being asked
24 some questions, and your answer is:

25 "I think I remember before I was committed that

1 I heard the HART team [that's the London Ambulance] were
2 carrying out CPR resuscitation on the 11th floor. The
3 HART team had brought out the three week old baby when
4 I was on the ground floor. The HART and other ambulance
5 staff were working on the baby."

6 The ambulance records show that the baby, Michelle,
7 was brought out at 18.28.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. No-one need look at it, but it's the advocates' bundle,
10 page 1042. So I just wanted to clarify that when you
11 say, "I think I remember before I was committed," how
12 does that relate to the breathing apparatus time we've
13 just looked at?

14 A. That would have been after my first wear, before the
15 second wear.

16 Q. Before the second wear, right. So it doesn't cast any
17 doubt on the fact that poor Michelle was brought out
18 just before 6.30 in the evening?

19 A. I really couldn't comment on the timings. I don't
20 recall them precisely.

21 Q. That was a matter of concern to Mr Udoaka.

22 I'm sorry, I just have two more matters to deal with
23 very shortly, just give me a moment. (Pause)

24 I'll leave that matter and ask you finally about
25 this: at the end of Mr Maxwell-Scott's questions to you,

1 he asked you whether any piece of equipment or any piece
2 of information would have been of assistance, and you
3 said that you couldn't think of anything.

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Can I just make a couple of suggestions to you? Had you
6 had a turntable ladder with hose fitted, as they all
7 are, that went up to the 11th floor --

8 A. We don't have a turntable ladder that goes that high.

9 Q. No. But there are such ladders, aren't there?

10 A. I'm not familiar with any, we don't use them in the
11 London Fire Brigade. I'm not familiar with all fire
12 brigades around the world's equipment.

13 Q. No, we can explore that with other people. But had you
14 had such a turntable ladder, that would have been of
15 infinite value to the rescue of people on the 11th floor
16 and firefighting on the 9th, wouldn't it?

17 A. It was a very windy day. It may have been too unsafe to
18 use a piece of equipment like that. Like I said, I'm
19 not familiar with the technical details of such a piece
20 of equipment, so I couldn't comment.

21 THE CORONER: Well, don't speculate then, Mr Willett, if you
22 don't know.

23 MR HENDY: As to information that might have been helpful,
24 had you and your colleagues known that the exterior of
25 the building might actually burn, that would have been

1 a very useful piece of information, would it not?
2 A. I don't see how it would have been, really. There was
3 already a fire, we were going to commit firefighting
4 crews. What's alright -- to a degree in a domestic
5 example like that, we're not expecting to find any
6 hazards such as cylinders or explosive chemicals.
7 What's alright becomes slightly immaterial, it's all got
8 to be put out.

9 Q. You're not seriously suggesting that it wouldn't have
10 been of assistance to know that the exterior of the
11 building itself might catch fire?

12 A. It may have been useful to know, yes.

13 Q. Thank you very much.

14 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you. Before Mr Walsh, does anybody
15 else have any questions? Yes.

16 Questions by MR MATTHEWS

17 MR MATTHEWS: Mr Willett, I know that you've been answering
18 questions for quite a long time and I hope you'll
19 forgive us because you are obviously the first
20 firefighter we're hearing from and there's been a lot of
21 technical terms that you're very familiar with and that
22 we're probably not so familiar with.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can I try everybody's patience a bit, I'm afraid, and
25 get a bit more help from you on some of them?

1 A. Certainly, yes.

2 Q. I promise you it's not expertise, it's only technical
3 information that I'm after from you. Familiarisation
4 visits --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- we've heard about, and we've had mention of a 72D,
7 and that's the same thing; a 72D visit is
8 a familiarisation visit?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. Is this right: you joined in 2001 --

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. -- but familiarisation visits and 72Ds have been around
13 for a long time? I think it may have been called
14 something different before.

15 A. Yeah, previous to 2004 they were called 11D visits.

16 Q. You were shown a document by Mr Maxwell-Scott that the
17 jury didn't see. Perhaps we can start with that again.
18 That's page 1098, which is in folder 5 of the advocates'
19 bundle. That's it. I think you told us before that
20 this was where information was recorded at that time
21 from a familiarisation visit?

22 A. This looks like the report of an inspection, not where
23 the information is recorded.

24 Q. No. I hope I'm not going to be annoying, but that's the
25 bit of detail we have to understand. This is in fact

1 the letter that would be sent to the owner or duty
2 holder in relation to the building?

3 A. I believe that to be correct. As I say, I'm not
4 familiar with this, this document's before my time at
5 the station, but it is addressed to someone in
6 Southwark, so --

7 Q. Exactly. Help us in this way then: you go on
8 a familiarisation visit, 2008 or before --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- those years. Where do you record the information
11 from that familiarisation visit?

12 A. There would have been a computer -- on the computer
13 system we use at work, there would be a -- I can't
14 remember the name of the form, but there will be
15 essentially a form similar to this one for reporting the
16 outcome of a familiarisation visit.

17 Q. Right. That's the bit I think we need your help on.
18 That's a LFB -- a London Fire Brigade -- form, is it?

19 A. I believe so, yes.

20 Q. Every familiarisation visit that's done, is the crew
21 supposed to record the information?

22 A. On the -- I believe on the more formal 72D visits, yes.

23 Q. Right. So do we need to understand that you're drawing
24 a distinction between a formal and an informal?

25 A. Yes, yes. There's -- on the station, now it's gone

1 a lot more computer-based, so I'm trying to cast my mind
2 back to how it was, because I'm familiar with the more
3 computer-based system, at the moment the way we work.

4 We had files for all the premises for which we
5 carried out 72D visits on. Of course as a crew we're
6 more than free to go out and carry out other
7 familiarisation visits on places that weren't recorded
8 in the files.

9 Q. Pause there. I realise you're going quite fast.

10 A. Sorry.

11 Q. Do you know what would happen to the form you filled out
12 back in those days, 2008 and before?

13 A. There would be an email copy sent to -- there'd be
14 a circulation list. I don't remember exactly who they
15 go to.

16 Q. Let's see if I can short circuit it this way. Is this
17 right: if there'd been, as a result of you filling out
18 that form, some specific information about the premises
19 that's going to be recorded --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- would a note end up on the central computer -- bear
22 with me -- so that, if you're called out, or a crew is
23 called out to that location in the future, and about
24 that location there is some premises information, would
25 a note appear on the central computer, so when they're

1 turning out firemen to that location they're told
2 there's some information.

3 A. Not in as basic terms as that. There, as I mentioned
4 and I think Mr Maxwell-Scott mentioned, the CRR, the
5 central risk register -- certain hazards are recorded on
6 the central risk register. Not all information from the
7 72D visit would be recorded centrally --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. -- only visits that highlighted a risk that needed to be
10 recorded on the central risk register. That information
11 would be available from control by radio. It wouldn't
12 be automatically given to crews.

13 Q. No. Let's try this then: we have that list -- we don't
14 need to look at it again -- of operational information
15 that you carried on your appliance?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When you're -- you call it being turned out --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- the information comes on the teleprinter --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and that comes from the central --

22 A. From control.

23 Q. Control. On the turn out sheet, if there's some
24 information in your operational folder, would there be
25 anything on the turn out sheet saying there's something

1 in your operational folder?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Right. Let's move on, then. That's very helpful. We
4 can look, I think, at what's in the jury bundle to get
5 a bit more help on this, behind tab 15, and in that
6 training package. (Handed)

7 It's page 1149.

8 A. I have that page.

9 Q. Pre-planning. So if we can just summarise where we are
10 at the moment. A formal 72D familiarisation visit might
11 result in you recording on a form premises specific
12 information?

13 A. Yes. I can describe the form to you if it would --

14 Q. I think that's a difficult task for anyone to do.

15 A. Just the sort of information that would be on it.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Essentially, an A4 card with space on the back to do
18 a sketch. It would record where the nearest hydrant
19 was, the lengths of hose required to stretch from the
20 hydrant to the best place to site the appliance, you'll
21 have an area for contact numbers for the responsible
22 party and then a bit for any risks held in the area.

23 Q. Okay. Well then, help us with a couple of things on
24 this page. The second bullet point down is talking
25 about pre-planning?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. It goes on to say:

3 "The impact this has on predetermined attendance for

4 such buildings ..."

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Just help us, it may be obvious, but what's

7 predetermined attendance?

8 A. Predetermined attendance is, depending on the type of

9 call and the type of premises, a certain number of fire

10 engines will be sent.

11 Q. Right. Could it be a certain type of fire engine sent,

12 for example --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- the aerial ladder platform?

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 Q. Again, is the aerial ladder platform the same as a tower

17 ladder?

18 A. Turntable ladder.

19 Q. Turntable ladder?

20 A. No, it's not.

21 Q. Right. It's a different thing?

22 A. It's a different piece of equipment, yes.

23 Q. But a predetermined attendance could include --

24 A. An aerial appliance, yeah.

25 Q. You're going to need an aerial appliance of some sort?

1 A. Not necessarily need, but it will be on the
2 predetermined attendance, should you need it.

3 Q. Right. So a familiarisation visit, a 72D, is that the
4 route by which you end up with a predetermined
5 attendance?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Is it a possible route where you would?

8 A. Possibly, if you felt that the predetermined attendance
9 for a building was insufficient, you could put a case
10 together and ask for it to be increased.

11 Q. So in some situations, could a high rise building be
12 identified as -- if there's a proper fire, as it were --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- not an investigatory attendance, then the aerial
15 ladder platform should be mobilised immediately?

16 A. If it's on the predetermined attendance, then yes.

17 Q. How that works, that predetermined attendance, does it
18 come out then in the turn out sheet; is it automatic,
19 it's on the computer?

20 A. Yes, I'm not familiar with how control works.

21 Q. Fine. If that's the position -- and again, maybe you
22 can't help us -- but if that's the position, and if when
23 you're turning up to a fire and there's a predetermined
24 attendance involving an aerial ladder platform, is there
25 some arrangement to ensure that no-one parks in the

1 natural place for the aerial ladder platform?

2 A. During a 72D visit, we can identify the best place to
3 position an aerial ladder platform, but as you can
4 appreciate, we have no control over where people park.

5 Q. No. But in fact you've answered my next question about
6 72D and familiarisation. So that could be one of the
7 things on a familiarisation visit, the best place for
8 an aerial ladder platform to be sited?

9 A. Potentially, yes.

10 Q. Can we look a few pages on in this document, because
11 again it might be the shortest way of helping us? 1162
12 which is all about aerial appliances.

13 A. Yes, I see that page.

14 Q. I know you've been taken to it before and I should have
15 taken you to it, because is that an aerial appliance?

16 A. That's either an aerial -- it looks like an aerial
17 ladder platform.

18 Q. Right. What this says, it talks in the third paragraph
19 about how:

20 "Aerial appliances may be used for a number of tasks
21 other than firefighting."

22 Just pausing there so we can all mentally catch up,
23 the point about these aerial appliances is --

24 "principally" may be the wrong word, but it may be the
25 right one -- they're principally used for fighting the

1 fire?

2 A. It would depend on the incident. I couldn't say
3 principally they were, that's one of their functions.

4 Q. Right, one of their functions. So that we understand
5 that, I pause now and apologise in advance, I'm going to
6 talk diameters. We heard mention of 70-millimetre hose.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Again, that's the largest diameter of hose that's
9 carried as standard?

10 A. It's carried on the front line pumping appliances, yes.

11 Q. Yes, and it's the largest diameter?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. Is this right: that on one of these aerial appliances,
14 such a 70-millimetre hose can be carried up?

15 A. I'm not familiar with the set up and operation of aerial
16 appliances, it's not an area I've worked in.

17 Q. Fair enough, we'll ask somebody else.

18 One more thing then, and again apologies in advance,
19 because I'm going to ask you to look at a document that
20 we haven't looked at before, but just to get your help
21 with what it is at this stage. It's on page 1081. It's
22 quite difficult to read on the screen, but this is
23 headed "Report of fire".

24 THE CORONER: One moment, Mr Willett's just looking for it.

25 A. I'm not sure I have it, was it in this folder?

1 MR MATTHEWS: I think it is, folder 5.

2 THE CORONER: Folder 3, I think.

3 MR MATTHEWS: Sorry. That's the right document being handed
4 to you. (Handed)

5 This particular filled out form is from 1997. It's
6 headed, "Report of fire," but certainly even in 2008
7 this form was still knocking about in use.

8 A. I don't recall when it went out of use. We don't
9 currently use it, I don't recall when we stopped using
10 it.

11 Q. But it was in use for a long time?

12 A. It was, yes.

13 Q. Is it a form that had to be filled out whenever you
14 attended a fire?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It's filled out by?

17 A. Usually the incident commander.

18 Q. Again, obviously, you didn't fill out this form because
19 you weren't in the Fire Brigade in 1997.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Just help us in relation to some of the shorthand. It's
22 on the third page of the form, I can't see the page
23 numbers.

24 A. I think it's location of fire?

25 Q. No, I was going to ask you about method of fighting the

1 fire.

2 A. Yes, I see that, bottom of section 4, "Extinction of
3 fire".

4 Q. Go back a page, that's it, 1082, I'm told: "Method of
5 fighting the fire".

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. That's at 4.6, "before arrival of brigade", nil, and
8 4.7, "by brigade up to stop", so is that up to the time
9 the fire's put out?

10 A. When we use the word "stop", it means that no further
11 assistance is required and the fire's under control. It
12 doesn't necessarily mean it's completely out at this
13 stage, but no further assistance is required and the
14 incident is under control.

15 Q. Then we can see written "1J," is that one jet?

16 A. That would be one jet, yes.

17 Q. " ... from", and then it says "IP", is it?

18 A. I'm taking that to be one pump via dry rising main.

19 Q. I should have just asked you what it says: "one pump via
20 dry rising main".

21 A. As I say, I didn't write this, I'm assuming that's what
22 it means.

23 Q. Can we have your interpretation of the next line?

24 A. One jet from one pump via turntable ladder.

25 Q. Turntable ladder then is like the aerial platform, but

1 it's a ladder?

2 A. It is, yes, it's just a very big ladder.

3 Q. So we can see underneath, number of main jets used, two?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. The number of appliances attending, there were six

6 pumping appliances, and then whoever's filled out the

7 form appears to have hesitated somewhat in the other

8 box. I'm not asking you to guess.

9 A. As I say it's not my form.

10 Q. Thank you very much, that's all I ask. Thank you for

11 your assistance.

12 THE CORONER: Can I just stop you a moment. Mr Dowden and

13 Mr Walsh, I'm not sure how long you need, but if you're

14 going to be any time at all I think we ought to have

15 a short break for the transcribers.

16 MR DOWDEN: Just a couple of questions, but I'm also happy

17 to have a break.

18 THE CORONER: Mr Walsh?

19 MR WALSH: Well, actually Mr Hendy's asked many of the

20 questions I was going to ask, but I think I'll probably

21 be 15 minutes or so.

22 THE CORONER: All right, well in that case we'll have just

23 a very short break, so please could everybody be back in

24 this room by 11.55 on the clock at the back.

25 Members of the jury, if you'd like to go with

1 Mr Graham, thank you.

2 (11.44 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.56 am)

5 THE CORONER: Yes, could we have the jury in please?

6 (In the presence of the Jury)

7 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you, Mr Dowden.

8 Questions by MR DOWDEN

9 MR DOWDEN: Yes. You've told us that you were familiar with
10 Lakanal, that you had attended various incidents there
11 in the past, and that you had also attended as a fire
12 safety officer; is that correct?

13 A. No, I've not attended as a fire safety officer.

14 Q. But you have in fact been into at least one of the flats
15 in Lakanal?

16 A. I had previously to the incident I believe, yes.

17 Q. Yes, and no doubt you have a professional curiosity when
18 you visit a building?

19 A. To a degree, yes.

20 Q. Yes. For example, in this building you would look round
21 and you would see the green signs that we can see above
22 the doors and the red and black sign in the corner about
23 cigarettes.

24 A. Yes, you'd probably notice those things, yes.

25 Q. No doubt when you went into the flat that you've

1 described, did you look to see where there may be any
2 fire exits from that particular flat?

3 A. I don't recall.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 THE CORONER: Thank you. Yes, Ms Al Tai?

6 Questions by MS AL TAI

7 MS AL TAI: Good afternoon, Mr Willett. I act on behalf of
8 Mark Bailey, Catherine Hickman's partner. Mr Willett,
9 we viewed evidence from you that instructed a bridgehead
10 to be set upon the 7th floor. Are you familiar with the
11 phrase staging area?

12 A. I'm familiar with the term, but that's not a term that
13 I've heard used in the Fire Brigade.

14 Q. It's not one that's ordinarily used?

15 A. Not that I'm aware of.

16 Q. So you wouldn't be aware with that perhaps it's used to
17 denote an area that's used for briefing, for example?

18 A. No.

19 Q. We've also heard evidence that you've a considerable
20 number of years as a firefighter and I can imagine in
21 that time you've seen many four pump fires; is that
22 correct?

23 A. A reasonable amount, yes.

24 Q. How did those particular fires that you had attended in
25 the past compare to the one you attended to upon first

1 instance at Lakanal House?

2 A. It's impossible to make a comparison. Fires -- every
3 fire's different from the way they start, to the way
4 they progress, to the way they finish. It would be next
5 to impossible to make a comparison.

6 Q. So, for example, when you arrive upon a scene, you
7 cannot make a comparison to one you've seen in the past
8 to give you an understanding of how to attack --

9 A. I can look at what's in front of me and make an initial
10 decision of what I think we're going to need to tackle
11 that incident as it is at that time; that's a sort of
12 professional judgment based -- professional judgment
13 decision. But you can't to a degree use other fires --
14 a fire in a house is different to a fire in a tower
15 block, for example, so you can have two four-pump fires,
16 but completely different in every way.

17 Q. Just one last question, Mr Willett. In respect of
18 messages being relayed to the individuals who were
19 fighting fires, we've heard evidence from you that at
20 the time you were not near your appliance so in fact you
21 had not heard the message of an occupant in Flat 79 that
22 required being rescued.

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. In circumstances where that happens on another occasion,
25 and for example there is perhaps only one more appliance

1 attending, and they too miss that message, how is the
2 message relayed from an appliance to the individuals on
3 the ground attempting to fight the fire?

4 A. Until such point as you can detail someone to listen to
5 the radio, or a command unit turns up, then there's
6 little you can do about it, they'll get missed.

7 Q. How long would it take ordinarily for the command unit
8 to arrive?

9 A. Again, it depends on the incident. The response times
10 are going to obviously vary where the command units are
11 based, and indeed if a command unit's actually ordered.

12 Q. So it's variable when that message might actually be
13 relayed in the circumstances?

14 A. Sorry, what was the question?

15 Q. It's variable.

16 A. Variable?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay, that's all I have for you, Mr Willett, thank you.

20 A. Thank you.

21 Questions by MS CANBY

22 MS CANBY: Mr Willett, I'm Ms Canby, and I've just got

23 a couple of questions to ask you to behalf of SAPA.

24 Could we start please by looking at tab 12 of the jury

25 bundle. (Handed)

1 A. I have that page.

2 Q. This is the chronology of events which you've already
3 been taken to. If you could turn, please, to page 20 --

4 A. I have that page.

5 Q. -- you'll see that the second entry there is at
6 16.55.23, and it says:

7 "SM Cartwright [Station Manager Cartwright] took
8 over from WM Howling [that's Watch Manager Howling] as
9 incident commander."

10 A. Yes, I can see that.

11 Q. Could we please now look at the advocates' bundle. It's
12 file 1, page 259. (Handed)

13 A. I have that page.

14 Q. Mr Willett, this is a document that Mr Hendy took you
15 to, and you told the jury that it was a document that
16 was prepared just a day after the fire --

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. -- so when events were freshest in your memory.

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. If you look at page 259, and it's the second paragraph
21 from the bottom, you say this:

22 "Some point after this, SM Cartwright arrived and
23 I believe he may have taken over, but I am not certain
24 and an MP8 message [a make pumps eight message] may have
25 been sent at that point."

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Then you go on to say this at the bottom of the page:

3 "Around about this time ..."

4 So we know, having looked at the chronology, that

5 we're talking at about 16.55.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So:

8 "Around about this time, it was noted that the fire

9 had spread to flats on the 7th and 5th floors. This may

10 have been caused by burning debris falling onto pigeon

11 netting around the building. I could hear this burning

12 debris hitting the side of the building."

13 Then going over the page to page 260:

14 "Most people had their windows open due to the hot

15 weather. This seemed to me to be the main cause of

16 vertical spread."

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So, Mr Willett, just one day after the fire, your

19 impression was that the vertical spread may have been

20 caused by two factors: firstly, the burning debris

21 falling onto the pigeon netting; and secondly, people

22 having their windows open?

23 A. That was my impression, yes.

24 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Willett.

25 THE CORONER: Yes, Mr Walsh.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Questions by MR WALSH

MR WALSH: Mr Willett, I ask questions on behalf of the London Fire Brigade, and as a result of the many questions which have been asked of you over the last day or so, I have very few therefore to ask you, but nonetheless they're important.

Can I just ask you about 72D visits, the visits for the purpose of familiarising LFB staff with buildings on the particular ground that you're responsible for.

A. Yes.

Q. How many --

THE CORONER: Sorry, Mr Walsh, you're moving away from your microphone.

MR WALSH: Sorry, I'll pull it up here.

THE CORONER: Thank you.

MR WALSH: You won't have figures off the top of your head, but how often in the course of a month, let us say, of your natural duties would you carry out 72D familiarisation visits?

A. It's quite possible to do one every day shift of a -- every day shift.

Q. Right. It's mostly day shifts when you'll do it, obviously?

A. Mostly day shifts, because obviously a lot of the visits are to businesses, so need to be carried out in business

1 hours, because obviously they're locked up at night.

2 Q. Yes. So that's about twice a week, is it, on average?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The sort of buildings that you're attending: residential

5 high rise sometimes?

6 A. Sometimes.

7 Q. Commercial premises?

8 A. Commercial premises.

9 Q. Underground stations?

10 A. If there was any on the station's ground, yes.

11 Q. Yes, hospitals and so on and so forth?

12 A. Hospitals, industrial places, schools.

13 Q. All of which present different risks, hazards and

14 issues.

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 Q. All right. Let me just take you, if I can, to the day

17 of the fire at Lakanal, and can I just recap some of the

18 things which you said over the last day or so, just for

19 the purpose of asking you to clarify one or two matters.

20 I won't be taking you to any documents, because I think

21 I can just itemise the times. We know that at 16.21 you

22 received the ordering by teleprinter --

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. -- to attend the fire. We know that at 16.23.41 or

25 thereabouts you arrived on the scene.

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. From the evidence which you have given, and indeed the
3 documentary evidence, we know that on arrival you knew
4 that there was a fire in Flat 65 on the 9th floor, you
5 knew that from the ordering?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. We know from what you told Mr Maxwell-Scott yesterday
8 that you carried out what you described as a high rise
9 procedure --

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. -- and that involved identifying the hydrant --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- identifying the dry riser --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- ensuring that the pump connected to both of those,
16 and establishing a bridgehead, or instructing another
17 person to establish a bridgehead, two floors below the
18 fire.

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. We know from what you told us yesterday, and indeed, as
21 can be seen from the sequence of events, that
22 firefighters were deployed from that bridgehead on the
23 7th floor and were at the door of Flat 65 within about
24 ten minutes of your arrival, from what you told us
25 yesterday.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You told us that that was a --

3 A. A reasonable time scale, yes.

4 Q. So that is the position as it stands. Now, you at that
5 point were standing outside on the grass area.

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Why were you doing that?

8 A. The way we're taught is to stand back from an incident
9 so you can have an overall view of the incident rather
10 than getting sucked in and micromanaging individual
11 pieces of the incident, just to take a step back to have
12 an overview.

13 Q. All right, thank you. So as part of the high rise
14 procedure, the incident commander at the time stands
15 back from it to observe from the outside and see what's
16 happening --

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. -- in relation to high rise?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. So there you were then at that point, and before you
21 noticed any other fires anywhere else, what did you
22 think, what did you expect at that point, how did you
23 expect the fire to be dealt with and what did you think
24 the outcome would be?

25 A. I expected the first BA crew to go in, start

1 extinguishing the fire, to send a second BA crew up from
2 the Old Kent Road, who would essentially finish the job,
3 and as, as the other crews arrived, there would be more
4 crews to do reassurance visits and then start carrying
5 out salvage and the incident would close down in due
6 course.

7 Q. Right. Because all fires, as you've told many people,
8 are different in many ways, but was there anything
9 particularly unusual about the fire at that stage?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You've also told us, and it's apparent from the
12 documentation and your statement, that there came
13 a point when you were able to observe that fires had
14 broken out, from your exterior position, below the 9th
15 floor --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- and they were apparently on the 7th floor, where the
18 bridgehead had been established --

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. -- and indeed below that.

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. You informed the persons at the bridgehead by radio that
23 this was so.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. So you observed fires breaking out below the original

1 fire that was reported and below the bridgehead?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I'm not going to ask you why those fires, or to
4 speculate actually on why those fires came about,
5 because others will tell us that in due course, but I'm
6 going to ask you this: how unusual in your experience
7 was that as an occurrence?

8 A. Very unusual.

9 Q. Had you ever seen anything like it before?

10 A. Never seen, and never heard of it either.

11 Q. You'd never seen it, you'd never heard of it happening?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. You were asked about the generic risk assessment
14 document earlier on, I needn't take you to it. The
15 national guidance perhaps makes the obvious assertion
16 that when you have a fire burning, particularly in
17 a high rise block or in a factory or anything like that,
18 it is possible that debris will fall from the building,
19 causing secondary fires.

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. You explained that your experience and understanding of
22 that was that it could fall onto the ground, catch light
23 to fires and other appliances on the ground, which is
24 why you need a cordon.

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. What happened here, though, was that debris of some sort
2 was such as to cause fires within other flats below.

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Now, that meant that the bridgehead was sandwiched
5 between the original fire that you were required to
6 attack on the 9th floor, and on floors below.

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. What are the risks and dangers, please -- if you could
9 help us with this, because it's an important factor --
10 which are associated with the presence of a bridgehead
11 with firefighters on the bridgehead, and firefighters
12 above fighting a fire, being sandwiched between fires on
13 different floors; what are the dangers involved in that?

14 A. Essentially they could become cut off by the fire, and
15 not everyone going to the bridgehead has breathing
16 apparatus, so if smoke-logging starts to occur then
17 there is obviously the risk of asphyxiation from smoke.

18 Q. Right. So what would you expect to happen where a fire
19 breaks out below the bridgehead?

20 A. I would expect BA crews to be withdrawn as quickly as
21 possible, and the bridgehead would have to be closed and
22 moved down two floors below the lowest floor where there
23 was a fire.

24 Q. Right, and that's what had to happen --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- when these fires broke out --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- below the fire that was being attacked in Flat 65?

4 A. Sorry, I did not hear the question.

5 Q. Below the fire that was being attacked in Flat 65.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now, I want to look at the impact of that having to

8 happen.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. You weren't responsible for decisions later on, and

11 we'll hear from people who were, but I'm just going back

12 to a question which Mr Maxwell-Scott asked you

13 yesterday, and I just want to give you the opportunity

14 to clarify it. He asked you the questions, I can't

15 remember the precise words, but it was to this effect:

16 would you expect greater dangers, or greater difficulty,

17 with fires in a high rise, the higher that the fire is:

18 the higher the floor, the greater the difficulty? You

19 replied no to that, effectively.

20 A. No, I would expect a fire to behave similarly whether it

21 was on the first floor or a higher floor.

22 Q. All right. Of course it's necessary for firefighters to

23 get to the floor.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. This is where I'm going to ask you to help us again, but

1 slowly, if you would, about the point of a bridgehead --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- in particular in relation to the wearing of breathing

4 apparatus, whether it's standard breathing apparatus,

5 the blue, smaller one we saw, or EDBA (extended duration

6 breathing apparatus), which is the larger orange

7 packaged item we saw yesterday.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. A bridgehead is established two floors below the fire

10 floor for what reason?

11 A. To provide an area where the BA crews can start from.

12 If a fire was further up -- when firefighters leave

13 entry control, the point at which they hand in their BA

14 tally, they go in under air. If they were to need to

15 walk up ten flights of stairs, they would almost

16 certainly have run out of air, or not have much air to

17 carry out a task before they then have to return back

18 down. So the bridgehead provides a safe area closer to

19 the scene of operations so that they have less travel

20 distance whilst breathing their contained air in the

21 cylinder.

22 Q. Thank you very much. So you're not deploying them from

23 the ground floor, you're deploying them from the 7th or

24 whatever floor it may be?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. I'm going to put these things to you because I think
2 they're non-controversial and it might save time. What
3 has to be brought to the bridgehead -- and initially it
4 was the 7th floor -- is the breathing apparatus or the
5 cylinders that people have to wear, is that right --
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. -- and other items such as we have seen, the large
8 halogen bar, which we saw yesterday, and the tally
9 board, that has to be up there.
10 A. Entry control board.
11 Q. Entry control board, and indeed hoses --
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. -- they have to be carried up as well, all of that.
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. That gets positioned in the bridgehead position?
16 A. That's correct, yes.
17 Q. Firefighters come up to that position and it is from
18 that position that they are deployed?
19 A. That is correct, yes.
20 Q. So they have only two flights of stairs to go before
21 they have to carry out their actions?
22 A. That's right.
23 Q. Now, you've told us the result of fires catching light
24 below the bridgehead was that the bridgehead had to be
25 moved down, and eventually, at some point, outside.

1 We'll hear about that from others. But that meant that
2 those firefighters, including you, who were deployed,
3 who were committed into the building in breathing
4 apparatus, were committed from the ground floor?

5 A. I was committed from the ground floor for my first wear,
6 yes, and then the bridgehead later moved back up to the
7 third floor.

8 Q. All right. I will ask you a little bit more about that,
9 but when you were committed from the ground floor, that
10 was to go to which floor?

11 A. Do you mind if I check my statement again? It was
12 either the 5th or the 7th.

13 Q. It was the 7th floor. I'll come back to that in
14 a little bit in relation to timing, but do you remember
15 how it felt going up the stairs in breathing apparatus
16 to the 7th floor?

17 A. It was relatively hard work, it was a warm day and
18 wearing firefighting clothing on a day like that is
19 quite hot anyway, and it was a stair climb wearing some
20 heavy equipment.

21 Q. Yes. It follows, doesn't it, that the higher you have
22 to go -- whether it's to carry out a rescue or to fight
23 a fire -- if you're walking from the ground floor
24 carrying breathing apparatus, the more difficult it is?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Before you were committed actually to go to the 7th
2 floor, in your statement you say that you were conscious
3 of a holding area where other firefighters were who were
4 in breathing apparatus, so the east of the building?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was the purpose of that holding area?

7 A. Well, two purposes: so that you can see how many
8 resources you have available, obviously -- and people
9 waiting possible committed, and also we had a BA
10 servicing area so that after you'd worn your BA set you
11 could put a fresh cylinder on and be ready to go again.

12 Q. So in that area you would see a number of firefighters
13 either in their breathing apparatus or not in their
14 breathing apparatus waiting to be committed?

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 Q. Was that area also used for other firefighters who came
17 out of the building to rest and to remove their
18 breathing apparatus?

19 A. In the broader terms, yes, but there was a segregation,
20 there was an area with a covered roof that the BA
21 servicing and firefighters who had worn were coming
22 down. We got some bottles of water so that they could
23 rehydrate and reservice their BA sets.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. The crews waiting to be committed were nearer entry

1 control, essentially in a queue waiting to be given
2 their instructions and be committed.

3 Q. Did you see anybody standing around having no particular
4 purpose --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- or were they either waiting to be committed or coming
7 out or queueing, or whatever it may be?

8 A. No, everyone seemed to have a purpose.

9 Q. Right. Now, when you went up to the 7th floor, you
10 walked up the stairs, you say in your statement. If you
11 need to go to your statement, do, but I'm trying to
12 avoid the need. I think you probably don't.

13 This was at about 5.30 when you went up to the 7th
14 floor?

15 A. That sounds about right.

16 Q. All right. From the 7th floor, do you remember seeing
17 on the west side fires --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- still alight?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What did you do?

22 A. We extinguished them with a 45-millimetre jet that had
23 previously been laid out on the floor.

24 Q. You went into a flat.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you remember the number of the flat?

2 A. I'm afraid I don't.

3 Q. Why not?

4 A. The conditions in the corridor were fairly smokey, we
5 weren't looking at numbers, we were just systemically
6 going one flat, checking it for fire and occupants,
7 moving onto the next flat, so the numbers were
8 irrelevant to us at that time.

9 Q. All right, thank you. So you were going systemically
10 through every flat on that particular floor?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You've mentioned that you noticed -- you tried to go up
13 the internal stairs, for example, of one of the flats,
14 but they were in accessible?

15 A. The one flat that we carried out firefighting operations
16 in, yes, the internal staircase, there was a lot of
17 cabling that had come down, and it was almost -- it was
18 very difficult to get through the cabling and we had no
19 cutting equipment with us, no tools for cutting cables.

20 Q. Yes. You also say when you were on the 7th floor that
21 the flats were smoke-logged throughout within the
22 flats --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- with visibility of about one to two metres --

25 A. That sounds about right.

1 Q. -- on the 7th floor. But in the corridors, it was
2 rather different, it would be smoke-logged one minute
3 and then clear the next, and you say that was due to the
4 ventilation.

5 A. As I recall, the windows at the end of the corridors
6 didn't have panes of glass in them, they just had a mesh
7 over them.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. Obviously, the dry rising main outlets are in the
10 central lobby, so the hoses were causing the doors to
11 stay open like a wedge, so when the wind blew, it blew
12 straight through the corridor, so effectively when the
13 smoke was in there a gust of wind would blow it from one
14 end straight out the window, that's how it seemed.

15 Q. Out the end, I see, which is why it was changing?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. Now, on the second occasion, you came out
18 from the 7th floor --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and you removed your equipment --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- your BA, but you also expressed a willingness to go
23 back in if you were needed.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. There came a point when you did was known as the Fire

1 Ground A test?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. What is that? If you would help us all with what the
4 Fire Ground A test is?

5 A. It's essentially putting a fresh cylinder of air on and
6 just giving the set, the breathing apparatus set,
7 a check over to make sure it's not damaged and is still
8 serviceable.

9 Q. You went back in, and this time you were committed to
10 the 11th floor.

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. This was much later on, it was around 7 o'clock or some
13 time like that.

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. So this was much later, but I just want you to tell the
16 jury how it was going up -- this was SDBA, was it?

17 A. Standard duration --

18 Q. Standard duration breathing apparatus, and you walked up
19 to the 11th floor.

20 A. Yes, from the 3rd floor.

21 Q. The bridgehead had been moved to the third floor?

22 A. Yes, so not from the ground floor any more, but from the
23 third floor.

24 Q. Can you just describe very briefly at that relatively
25 late stage on the 11th floor what the conditions were

1 like?

2 A. Well, we'd already heard from crews previously that they
3 were still actively firefighting on the 11th floor. My
4 crew's detail was actually to go to the southern
5 corridor, where conditions weren't actually too bad.
6 There was -- we were fighting fires in the false ceiling
7 as soon as we got into the lift lobby, and also there
8 was a fire behind a door in the corridor that we had to
9 open and put out, because we didn't want it to progress
10 past the fire, only for the fire to cut off our escape
11 route on the way back.

12 Q. Right. Did you have to pull down part of the false
13 ceiling?

14 A. I don't recall pulling down part of the false ceiling.

15 Q. Okay. But you were fighting fires which were occurring
16 within the false ceiling?

17 A. Yes, I believe some of the cabling had already come down
18 and one of my crew actually got entangled in cables as
19 we were leaving the 11th floor.

20 Q. Yes, you say in your statement that on the way up to the
21 11th floor, you at least had to stop to catch your
22 breath on the 10th floor.

23 A. I was leading the crew, and I insisted that the crew
24 stop because we knew that there was active firefighting
25 operations going on. I decided it would be beneficial

1 to take 10/15 seconds just to catch breath rather than
2 to arrive at a hot scene out of breath.

3 Q. Yes. When you got to the 11th floor, you described that
4 there was cabling coming down, there was cladding; is
5 that right?

6 A. Sorry, did you say cladding?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. I'm not sure what the technical term for it is. It was
9 like a ducting that the cable runs through and melts
10 when it gets hot.

11 Q. There was a difficulty, you just started to say, with
12 one of your colleagues who became entangled in it.

13 A. That was when we reached our turnaround time, we started
14 leaving and he got tangled on his way back to the
15 stairwell.

16 Q. Did that give you cause for concern?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why?

19 A. I know previously firefighters have died in incidents
20 after becoming entangled in cabling.

21 Q. How was your air at that time, when you were with the
22 firefighter who had been entangled in cable?

23 A. We had a margin of error, but it was our turnaround
24 time. We were -- we should be making our way out.

25 Q. So what did you do in relation to your colleague at that

1 point?

2 A. We was a team of four, we worked together to detangle
3 him and made our way back to the bridgehead.

4 Q. Yes, all right. Thank you very much, Mr Willett.

5 THE CORONER: Thank you. Members of the jury, do you have
6 any questions for Mr Willett?

7 Questions from THE JURY

8 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: I was just wondering when the
9 responsibility is passed up the chain, do the teams
10 below continue to manage the -- crew managers below
11 continue to manage their own team or does the highest
12 person, the highest incident commander delegate to
13 everybody on the site?

14 THE CORONER: Yes. Mr Willett, did you hear that question?

15 A. Yes.

16 THE CORONER: Thank you.

17 A. Whoever is the incident commander will have overall
18 command of the incident. How he uses the people under
19 him can vary from incident to incident, there's no hard
20 and fast rule to it. If one crew manager is already
21 working and responsible for an area, the oncoming
22 incident commander or someone taking over may choose to
23 leave him there, he may choose to re-evaluate the plan
24 and send everyone differently. It's really down to the
25 incident commander to make that decision for that

1 particular incident.

2 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Thank you.

3 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Mr Willett, thank you
4 for coming and thank you for the help that you have
5 given to us yesterday and today. Thank you very much.

6 A. Thank you.

7 THE CORONER: You're free to go if you like, but you're
8 welcome to stay if you would like to do so. Thank you
9 very much.

10 (The witness withdrew)

11 THE CORONER: Yes, Mr Maxwell-Scott?

12 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, the next witness is Yolimar Caboz.

13 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Yes, Ms Caboz, thank you
14 very much for coming. Would you like to come forward?
15 Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

16 YOLIMAR CABOZ (sworn)

17 THE CORONER: Thank you. Ms Caboz, before we go, if you
18 pour yourself a glass of water and when you're speaking
19 if you could keep quite close to the microphone please,
20 that would be very helpful.

21 A. Okay.

22 THE CORONER: I think that English is possibly not your
23 first language?

24 A. No, it's not my first language.

25 THE CORONER: But are you comfortable working in English?

1 A. Yes.

2 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Mr Maxwell-Scott who's
3 standing there is going to ask you first some questions
4 on my behalf and then there may be other questions from
5 others in the room.

6 A. Okay.

7 THE CORONER: Thank you.

8 Questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT

9 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Can you give the court your full name
10 please.

11 A. Yolimar Caboz Gouveia.

12 THE CORONER: Could you please spell the last name for the
13 transcribers?

14 A. Caboz Gouveia. Caboz: C-A-B-O-Z.

15 THE CORONER: The second?

16 A. Gouveia: G-O-U-V-E-I-A.

17 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

18 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: In July 2009, you were living in Flat 3
19 at Lakanal House; that's right, isn't it?

20 A. Yes, that's right.

21 Q. As well as being a resident of Lakanal House, you were
22 a friend of Dayana Francisquini?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. Indeed your eldest son went to school with Thais?

25 A. Yes, they went to school, but not in the same class, but

1 they used to go to the same school.

2 Q. When did you first start living in Lakanal House; do you
3 remember what year it was?

4 A. 2004.

5 Q. We're hearing evidence from a number of residents, over
6 ten residents from Lakanal House, and before I ask you
7 about the events of the day of the fire itself, I'm
8 going to ask you some general questions which we're
9 asking all residents about their knowledge of fire
10 safety matters and knowledge of the layout of the
11 building, which will help us to build up a picture of
12 residents' understanding of those issues.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. If you could be shown a document which starts at 1050 in
15 the advocates' bundles. Mr Clark will find you a copy.

16 If you take a moment to have a look at it, just four
17 pages, so starting at page 1050 and continuing to
18 page 1053, and the question is simply this: having
19 looked at it, taking as much time as you need, do you
20 recognise it; do you think you've ever seen it before or
21 not?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Thank you. Then if you move on to page 1054, that's the
24 first page of a two-page document, and it's the same
25 question: take as long as you need and then give us your

1 best answer as to whether you think you've ever seen it
2 before or not.

3 A. No, sorry, I haven't.

4 Q. Thank you. Had you ever, for any particular reason,
5 looked at the London Fire Brigade website for advice
6 about fire safety matters?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Had you ever received a home fire safety visit from
9 a fireman? So just to explain what that is, it's when
10 a firefighter comes to your house or your flat and they
11 give you some advice about fire safety and such things?

12 A. Not that I know from the Fire Brigade, but they come and
13 check every year about the safety of -- of the flat,
14 like gas, conduction on the gas, like smoke detectors,
15 and that kind of things.

16 Q. So perhaps someone from a company or the local authority
17 came to look at those things, but not someone from the
18 London Fire Brigade?

19 A. Not that I know, no.

20 Q. If you could look in the bundle of documents starting at
21 page 1068.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If you look in the bottom right hand corner, do you see
24 the number 27?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. So that's an extract from a longer document, we don't
2 have pages 1 to 26, we don't need them for our purposes.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. If you look at that page and the next page, and the one
5 after, so it ends on page 29 within it, and again just
6 take as long as you need and then give us your best
7 answer as to whether you think you've ever seen that
8 document before.

9 A. I think it's -- this is part of the Southwark Council
10 book, I'm not sure about that.

11 Q. Sorry, I didn't quite catch that?

12 A. The Southwark Council, when we do the rent agreement,
13 they have a book, I think this is it.

14 Q. You think that it's an extract from a handbook that the
15 council gave you when you entered into a rental
16 agreement?

17 A. Yes, yeah.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 A. I'm not sure, but I think.

20 Q. But you think that you recognise it?

21 A. Yes, I recognise it.

22 Q. You do recognise it?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'm now going to ask you some questions about the layout
25 of your flat, number 3, and of the building generally.

1 That is a computer image of Lakanal House, looking at
2 the west side of it from ground level. That shows it
3 showing where the flat numbers are?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. So your flat was number 3, on the first floor.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You would have had your two bedrooms, and the bedroom
8 windows, on this side of the building?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Then upstairs you would have had a kitchen on the same
11 side, above one of the bedrooms?

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. Then a lounge that had a window and a door onto
14 a balcony on the other side of the building?

15 A. Yes, that's right.

16 Q. This is a different image that essentially shows the
17 same information. It shows us what a typical
18 west-facing flat such as yours looked like.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Does that help you to remember?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So if we look at the upstairs, the kitchen -- which I'm
23 pointing to with my arrow -- has door out of it onto
24 a balcony.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. On the other side of it is the lounge and again there's
2 a door out of it onto a balcony.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Did you know where those balconies led to?

5 A. Yes, it led to the fire exit, it's -- which is out of
6 the corridor, on each one of the sides, the same as the
7 lounge, the same as the kitchen.

8 Q. So that's what you're describing?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. It's a balcony looking towards the fire exit door?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That's a close-up picture. At the time you knew that
13 those were fire exit doors, is that right? You knew
14 where they went --

15 A. Yes, I knew that fire exits was there.

16 Q. -- and that if you needed to you could use that as a way
17 to get down to the central staircase and out of the
18 building?

19 A. Yes, if I knew, I -- I knew that I could use it to go
20 downstairs.

21 Q. Did you know how many floors there were in the building?

22 A. 13 floors.

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

24 A. I knew there was about -- for me it was about 100 flats.

25 Q. Did you know that all of the flats were essentially

1 identical?

2 A. Yes, that I understand.

3 Q. I presume that you had been up to Dayana Francisquini's
4 flat on a number of occasions?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So you obviously knew how to get within the building to
7 Flat 81?

8 A. Yes, I knew.

9 Q. If you think about a flat that you'd never been to
10 before, because you didn't know somebody in it, if you'd
11 been asked "How do I get to flat 72?" or whatever it may
12 be, would you have been able to find it quite easily?

13 A. No. Only if it if someone live there we know, because
14 there's no reference. Like, if you go to the flat 9,
15 will be, all of the doors will be 90, or will be -- or
16 if you go floor 11 -- so only because I'm resident
17 I know -- I have to go there (inaudible) my home, and
18 I knew that 82 is on the 11th floor.

19 Q. We understand that you can imagine a different type of
20 being where on the first floor all the numbers of the
21 flats start with 1.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So when you get to the 8th floor you can imagine all the
24 numbers start with 8, but Lakanal wasn't like that --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- more complicated to find your way round. But if
2 somebody had asked you directions to a flat that you
3 didn't know, would you have been able to help them?

4 A. I think they have a map where they say which floors are
5 in each one, yeah.

6 Q. That's a sign that's above the two lifts at ground floor
7 level?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Is that what you were referring to?

10 A. Yeah, yes.

11 Q. I'm going to ask you now about the events of 3 July
12 itself. If you could be shown a copy of your witness
13 statement, which starts at page 94 in the witness
14 statements bundle. I think you have a paper copy in
15 front of you?

16 A. Yeah, I do.

17 Q. We see that it's dated 17 July 2009, so two weeks after
18 the fire.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Was the statement taken from you that day, or were you
21 interviewed before that?

22 A. No. No, no, the statement was take about two/three --
23 I think three days after the fire, and I only sign it on
24 that day.

25 Q. So although it says 17 July, it's actually your memory

1 of just two or three days after the fire?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Now, in this statement, which we'll look at in a little
4 detail in a moment, you describe a number of phone calls
5 that you made to Dayana Francisquini and that she made
6 to you on the day of the fire, on the afternoon of the
7 fire?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. The first question is: were all of those phone calls
10 that you made on a mobile telephone?

11 A. Yes, it was.

12 Q. Did you always, when you made those phone calls, phone
13 Dayana on her mobile telephone?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. So there weren't landline telephone calls involved, it
16 was all mobile to mobile.

17 A. Yes, all with mobile to mobile.

18 Q. You've been shown earlier this morning, to assist you to
19 give evidence, the coloured schedule which the members
20 of the jury have had reference to and will now see on
21 their screens. You have a hard copy of it.

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. Madam, an additional hard copy is being handed up to you
24 now, because we've identified this morning three calls
25 which were made by Ms Caboz which were not previously

1 attributed to her on the schedule.

2 THE CORONER: I see. All right, thank you very much.

3 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: The version on the screen is now the
4 corrected version. Just for everybody's reference,
5 those calls are at 15.24.22, 16.37.06, and 17.22.00. So
6 those three calls were previously on the schedule as
7 being calls made to Dayana Francisquini but previously
8 the "from" box was blank, and it's now been possible to
9 see that it was her telephone number in there.

10 THE CORONER: Yes, I see.

11 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: You've seen this schedule and you have
12 seen that the first call recorded on it from you to
13 Dayana was at 15.24.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. The last call when you spoke, towards the top of the
16 second page, was at 16.52.

17 A. Yes, the other one at 17.22 -- unsuccessful.

18 Q. Yes, that's right, there's an unsuccessful at 17.22, and
19 the call immediately before that was at 16.52.

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. A number of calls in between which we will look at as
22 necessary.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. If you have a look at the second page of your witness
25 statement, page 95 at the bottom, in the middle

1 paragraph, you refer to going to collect your son and
2 Thais from school, and then you came back to Lakanal and
3 you sent Thais up in the lift, is that right?

4 A. Yes, that's right.

5 Q. Then you made a telephone call to Dayana to check that
6 she'd arrived safely.

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Having had a look at the schedule, do you think it's
9 likely that that would be the telephone call at 15.24?

10 A. No, at 15.24, I call Dayana to tell that I will going to
11 pick her daughter, because her daughter only coming out
12 at 3.30, and when I came back, I tried to call her, but
13 her phone was engaged, and there is our neighbours who
14 is coming from the same school, they are coming up on
15 the same floor where Dayana live, and I noticed when
16 I leave Dayana -- Thais, I call her again to let her
17 know that she's arriving, or collecting, you know, to
18 make sure that she has safe entry at home, and that day
19 she didn't answer, the phone was engage, but I knew that
20 a neighbour is going to enter with her in the same
21 corridor, it will be fine.

22 Q. I see. Then you see from the list that the next
23 telephone call that you are recorded as having made to
24 Dayana was at 16.22 --

25 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

1 Q. -- which we know was several minutes after the fire had
2 started.

3 A. Mmm.

4 Q. Let me move to that period in time, because there came
5 a time, is it right, that you smelt smoke?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You were in your flat, Flat 3.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. You smelt smoke and if you look four lines up from the
10 bottom of this page of the witness statement, you say
11 that you checked Flats 1, 2 and 4 and the same smell was
12 coming from all of them.

13 A. Well, I'm not entering to the flat.

14 Q. Of course not, you went out into the corridor.

15 A. Yes, I check, because I was wondering, at first, I check
16 my home and I didn't see where it's inside the home, and
17 I went out into the corridor and I ring the bells for my
18 neighbours and I didn't see anyone, no-one's opened the
19 door, so I -- I opened the grill where the post was
20 coming out to smell the doors -- sorry, like to make
21 sure that that's not coming from my neighbours, to try
22 to find out what that fire coming -- where's that coming
23 from.

24 Q. Then you went back into your flat and as you were doing
25 so you saw smoke outside the grill at the end of the

1 corridor; that's in the next line of your statement,
2 that's what you record.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Because there are ventilation grills at the end of the
5 corridors, aren't there?

6 A. Yes, yeah. But outside, not inside.

7 Q. Outside, looking through the ventilation grill, you
8 could see smoke outside the building?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say in your statement you rushed back into the flat
11 and into the children's bedroom and opened the curtains,
12 and you looked up, out and up to the right and you could
13 see grey smoke --

14 A. Yes, that's right.

15 Q. -- is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So you were on the west side of the building, looking
18 higher up the same side of the building, towards where
19 we now know the fire started in Flat 65?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. If you refer to the schedule of telephone calls at this
22 point, we can see there's a call that you made to Dayana
23 at 16.22.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Because it's from you to her we don't have a record of

1 how long that call was, but then at 16.25 she called
2 you, it's just three seconds, so it could be
3 an answerphone, we can't tell, it's only three seconds.
4 A few seconds later, another very short call for nine
5 seconds, but then a minute later at 16.26, a call of
6 just over a minute --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- between the two of you.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. Just for reference, when we come to it, the next call
11 was three lines later at 16.29.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Now, looking if we may with the your witness statement,
14 at the bottom of page 95, the very last word says "I"
15 and then if we go over the page, "got my phone and
16 immediately called Dayana".

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So you've seen the smoke in the way we've looked at and
19 you explained to the jury you immediately called Dayana.
20 Your statement says:

21 "I thought that as she's on the 11th floor she might
22 be able to see something. I said 'Can you see smoke?'
23 and she said yes. I asked if she could see where it was
24 coming from. She said 'it's coming from the building,
25 but I can't see exactly'. While I was still on the

1 phone I walked upstairs and went out of the kitchen door
2 onto the balcony to see if I could see any more smoke
3 and where it was coming from."

4 So that means now that you're on the balcony on the
5 west side of the building, above the bedrooms, looking
6 out?

7 A. No, my balcony -- no, the kitchen side.

8 Q. The kitchen side, the same side as the bedrooms?

9 A. Yes, oh sorry, yeah.

10 Q. You say in the statement:

11 "There was a very strong smell like fire. It was
12 then that I saw an explosion from up and to my right [so
13 the same side of the building we've been describing].
14 I heard windows breaking and could see what looked like
15 the hot coals from a barbecue coming out and falling to
16 the floor. I was still on the phone to Dayana and said
17 to her, 'We have to leave the building now'."

18 A. Yes, that's true.

19 Q. That's true?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That's a call which had started in one room of your flat
22 and it continued as you've walked upstairs and went out
23 onto the balcony, through the kitchen door, and seen
24 something dramatic and spoken to Dayana about it. So if
25 you help us as best you can, do you think that was

1 probably the 66-second call at 16.26?

2 A. Well, when I told -- when I was -- when I realised the
3 fire was -- saw the smoke, the strong smell, I speak
4 with Dayana at the first time -- it's not at the third
5 time. The one that you refer is number 66.

6 Q. 66 seconds?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. 25, 25 --

10 Q. The previous two are very short calls, so probably not
11 long enough to do all those things.

12 A. Could be, yes, because while I was -- the thing is
13 because I smell -- because I have the smell at the same
14 time, I was calling, I was talking with her and I was
15 searching on the same time, but when I came out, I speak
16 with her consecutive times, that I was wondering if it's
17 these three on the lines, because -- well, the short one
18 here at 16.29.

19 Q. Yes, that's exactly right, there is one at 16.29.

20 A. 16.29, all I can say to you is I don't know exactly
21 which one it was, but I know that I told her while --
22 while I was searching for the smoke, which will be
23 I believe is -- it will be the same mobile terminated,
24 I don't know if they show the right time or not. But
25 after that I told her to come in downstairs and I have

1 several calls, between three to four calls, and the
2 first call was telling her to waiting for her
3 downstairs, about take about one minute, I would say.

4 Q. I'll come to that in a minute --

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. -- because I want to turn now to the moment when you
7 decided to leave the flat and go outside.

8 A. Yes, okay, perfect.

9 Q. So if we look at your statement again on page 96.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. We were just looking at a paragraph where you had said
12 to Dayana, "We have to leave the building now".

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then it says:

15 "I ended the call immediately as I had to get the
16 boys out."

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So you had your two children, who I think were aged five
19 years old and the youngest was nine months old --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and you wanted to get out as soon as possible?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Then you described getting the two children together to
24 get them out and you met a man in the corridor.

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. You weren't quite sure which flat he'd come from, but he
2 was on your corridor.

3 A. Yes, he was on my corridor.

4 Q. He also said "We have to get out now", is that right?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. What route did you take to get out?

7 A. I get out from the corridor to the stairs.

8 Q. Then you walked down the stairs?

9 A. Downstairs, yeah.

10 Q. In your statement, it says you didn't see any smoke as
11 you were leaving the building?

12 A. No, at all.

13 Q. There was no-one in front of you as you came down the
14 stairs?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You only had to come down one floor of course --

17 A. Exactly.

18 Q. -- but there were lots of other people coming down
19 behind you?

20 A. Yes, it was.

21 Q. You came out onto the grass where the children's play
22 area is outside the building doors.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If you have a look in the jury bundle, please. (Handed)

25 If you look at tab 13 and at photograph number 6.

1 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

2 Q. That is the bottom of the stairs that you were just
3 telling us you went down, isn't it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. They bring you out on the east side of the building, the
6 opposite side to the lifts?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then if you look at page 3?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Just take a moment to work out what is what. Lakanal
11 House is in the middle of the page --

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. -- with the words, "Sedgmoor Place," just to the left of
14 it.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. So you came out the right hand side of the building as
17 we're looking at it, the east side?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. Where is the play area that you say you went to? Is it
20 that same side of the building?

21 A. On the east, where the stairs it is, on that side.

22 Q. So then in the statement it says you turned and you
23 looked up and you could see grey smoke coming out of the
24 building.

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. So you were looking up at the east side of the building?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then in the statement you go on to say that you called
4 Dayana again.

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Just looking at the times of your calls, what I would
7 like you, as best you can, to focus on is three periods
8 in time. You have a group of calls at 16.26, including
9 one that was 66 seconds long --

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. -- and then you have another call at 16.29, so that's
12 two minutes later.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then the next one is at 16.37, which is eight minutes
15 after the one at 16.29.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. All the things that you'd been describing to the jury
18 about getting the boys ready to go out, speaking to the
19 man in the corridor, coming out of your flat, down the
20 corridor, down the stairs, getting out onto the grass
21 area, looking up, and then telephoning Dayana again, do
22 you think you would have been able to do that within two
23 to three minutes, and do you think the call that you're
24 talking about next is at 16.29, or --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You do?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. It would have been perfectly possible to do it in that
4 period of time?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You do. So you're calling Dayana again, which we think
7 is at 16.29, and asked her where she was?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Your statement says:

10 "She said 'I'm trying to come down but there's too
11 much smoke, I can't get through'. I said, 'You have to
12 come down now, go back home and take some towels, wet
13 them, put them over your and your children's faces and
14 try to come through'."

15 A. Yes, that's right.

16 Q. The statement goes on to say:

17 "I told her there were lots of people coming down
18 and there was no fire on the stairs. She said 'Okay,
19 I'll try'."

20 The call ended.

21 THE CORONER: Mr Maxwell-Scott, it's just gone 1 o'clock.
22 Would that be a convenient point to have a break?

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: It would. Can I just ask one question
24 around that?

25 If you look at the schedule of calls, you see your

1 call at 16.29 and either side of it Dayana's husband,
2 Rafael, phoned her just before that, and also just after
3 that?

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Did Dayana at this stage say anything about having
6 spoken to her husband?

7 A. Not at that stage.

8 Q. That would be a convenient moment.

9 THE CORONER: All right. Ms Caboz, I'm sorry that we're
10 going to have to interrupt your evidence, but we've had
11 quite a long morning and we're going to have a break.
12 So we're going to have a break now until 2 o'clock, so
13 could you please come back at 2 o'clock and continue.
14 Because you're part way through giving your evidence,
15 it's very important that you don't speak to anyone at
16 all about these matters, nobody inside the building,
17 nobody outside the building, just nobody, but you're
18 welcome to leave the building to go and find yourself
19 something to eat if you'd like, but please be back here
20 before 2.

21 A. Yes.

22 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

23 Thank you, members of the jury, if you'd like to go
24 with Mr Graham.

25 (1.05 pm)

1 (The short adjournment)

2 THE CORONER: I believe, Mr Compton you have a point to make
3 before we have the jury in?

4 MR COMPTON: Yes, madam, just a very short matter, and it
5 relates to the ground rules for the visit tomorrow.
6 I question whether it would be wise in all the
7 circumstances to allow the jury to ask questions of
8 Mr Maxwell-Scott, which can't really be controlled, even
9 though a note is being taken, and whether it might be
10 more sensible to tell the jury that if they want to take
11 a note between them, to write any questions down and
12 then they're raised with everyone present on the
13 following Monday.

14 Because one can envisage a situation where
15 Mr Maxwell-Scott is pointing things out and then you
16 have individual members of the jury asking this and
17 that, and I would respectfully suggest that perhaps the
18 wiser course is to say to them, "If you have any
19 questions, record them, put them in writing", and then
20 we can deal with them in court when they're assembled.

21 THE CORONER: Mr Compton, you have had this protocol for
22 some time now, it's a shame it hasn't been identified
23 before now.

24 MR COMPTON: I'm sorry, I was discussing it and I did raise
25 it with Mr Maxwell-Scott earlier, and I just wonder

1 whether that would be a more sensible way of dealing
2 with it.

3 THE CORONER: Well, it does sound to me to be rather
4 a stilted way of dealing with it and really rather
5 unrealistic. You have a group of five or six people
6 looking at a building, of course they're going to have
7 some questions. It's not going to be a free for all
8 discussion.

9 MR COMPTON: Well, one could end up with a tremendous number
10 of questions coming.

11 THE CORONER: Well, the purpose of the visit is so that
12 jurors can see the building and have questions answered.
13 That is rather why we're going. I'm not going to be
14 permitting any free discussion. Does anyone else have
15 any submissions on this? Well, it seems to me that the
16 protocol that has been suggested is a sensible one and
17 we shall make it work, but thank you for your point.

18 Yes, can we have the jury back please?

19 (In the presence of the Jury)

20 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you very much. Yes, Ms Caboz,
21 thank you very much for coming back and remember you're
22 giving your evidence on oath. Thank you.

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Ms Caboz, I think you've indicated over
24 the break that there's one small point that you would
25 like to correct from your evidence this morning?

1 A. Yes, I said I went to Lakanal in 2004, and it wasn't in
2 2004. I just remembered that my son born in
3 December 2003, and I move after he's third years old, so
4 it's absolute an issue(?) that it was in 2005. That's
5 what I want to correct, sorry.

6 THE CORONER: Thank you.

7 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: The point that we had reached in events
8 on 3 July, before the break, was you had had a telephone
9 call with Dayana which had ended and you had then gone
10 through the process of getting yourself and your two
11 sons out of the flat and out of Lakanal House and out
12 onto the grass area by the children's play area on the
13 east side of the building.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Then you had had another call with Dayana from outside
16 the building which you thought, having looked at the
17 records, was most probably at 16.29.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In your statement, you go on to say:

20 "I heard lots of sirens coming, but it wasn't until
21 about five minutes after I had finished the call with
22 Dayana that I saw the fire engines arriving."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So this scene that you're describing, the fire engines
25 arriving, is that when you were on the grass on the east

1 side of the building?

2 A. Yes, that's right.

3 Q. Did you see the fire engines draw up on the east side of
4 the building?

5 A. I was looking at the west -- at the place where I was on
6 the east side. I listened the sirens came, but at the
7 time I came out, it wasn't any Fire Brigade in there.

8 Q. So you came out on the east side? It may be useful to
9 have a photograph. In the jury bundle, I think you're
10 looking at page 3 of tab 13.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you're on the east side of the building?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You saw fire engines pull up on that side of the
15 building?

16 A. Yes, I saw, on that side.

17 Q. Would you have been able to see or know if there were
18 any fire engines already on the other side of the
19 building?

20 A. No, I couldn't be able to see if there was any fire
21 engines on the other side, but I listened the sirens,
22 and my understanding at that time, it was that no-one's
23 has been arrived yet.

24 Q. So you thought that these were the first fire engines to
25 arrive?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The impression that you give in your statement is that
3 you were hoping, certainly, that Dayana, Thais and
4 Felipe were going to come down the stairs.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were you expecting them to come down the stairs?

7 A. Yes, because I told her to come in downstairs and you're
8 talking about after I told her to -- to put the towels
9 with water, or?

10 Q. Yes, exactly, because the conversation we've just been
11 looking at, you told her to take some towels and wet
12 them and put them over the children's faces, and you
13 said to the jury that she, Dayana, had said, "Okay, I'll
14 try".

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So that's why you were expecting her to come down.

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. If we could look at the top of page 97 of your
19 statement, in the second line we can see that you
20 thought that Dayana, Thais and Felipe really should have
21 been down by now, and you explained why. You were
22 desperate to see them, of course, and then the statement
23 says:

24 "I called her again and asked, where are you?"

25 (Disturbance)

1 THE CORONER: Do you want to go and find out what that was?
2 Is everyone happy to continue? All right.

3 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: So pausing there, if we look at the
4 schedule of calls. Your next call with Dayana was at
5 16.37.

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. Then there was another one at 16.40 and another one at
8 16.43, and then over the page again at 16.52.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So a series of four calls in that period.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Going back to the statement, page 97, you're saying:
13 "I called her again and asked 'Where are you?'"
14 If that was the next call after the one at 16.29
15 that we've already discussed, this would be 16.37.

16 A. I'm not sure about that.

17 Q. You're not sure. I understand.

18 A. I'm not sure about the times of the call.

19 Q. I know.

20 A. But the process of the call is the way that is in my
21 statement -- is the way that it's been doing, but
22 I quite concerned when I see like 16.22, and then 16.25,
23 16.26. It was the last time that I called her, yeah,
24 after that it was 16.29, which was the gap when I told
25 her to put the towels on the face to the children.

1 During the 26 and 29, it was when I saw the brigade
2 came and I saw they put the tape around on the west side
3 and they say "Nobody goes in, nobody goes out". At that
4 time, I was waiting to see Dayana and I call her back,
5 so it will be the time that you say: 29.

6 Q. I think you said earlier that 29 was when you said "put
7 the towels on".

8 A. Yeah, could be, could be, but I'm not sure about that,
9 because, as soon as I get downstairs, I wait no more
10 than two minutes, and I call her back to see, because --
11 to see where is -- where is she, and it was when she
12 told me that she couldn't manage to come down, because
13 there's a lot of smoke, and I told her that there's
14 still people coming down, and to do what I advised to
15 do, and then she say that she will try to coming
16 downstairs.

17 In that period, when I see the firemen I say,
18 myself, so it's enough time that she will be coming out,
19 so between that period, will be like, I would say,
20 between three minutes in each one, so 29 and then 31 --
21 37, but I think it's too much time, it was -- maybe
22 it's -- the way that it's described here is one more on
23 the back.

24 You understand what I'm trying to say? Because
25 I didn't wait so long like this to speak with Dayana

1 again.

2 Q. The conversation you're describing at the top of
3 page 97, you called her and you said, "Where are you?"
4 Now, this is what the statement says:

5 "Dayana said, 'They told me to go back to the
6 bathroom with the children'."

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. As far as you remember, is that what she said?

9 A. Yes, and more, she say -- she said that -- that I didn't
10 want to put on the statement, because I'm not sure about
11 exactly the words, but what I understand, is that she
12 say that they explained to her to come back, "They told
13 me to come back to the bathroom and stay in there", and
14 as far as I understand, she was nearly coming out from
15 the building, she was running down the stairs, I don't
16 know until which point, but she say "I was reaching,
17 I was nearly reaching out and they told me to come back
18 again".

19 Q. Did she say who "they" were?

20 A. Sorry?

21 Q. You say, "they will told me to go back".

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did she explain or tell you what she meant by that?

24 A. She explained me that the firemen was charging on
25 everybody to come back.

1 Q. Is that what she told you over the telephone?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did she say anything about where she was in the building
4 when she was told that?

5 A. No, no I cannot assure that.

6 Q. Did she say anything about whether or not she had left
7 her flat at all?

8 A. Yes. That's why I'm -- I'm saying that, because she
9 told me that she was already outside and running
10 downstairs and --

11 Q. Somewhere on the central staircase?

12 A. Somewhere on the stairs they told her to come back.

13 THE CORONER: Ms Caboz, I'm surprised that you haven't
14 included that in your statement.

15 A. Well, because at that time it, it was quite -- I did
16 this statement and it was quite, you know, I remember
17 that exactly in my words and I say that to the press all
18 the time, if you want to check it, so BBC News,
19 everywhere, I say that. I didn't put on the statement
20 maybe because when you -- you know when you understand
21 someone talking but you don't remember exactly what, you
22 cannot put that words in a paper --

23 THE CORONER: I see.

24 A. -- to take into account someone said something exactly,
25 but I can say what I understand.

1 THE CORONER: All right.

2 A. Because it's a quite (Inaudible) on the time, I cannot
3 say exactly but I can -- the words that you see here is
4 the words that I can exactly remember that she say.

5 THE CORONER: I see.

6 A. Yeah?

7 THE CORONER: Okay, thank you.

8 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Just to be completely clear about what
9 you said in the statement, which you've told the court
10 was taken from you two or three days after the incident,
11 this is what you said:
12 "Dayana said 'They told me to go back to the
13 bathroom with the children'."
14 Those words are in quotations?
15 A. Mm-hmm.
16 Q. Then in your words:
17 "I kept saying to her, 'Don't listen to them, come
18 down quickly', and Dayana was saying to me quite
19 loudly ..."
20 These are your words in quotations in the statement:
21 " ... 'that they told me to and to everybody to go
22 back to their houses and bathrooms'."
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. So that's what you were saying at the time Dayana said
25 to you: those exact words?

1 A. Yes, that's right.

2 Q. You said to her, according to the statement:

3 "I said once more, 'Please try to come down'."

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So your understanding was that she had tried to come

6 down, while you're saying to her "Please try to come

7 down", once more you said it, and she was saying to you

8 "They told me to and to everybody to go back to their

9 houses and bathrooms".

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was it your understanding that --

12 A. No, that's not my understanding, she told me that.

13 Q. If I can just finish the question. From what she told

14 you, was it your understanding that the advice she had

15 been given to go back to her flat had also been given to

16 other people?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Then your statement goes on to say you called her a lot

19 of times, and we've seen reference to 16.37, 16.40,

20 16.43 and 16.52.

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Eventually she got angry with you for trying to keep

23 telling her to come down, that was the impression, it

24 became a heated conversation? You wanted her to come

25 down and she wouldn't?

1 A. Yes, because when I was trying, when I was calling her
2 again, I was explaining to her that -- when people
3 coming out, when the firemen say "nobody go in and out",
4 and I see people still coming out, I was facing that
5 people are still coming out, why don't you coming out,
6 and I asked one of the residents, "Where are you coming
7 from?" and one of them they tell me they coming from the
8 13th floor, and so at that time I saw, well, that means
9 that if that person can coming from the 13th floor, then
10 Dayana can come as well.

11 Q. You were still on the east side on the grass, looking at
12 the bottom of the stairs.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Although there was what the police would call a cordon
15 around the building --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- that was stopping members of the public going in but
18 it wasn't stopping residents going out?

19 A. Yes, I still see people coming out, even though that
20 Dayana told me they told her to come back in. That's
21 why I was angry with her that she -- people are still
22 coming out, coming out from the building.

23 Q. Still in your statement on page 97, about the middle of
24 the page, you said:

25 "She [Dayana] said to me, 'No, they have told me to

1 stay and I am staying'."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is it right that you then walked round to the other side
4 of the building, the west side of the building --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- where your bedrooms looked out over?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Of course you could then see that the fire was more
9 significant than you had recognised from being on the
10 east side?

11 A. Yes, that's correct. I only moved from the east side to
12 the west side as soon as I recognised that Dayana was
13 not going to come out, because I was only on that side
14 because I thought she was going to come down. As soon
15 as I understand that she not going to coming down so
16 I moved to the west side.

17 Q. Then you saw, as one can imagine, a number of people
18 from the emergency services.

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. You went up to one of them and you said to them, this is
21 two thirds of the way down the page in this statement,
22 page 97:

23 "My friend lives on the 11th floor, she has two
24 children, one three years old and one six years old, and
25 they have been told to stay in the bathroom. Can you

1 please do something for her?"

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you could be shown just a couple of photographs to

4 illustrate different uniforms worn by members of the

5 emergency services. If you look on the screen so that

6 everyone can see what you're seeing. Firstly, just

7 a very general question: do you remember seeing people

8 dressed like that in the course of the attempts to fight

9 the fire?

10 A. Yes, yes, I did.

11 Q. Do you also remember seeing people dressed like that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The passage we were looking at in your statement on

14 page 97 says that you spoke to someone, had the

15 conversation that we've just heard about, and that he

16 asked you for Dayana's telephone number --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You had Dayana on the phone at the time and were letting

21 her listen to what he was saying.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. You said to the man who was with you at ground level:

24 "Do you want to speak to her? She's on the phone."

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. Then you handed the phone to him?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Now, having looked at those different uniforms, can you
4 help us with what he was wearing, or which of these
5 different types of people he was dressed like?

6 A. Well, he was stepping between the west and the east
7 side -- on the west side, on the street, on
8 Dalwood Street.

9 THE CORONER: Just looking at the aerial photograph.

10 A. Yes, Dalwood Street, it is where he's step on the
11 ambulance side, and he came out from the ambulance.

12 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Was he dressed --

13 A. Yes, like this.

14 Q. Like that, rather than like that?

15 A. Yes, of course, yes.

16 Q. So he was dressed like that, thank you. Your statement
17 says that he spoke to her but you couldn't hear what was
18 said.

19 A. No.

20 Q. He then gave you your phone back and said to you:
21 "Don't worry, I'm going to get in touch with her."
22 Is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. He asked you for Dayana's number --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and you gave it to him.

2 A. Yes, that's right.

3 Q. The statement says that another man then came up to you
4 and asked:

5 "Which floor is your friend on?"

6 Do you see, going over the page?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. You said the 11th floor --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- do you remember that?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. This second man, was he also dressed like this? As best
13 you can remember?

14 A. Yeah, the fireman. Are you talking from -- sorry --
15 "Another fireman came out" -- yeah, yeah.

16 Q. I don't know, you may not have fully understood which
17 different emergency services wore which uniforms --

18 A. Oh, no, yes.

19 Q. -- so it may be easier to focus on what they were
20 wearing. So you've told us that the first man who took
21 your phone and spoke to Dayana on it was dressed like
22 this.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'm now just asking about the second man who asked what
25 floor she was on, and you said the 11th; was he also

1 dressed like this?

2 A. No, he was dressed in the red, like fireman.

3 Q. He was dressed like this?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The first man was in a London Ambulance Service uniform,
6 and the second was dressed in a fireman's uniform?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. As we've seen, there were a number of calls that you had
9 with Dayana up until 16.52. Is it right that she said
10 that someone had called her, someone from the emergency
11 services had called her, and that she was waiting for
12 them in the flat? Your statement says they said the
13 fireman called her and she was waiting for them there.
14 This is towards the top of page 98.

15 A. I can't remember that, sorry.

16 Q. There's no need to look at it, but we know from this
17 schedule of calls that a Mr Ed Daly of the London
18 Ambulance Service did call Dayana on his mobile on eight
19 occasions in total.

20 A. Well, she -- during the calls I speak with her, she was
21 telling me that she was waiting for someone to come, but
22 she didn't told me which, if it's ambulance, fireman or
23 whatever, and she say, "They know what I'm here," is
24 what she calls always told me, "They know that I'm here,
25 don't worry, they know that I'm here". She was

1 believing that somebody was gonna come.

2 Q. You were telling her essentially the same thing, "They
3 know that you're up there, don't worry".

4 A. Yes, because at first I was the one that was more
5 stressed when the fire start because I wanted her to
6 come down, but then it was in the other position, she
7 was more stressed than me and I just trying to calm down
8 myself and make her to believe as well that everybody
9 know that she is there.

10 Q. Did there come a time when you saw Rafael, her husband?

11 A. Sorry?

12 Q. You saw Rafael outside the building, you met up with
13 him.

14 A. Yes, after I meet Rafael, the last call that I speak
15 with Dayana, she's told me that she has already speak
16 with his dad, or his brother, which his family, she told
17 me that everybody's know that she was there, she told me
18 that she already speak with Rafael, so I decided at that
19 time -- she explained me that Rafael was around --
20 should be around, so at that point I decided to look
21 around for Rafael, I'm not too bother again -- not to
22 call her again, because it's such a lot of calls that
23 she received, and said well, she's in contact with her
24 family, everybody knows that she's here, so I'm going to
25 stop it. I went next to Rafael.

1 Q. That probably explains why you didn't try to call her
2 between 16.52 and 17.22 --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- because you'd met up with him and you could see that
5 he was talking to her occasionally, from time to time.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you overhear him give the advice to her to move the
8 mattress and the curtains?

9 A. Yes, I saw her.

10 Q. You saw her doing it?

11 A. I saw her do it.

12 Q. After you saw that, did you then move back round to the
13 other side of the building again?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you got there, you saw some firemen?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You saw them sitting on the ground and understandably
18 you were angry because you felt they should be doing
19 something.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You asked them to do something to help Dayana who was
22 trapped in the building.

23 A. Yes. That was on the west side of the building, because
24 the firemen, they didn't -- they covered all of the
25 around, so for me to go from the west to the east,

1 I have to go all the way around and go back, and all of
2 the streets, Havil Street, and the other street was full
3 of Fire Brigade, far away where the building is, and
4 they were sitting on the -- on the street, so -- and
5 because I was so -- each time that I see a firemen,
6 I was trying to say what happened, I feel that like
7 no-one's listening. I was quite angry and approached
8 them really, not on a bad way, but yes, I explained
9 that, "Will you do something for my friend?"

10 Q. Did there come a time where you saw a woman screaming
11 from a balcony, high up in the building --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- which would have been the 12th floor balcony, and you
14 thought initially it might be Dayana?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The way you described the woman is that she was black
17 and therefore it wouldn't have been Dayana, but you
18 thought, or hoped, perhaps, it was Dayana covered in
19 soot.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. The firemen were trying to reach that person using
22 an aerial ladder, a long ladder at the top of a fire
23 engine. It wouldn't reach.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. Did you then have a conversation with Rafael in which he

1 said that the person you'd seen on the balcony might be
2 a neighbour, because Dayana had said there'd been
3 someone in the bathroom with her.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Then you did try and call Dayana again, but the call
6 went straight to answerphone.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So that's probably the call at 17.22, where it says
9 unsuccessful call.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. That was the last call that you made to Dayana before
12 much later on, after 6 o'clock I think you may have
13 tried to call her?

14 A. I tried more times.

15 Q. You tried more times?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Much later on, you very, very sadly learned that she and
18 Thais and Felipe had died.

19 A. Say that again?

20 Q. Much, much later on, you very sadly learned that she had
21 died.

22 A. I did, that day, I went out for -- that's it, but
23 I never knew that the situation was happening until
24 2 o'clock in the morning, I was inside of my car, and
25 I hear people died, but I never believe it was Dayana,

1 I will go the way that I did, unless my fire exit from
2 the corridor was block, because I don't know really
3 where is that going to. I know it's a fire exit,
4 I know -- it's a fire exit, but I don't know if it's
5 working or not.

6 Q. You said earlier that you knew, or you thought it led to
7 the stairs. How did you think that, why did you think
8 that?

9 A. Say again?

10 Q. You said earlier you thought that door led through to
11 the stairs.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Is that correct, firstly, did you actually think that?

14 A. Yes, I saw that it's not going to the stairs, I think.
15 I don't know where is that fire exit going to.

16 Q. Okay. So you weren't sure it led to the stairs.

17 A. No, from the fire exit.

18 Q. Can I refer you back to your witness statement, please,
19 firstly at page 96. The bottom paragraph, the very
20 final couple of sentences, you're talking about when
21 you're outside, you've been outside for about five
22 minutes. You see fire engines arriving:

23 "Straight away a fireman got out of a fire engine
24 and started to put tape around the area so no-one could
25 get in."

1 You say:

2 "He was shouting, 'No-one in, no-one out'."

3 Can I just ask you to confirm you heard a fireman

4 shout --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- "No-one in and also no-one out"?

7 A. Not only one time, a lot of times.

8 Q. You were asked earlier by Mr Maxwell-Scott about the

9 phone calls you had with Dayana when she said to you:

10 "They told me to go back to the bathroom with the

11 children and stay in the flat."

12 You said you thought she might be on the stairs, and

13 it was a fireman who had told her that. Is there

14 anything that made you think that in particular, for

15 example, could you hear noises that might have sounded

16 as if she were on the stairs when she was speaking to

17 you?

18 A. Erm, yeah, the way that she was talking is, you know,

19 when you run and agitated, like you're running and --

20 and the voice it's just like out of breathe, I can she

21 was out on the stairs or something like this and, yes,

22 the way that she was explaining to me, because I told

23 her to come back and she say, "I will do that," and

24 she's just telling me that she's trying to, "I tried to

25 but they told me to come back", and by the time that

1 the -- between the time that she told me that she came
2 in, that she going down and the firemens come in, it
3 will be time that she will be reached a lot from the
4 stairs, so I think --

5 I'm not sure but I think it was nearly -- she was
6 more than two or three floors -- should be, for me, she
7 should be like in the middle of the way coming down,
8 because, at that time, firemens, I don't think they will
9 have time just to reach it straight away to 11 floor.
10 People coming out from there are still saying the same
11 thing, the firemens -- one of the residents told me,
12 "The firemen told me to come back but I didn't listen to
13 them, I'm coming out", and I asked them "Where are you
14 when they told you that?" and they said "5th floor, 4th
15 floor, 3rd floor", and there were people coming from the
16 13th floor.

17 Q. Can I just pause you for a moment and repeat that? You
18 said that you spoke to other residents who came out --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- and they told you that the firemen had told them to
21 go back to their flats --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- but they hadn't done it?

24 A. Yes, that's true.

25 Q. You say that when you were outside you pointed or you

1 said, rather, to the fireman that you had a friend who
2 was on the 11th floor and was there with her children.
3 Do you remember whether you expressly said she was in
4 flat number 81 at that point?

5 A. I point with my finger, and I explain where is the flat.
6 I tell the number and I say, "You count one, two, three
7 from the top", and I explain -- I really explain where
8 it is to that person, so I think they -- as I -- as
9 I understood that time, the person that I explained
10 that, they understood where it is.

11 I know it's difficult to see from outside, but if
12 I explain that it's on the 11th floor, two floor mores,
13 one floor more where the fire is, and I pointing the
14 finger and I (Inaudible), 11 floor, Flat 81, I know it's
15 a lot of information but I think they did understand.

16 Q. You said that you said that to a number of different
17 people.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can we bring up the photographs of the people in
20 uniform, please. We can see some people in red uniforms
21 there.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Did you say that to people in these red uniforms?

24 A. I say it, but I always have a feeling that I was looking
25 for someone with the firemen wearing different uniform

1 than the others, which is where you see that picture, he
2 was standing on that place more on here(?), that person,
3 and he was wearing a darker -- or something more.

4 It's firemen, but he have another thing that
5 I possibly see that this is the commander or this is the
6 person in charge. It was something on him that
7 I realised that he's the commander, and I came with him
8 about three or four times. Of course I -- I speak so
9 many times with the firemen, so many times, but it was
10 one of them that I understand like he was like -- do you
11 know when you see the situation and you see is
12 someone -- is that person maybe the commander of that
13 group, so I just trying to come with him all the time.

14 Q. Yes.

15 THE CORONER: Can you describe what that person was wearing
16 in more detail?

17 A. It should be similar to these one, more darker or more
18 lighter, but it's something similar to these ones.

19 THE CORONER: Similar to the firemen that we can see on the
20 screen?

21 A. Yes, yeah.

22 MR EDWARDS: Do you remember whether he had a yellow helmet
23 on or a white helmet?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Thank you. I appreciate it's --

1 A. But I can say something -- sorry to interrupt you. When
2 I had a meeting with the Lakanal residents after the
3 fire --

4 THE CORONER: Ms Caboz, I'm just going to stop you there,
5 because what we're focussing on is what you personally
6 can remember now at the time, so I'm going to stop you
7 there. Carry on Mr Edwards, thank you.

8 MR EDWARDS: I appreciate it's difficult to remember, but
9 can you take an estimate of how many different firemen
10 you said: "My friend is stuck on the 11th floor," to?

11 A. Seven, eight.

12 Q. Thank you very much.

13 THE CORONER: Thank you. Does anyone else have any
14 questions for Ms Caboz? Yes?

15 Questions by MR WALSH

16 MR WALSH: It's just a very short question really.

17 THE CORONER: Mr Walsh, I'm not sure you're near your
18 microphone.

19 MR WALSH: Sorry, I don't seem to be able to reach this
20 microphone.

21 What you said to us just a few moments ago, in
22 relation to page 97 of your statement, is that, at the
23 top of that page you will see you say you were outside,
24 you could see a fireman with a hose upstairs in the
25 building. Could you just help us with what you were

1 able to see of the fire man at that time when you saw
2 a fireman with a hose, where was the fireman?

3 A. Where was the fireman?

4 Q. Yes?

5 A. They come from the -- they come from the street to the
6 east side of the building --

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. -- where I was waiting for Dayana on the stairs.

9 Q. I understand that. But, you see, at the top of page 97,
10 this is after they've arrived, at that point you say
11 that you could see a fireman with a hose upstairs in the
12 building; do you see that?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. At the top of page 97. Now, whereabouts in the --

15 A. No, no, what I was trying to say, as soon as the
16 firemans came in, they entry with the hose upstairs on
17 the building.

18 Q. So is that what you mean at that point in the building?

19 A. No, I don't mean that I'm pointing and seeing him from
20 outside, I mean that as soon as they come, they
21 closed -- they closed the stairs entrance and I see the
22 hose coming into where the stairs is.

23 Q. Right. So you could see the firemen taking a hose into
24 the building?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Right. So having seen that, it had been another two
2 minutes and you thought that Dayana, Thais and Felipe
3 really should have been down. You were desperate to
4 speak with them and you called her again and you said,
5 "Where are you?" Dayana didn't tell you where she was
6 at that stage?

7 A. No.

8 Q. She said:

9 "They told me to go back into the bathroom with the
10 children."

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So she was probably back in the bathroom by that stage?

13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. No. It's just that when telephone calls are made to
15 Dayana, that's where Dayana is speaking from.

16 A. Well, she was agitated when I, like you running and you
17 can listen to breathing, I don't know where is, where
18 she was when I called her, but.

19 Q. Yes, I think I'll leave it at that. Thank you very
20 much.

21 THE CORONER: Thank you. Members of the jury, do you have
22 a question for Ms Caboz.

23 Questions from THE JURY

24 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Thank you, we have two questions
25 actually, just to clarify. The reason for this question

1 is that we're trying to determine whether the emergency
2 worker, I think ambulance service man, was the same as
3 Mr Cervi spoke to, so we were wondering if Ms Caboz
4 could give us some more detail about the physical
5 features, or at all, whether she remembers -- as far as
6 Mr Cervi said it was a light-skinned black man, just to
7 determine if it may have been the same man or
8 a different man.

9 THE CORONER: Which of the emergency workers are you
10 referring to?

11 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: I believe Mr Cervi spoke to
12 somebody, and -- I'm sorry, this was a couple of days
13 ago that it was mentioned, and it seemed the main person
14 he was speaking to and I don't actually know at this
15 point whether that was a fireman or an ambulance member.
16 I'm just trying to find out if Mr Cervi and Ms Caboz
17 spoke to the same person, saying -- giving information
18 about Dayana, so that he had both influences, I guess.

19 THE CORONER: Yes, I see. I'm not sure that Ms Caboz is
20 actually going to be able to help us with that. What
21 was your second question?

22 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: The second question, it may be
23 obvious when the statements are in front of you, but we
24 don't actually have a hard copy of the witness
25 statements. I think it might be on page 98, actually,

1 of Ms Caboz's statement.

2 She said that she walked around the building and
3 walked back. This is in reference to both Ms Caboz and
4 Mr Cervi mentioned that they saw firefighters sitting
5 down, and what I'm wondering is whether that was in the
6 same area that the fireman before mentioned as the
7 breathing apparatus servicing area or the redeployment
8 area or somewhere else.

9 THE CORONER: Yes. Could we just have a look at the aerial
10 photograph, please, on the screen. Thank you very much.
11 Ms Caboz, could you just look at that photograph. You
12 mentioned when you were giving your evidence that you'd
13 seen some firemen sitting down outside the building.
14 Could you just indicate to us where, by looking at that
15 photograph, you saw them?

16 A. Do you see Havel Street, it was full of fire engines,
17 and Dalwood Street, and I see firemans sitting on
18 Havel Street.

19 THE CORONER: Sitting on Havel Street?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That was where you saw them. I see. Thank you very
22 much yes, thank you very much.

23 A. The first question that she asked --

24 THE CORONER: Well, I'm not sure that we're going to be able
25 to get your help with that, thank you very much.

1 Ms Caboz, thank you very much for coming -- sorry, did
2 you have a further point?

3 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: It might be convenient to take a very
4 short break to raise a matter in the absence of the jury
5 before the witness is released.

6 THE CORONER: All right, okay. Yes, Ms Caboz, can you just
7 go outside with Jo Davies(?) at the moment, and please
8 remember you must not talk to anyone about your
9 evidence.

10 Members of the jury, sorry, if you could just please
11 go with Mr Graham, I just need to sort something out.

12 (In the absence of the Jury)

13 THE CORONER: Yes, Mr Maxwell-Scott?

14 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I raise it simply before the witness
15 leaves and the opportunity is lost: I think that
16 Ms Caboz was possibly going to go on and try give
17 evidence to the fact that she attended a meeting that
18 was also attended by senior members of the London
19 Fire Brigade which might have given her an opportunity
20 to recognise somebody she had spoken to and seen or at
21 least recognised the different uniforms that they were
22 wearing.

23 THE CORONER: I see.

24 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: That may or may not be the case, but if
25 she leaves then it would be difficult to pursue that.

1 THE CORONER: Right. Well, I'm happy for you to ask her
2 about that, and we'll see how far it goes. Thank you.
3 Could we have the jury back in?

4 MR EDWARDS: Before we do, there's no reason why Ms Caboz
5 can't describe the person who she spoke to, the physical
6 attributes, whether this is a light-skinned black man or
7 not.

8 THE CORONER: Yes, okay. Well, I think the sensible thing
9 will be if we ask her whether she can describe the
10 person, and whether the subsequent meeting of the
11 residents' association was of any assistance.

12 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I think it's two different people. But
13 I will ask her about both.

14 THE CORONER: Yes. Thank you.

15 (In the presence of the Jury)

16 THE CORONER: Thank you. Yes, thank you, Ms Caboz, sorry to
17 have interrupted your evidence. Mr Maxwell-Scott's just
18 going to take you through a few more questions, we're
19 just going to try to explore some more about the people
20 you spoke to.

21 A. Okay.

22 Further questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Ms Caboz, if you look at your witness
24 statement at the bottom of page 97.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Firstly, you explained to the jury how you spoke to
2 a man who borrowed your telephone for a moment to speak
3 to Dayana, and how he was wearing the uniform of the
4 London Ambulance Service?

5 A. I know he was from the ambulance. I know he was Health
6 Service coming, but I don't know if NHS straight away,
7 I believe it will be.

8 Q. All I want to ask you is can you in any way describe
9 what he looked like, his facial features?

10 A. He was a black man, and not too tall, not too -- medium
11 size. He was a black man is all I can say.

12 Q. Thank you. Then at the bottom of that page, you say you
13 spoke to a second man whom you thought from the uniforms
14 was a fireman.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. He asked for Dayana's number and you gave it to him, and
17 you pointed out that your friend was on the 11th floor.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you describe his facial features or appearance in
20 any way?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You also described a point in time when you went over
23 and spoke to a group of people, one of whom seemed
24 obviously to be in charge, to be the person who was in
25 command, at least of the people around him, is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you ever see him again on another occasion?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What was that occasion?

6 A. It was on the Lakanal resident's meeting.

7 Q. When did that take place?

8 A. On -- the other building similar to Lakanal, you see on

9 the map, the twin --

10 Q. The Marie Curie?

11 A. The Marie Curie Community Hall.

12 Q. Can you assist: was this the next day or the next week

13 or several months later? Can you help at all?

14 A. No, no, I think it was during the same week of the fire,

15 when it was trying to organise the residents leaving and

16 everything.

17 Q. How was it that you recognised this man again? Did you

18 recognise him because it was the same uniform, or was

19 there something about his physical appearance?

20 A. Well, I recognised the face, but at that time I wasn't

21 sure about it is him, and I ask in front of all the

22 public that was there, residents and everybody, I ask

23 him if he can't remember my face, if he's know who I am,

24 if he's remember that I told him my friend was there,

25 and he said "Yes, I did, I do, I do remember your face".

1 But now I cannot remember -- I cannot say because

2 I haven't seen him anymore.

3 Q. So you can't now describe his physical appearance, but
4 you can say that it was the same person you spoke to --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- on the day of the fire who was in command of the
7 people standing around him?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 THE CORONER: Thank you.

11 Further questions by MR EDWARDS

12 MR EDWARDS: Just on the issue of the NHS person, the London
13 ambulance person you spoke to. You said he was a black
14 man. Do you recall whether he was a light-skinned black
15 man? Do you know what I mean when I say
16 "light-skinned"?

17 A. Like you talk about African, or --

18 Q. The colour of his skin, it was black, but it wasn't dark
19 black, it was a lighter black?

20 A. Yes, it's not dark African, lighter. It was dark man,
21 but not really like, you know, you see African
22 something, it was medium, yeah.

23 Q. Yes. He was aged about 37 to 39?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. He was fairly slim, slim build?

1 A. Well, I didn't notice that -- I didn't notice he was
2 fat, so he wasn't very fat, he was medium contexture.

3 Q. About 1 metre 70 tall, does that sound right?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 A. Okay.

7 THE CORONER: Thank you.

8 Thank you very much, Ms Caboz, I think we really
9 have now asked you for as much help as we can, so thank
10 you very much indeed for coming.

11 A. Okay, you're welcome.

12 THE CORONER: Thank you for taking the time, it's been
13 a great help to us, thank you.

14 A. Thanks.

15 THE CORONER: You're welcome to stay if you like, but you're
16 free to go if you would prefer.

17 A. Okay.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 THE CORONER: Yes, Mr Maxwell-Scott. Is there any thought
20 that we might be starting with Mr Badger, or are we
21 going to have to ask Mr Badger to return.

22 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I think we certainly ought to start with
23 Mr Badger.

24 MR WALSH: Sorry, madam, can I just say this: Mr Badger is
25 on duty on Monday, and we have a jury visit tomorrow,

1 and if he goes part heard that is part heard over
2 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, with the usual
3 stipulations that apply to someone that is part heard,
4 and he's on duty on Monday --

5 THE CORONER: Well, just working backwards.

6 MR WALSH: If we could complete him today we would all be
7 very, very grateful.

8 THE CORONER: Are any of you as advocates able to give me
9 a time estimate for how long you think you would want to
10 be asking Mr Badger questions? Nobody's volunteering.

11 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I'm going to be going first, so I thought
12 to give an estimate, and I would estimate half an hour,
13 not less than half an hour. It could be more.

14 THE CORONER: Do a number of you have questions for
15 Mr Badger.

16 MR HENDY: Some questions, madam, but not many.

17 THE CORONER: Right. Just bearing in mind that one of the
18 estimates this morning was 15 minutes, it turned out to
19 be 35 -- not yours, Mr Hendy. Anyone else asking the
20 questions?

21 MS AL TAI: Madam, I have a few questions, they're brief,
22 but they should take about between five and ten minutes,
23 I would imagine.

24 THE CORONER: Yes.

25 MR DOWDEN: I think, madam, it all depends on what questions

1 have been asked at that stage.

2 MR WALSH: I suppose I might be another ten minutes, but
3 there we are. Obviously, it would be very difficult if
4 he went part heard, that's all I'm saying.

5 THE CORONER: I do understand the practical difficulties.
6 Well, it sounds as if totting up the amount of time
7 that's being requested that's going to occupy an hour,
8 which takes us to beyond 4 o'clock, and what we do need
9 to do is to make time for a briefing for the site visit
10 tomorrow, so that does sound as if it would be foolish
11 to start with Mr Badger this afternoon.

12 Yes, I wonder whether it might be possible perhaps
13 to take a statement to be read, would that be a useful
14 use of time?

15 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I think it certainly would. What might
16 perhaps be a possible idea to do with the jury is the
17 briefing first and then see what time remains and read
18 one or more statements to fit the time.

19 THE CORONER: All right, that sounds sensible. Mr Badger
20 are you in court at the moment? He's not. Well,
21 perhaps someone could convey to him my apologies for
22 having kept him here all day but not actually having got
23 to his evidence, and we'll try to arrange a time for him
24 to come as soon as possible after today.

25 Can I suggest that we have just a five minute break

1 and then we'll ask you, Mr Maxwell-Scott, to do the jury
2 briefing, all right? So members of the jury, literally
3 just a five minute break, so please be back in here
4 within about five minutes.

5 (3.07 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.12 pm)

8 THE CORONER: Yes, could we have the jury in please?

9 (In the presence of the Jury)

10 Discussion re site visit

11 THE CORONER: Thank you, members of the jury.

12 Mr Maxwell-Scott's going to outline for you in a moment
13 the arrangements that we are making for the site visit
14 tomorrow. As I understand it, you've agreed between
15 yourselves that approximately one half will go in the
16 morning and one half in the afternoon, and that's all
17 sorted?

18 Good, thank you very much. I think it's going to be
19 a cold day. The building isn't heated and we shall be
20 outside for a short time, so I would suggest that you
21 wear something warm and comfortable, because you might
22 be cold otherwise. Can I hand over to Mr Maxwell-Scott?

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Thank you, madam. In terms of general
24 introductions, I think it's been explained that you'll
25 meet here, you'll travel there in a minibus.

1 Putting it at its simplest, what you will do when
2 you get there is to walk up the central staircase no
3 higher than the fourth floor level. You'll have the
4 opportunity to look at an example of one of the flats in
5 the building. As it happens it will be flat 24, which
6 is convenient because it's the one that we have quite
7 a lot of photographs of in your jury bundles, so you'll
8 be seeing the same thing that you will have photographs
9 of to refer to whenever you wish in the jury bundles.
10 You will look at both levels within that flat. You will
11 look at the communal areas as well on the third floor.
12 It follows from that of course that you won't be going
13 up to see any of the areas that were in fact damaged in
14 the fire.

15 So that in general terms is what you will see.
16 I will be taking you round and identifying features
17 which it's been agreed I should point out to you.

18 If you have any questions, you are free to ask those
19 questions at the time and they will be dealt with as
20 follows: firstly, if they are basic questions which can
21 be answered at the time in a very simple way then I will
22 answer them at the time. So for example if you were to
23 ask something like, "Is that the dry riser?" then
24 I would say yes or no.

25 Any questions which are not suitable to be

1 characterised in that way, as very basic questions best
2 answered at the time, I hope you won't regard it as
3 discourteous in any way, but I won't answer them at the
4 time and a note will be kept.

5 One of the advantages of that of course is you are
6 in two groups and so that way you will see a record of
7 what was asked by your colleagues in the other group.
8 Any questions that are answered at the time, there will
9 also be a note kept, so you'll be able to see if there
10 was anything else the other group asked which was
11 answered, which for whatever reason your group didn't
12 ask.

13 Any questions that are unanswered from either group
14 we will then compile into a single group of unanswered
15 questions which will save you the need to discuss with
16 the other group from your number and compile the list
17 yourself. We will compile that list for you and we will
18 then circulate it to you and to all the represented
19 parties on Monday morning. We won't answer at that
20 stage, but then at some point on Monday there will be
21 a discussion amongst the advocates with the coroner in
22 court about the best way to deal with the questions
23 you've asked, but you will have a clear, complete list
24 of all the questions that have been asked by the members
25 of the jury, whichever group they were in. So that's

1 how that will work.

2 What I will do now is to identify, by reference to
3 photographs we have, which you have already seen but we
4 will refresh your memory, what exactly it is we are
5 going to do and see on the visit.

6 We'll start at the west entrance of Lakanal House,
7 which I'm indicating now with the white arrow on the
8 screen. We'll go inside the building and there will be
9 personal protective equipment to put on, I think some
10 boots and possibly some high visibility jackets, but
11 that will have been arranged for you.

12 We will then, whilst still on ground level, go to
13 the area shown in this photograph, which is where the
14 two lift shafts are. My recollection is that there are
15 some security doors here which may mean we can't go
16 right up inside that area that you see in this
17 photograph, but you will see an image of essentially the
18 same area you can see here.

19 You will be able to see the sign that's indicated in
20 this photograph, which we see in the close-up photograph
21 here, but I think that you won't get as close to the
22 sign as shown in that photograph.

23 We will then walk up the central staircase. This of
24 course is a photograph of how it looked at the time of
25 the fire. It doesn't look like that now because there

1 is a security fencing all the way round the building at
2 ground floor level. You will walk up that same
3 staircase, although it will look a bit different.

4 We'll walk up to third floor level, and on the way
5 up I will point out this first floor sign that you will
6 see, and as we go further up -- that's a close-up of the
7 same sign -- as we go further up, this door, which is
8 within the central staircase at second floor level. The
9 words, "second floor", which have been written onto the
10 wall are not there anymore, but you'll see the same door
11 from the position that that photograph was taken.

12 Then as you walk up towards the third floor, you'll
13 see this sign where it is on the wall. You will then
14 reach the third floor level and we'll gather together in
15 the area by the lifts on the third floor, and we'll open
16 up the doors to both of the corridors, the north
17 corridor and the south corridor, that lead off from that
18 central lift lobby area.

19 That is a photograph of one of the doors and door
20 entry panels as they were at the time of the fire. The
21 doors themselves are no longer there, they've been
22 replaced by security doors as part of the process of
23 keeping the entire building secure, but the door panels
24 with the numbers that I identify here, you will see on
25 the third floor. So there will be different flat

1 numbers, obviously, but you will see a panel that looks
2 like that. You will see therefore that on one side of
3 the corridor there are the numbers for eight flats and
4 on the other side of the corridor there are the numbers
5 for six flats.

6 That is the third floor corridor on the south side.
7 That photograph is taken from the end of the corridor,
8 towards the end of the corridor, looking back towards
9 the central lift lobby area. You will look down that
10 corridor from the opposite direction and you will be
11 able to see the suspended ceiling as it was in
12 Lakanal House at the time of the fire.

13 That suspended ceiling continues, as you will be
14 able to be see, also into the central lobby area, and at
15 the time it would have continued into the other
16 corridor. But what you will see in fact is that the
17 suspended ceiling in the corridor where Flat 24 is --
18 which is the flat we're going to look at in more
19 detail -- now looks like this, as I explained on the
20 first day of the inquest, not because of any fire
21 damage, but because part of the ceiling was removed as
22 part of the investigation process, and that will give
23 you the opportunity to see what was in the cavity above
24 the suspended ceiling.

25 This is the area in the corridor immediately outside

1 Flat 24, and so you'll be able to see the panel above
2 the front door which I'm indicating as best I can now,
3 and you'll be able to then go inside the flat and see
4 that same panel from within Flat 24.

5 You will go into the bathroom in Flat 24 and you'll
6 be able to see what that bathroom looked like and the
7 ventilation grill that was in that bathroom.

8 As we've already heard on the first day of the
9 inquest, bathrooms were the one area in particular where
10 they were not identically configured in each of the
11 flats in the building, and for that reason we will
12 a little later on in the visit just walk the length of
13 that corridor on which Flat 24 is and look through the
14 front doors of the flats on the right hand side of the
15 corridor just so you have the opportunity to see that
16 there are a range of ways in which that hall area and
17 bathroom area have been configured in different flats.

18 The actual photograph you have in your bundle is
19 this, which is Flat 16, so you won't be seeing that
20 bathroom. My recollection is that the bathroom in
21 Flat 24 is not absolutely identical to that, but that
22 will illustrate the fact that there are some variations
23 in the way in which the bathrooms and hall area were
24 configured. In due course you will of course hear more
25 evidence about the bathroom in Flat 81 itself.

1 We'll then go, within the lower floor of Flat 24,
2 into both of the bedrooms. That is one of the bedrooms
3 you will see. That's the other bedroom you will see.
4 I'll briefly explain how the windows are opened. You
5 will see the escape door that leads from one of the
6 bedrooms to an area under the staircase and then out
7 onto the central corridor. That's not the one you will
8 see, this photo is not in Flat 24. You'll see the one
9 in Flat 24.

10 We'll then go up the internal staircase within
11 Flat 24, and I'll remind you that in Flat 79 there was
12 a more open plan arrangement so that the internal wall
13 on the right hand side of the stairs as you go up, as
14 you see it in Flat 24, wasn't there in Flat 79 at the
15 time of the fire. You'll hear more evidence about that
16 aspect of the modifications to Flat 79 in the course of
17 the inquest.

18 You'll go up these stairs, this is a photo from
19 within Flat 24, so you'll be able to see that view
20 looking down the stairs to see the way in which they
21 turn.

22 This is a photograph taken from the top of the
23 stairs in Flat 24, essentially from the same place where
24 the previous photo looking down the stairs was taken
25 from. I will point out to you the door onto the balcony

1 and the fact there's glazing in the top part of it and
2 a panel in the bottom part of it. I'll explain how
3 these windows open. Closer up pictures of the door from
4 the lounge onto the balcony, and we see the way it looks
5 from the outside as well as from the inside.

6 We'll go into the kitchen, this is also the kitchen
7 in Flat 24, so you'll see that. You'll see the fact
8 that the door from the kitchen onto the balcony has
9 glazing at the top and a panel at the bottom. I'll
10 explain again how the windows here open.

11 You'll see that therefore there is on the upper
12 floor access to a balcony on both sides of the flat, so
13 from the upper level you can get out onto this balcony
14 from the kitchen, and if you're in the lounge you can
15 get out onto the balcony on the other side.

16 That is a view which you will see standing on the
17 balcony, looking towards one of those escape doors.
18 That's the closer up view which you will have a chance
19 to see, and I will remind you that you have heard
20 evidence and we know that those balconies in fact
21 provide an escape route from that location onto the
22 central staircase, and from there all the way down and
23 outside the building.

24 We'll see these panels which are shown in closer
25 view on the left hand side of the picture, which act as

1 a waist high or chest high balustrade, and I will
2 identify that, in fact, if you were to walk along that
3 balcony, you will alternately pass a kitchen and then
4 a lounge and then a kitchen and then a lounge. The full
5 height blue/green panel that you can see in this panel
6 next to the door is found next to kitchens but not next
7 to lounges, so you see that next to every other flat as
8 you go along.

9 We'll then come out of Flat 24 and we'll go back
10 onto the corridor outside Flat 24, and we'll be able to
11 see this example of boxing in, where the internal
12 staircase turns through 90 degrees on the way up to the
13 lounge. This is looking at that from underneath, from
14 outside in the corridor, looking up into the cavity
15 above where the suspended ceiling would have been.

16 You won't see this, because it's on a different
17 floor. It's in your bundle and it is a example of the
18 suspended ceiling in an half-removed state. That's
19 a close-up of the same image I've just shown you, so you
20 won't see that, but you will see boxing in in that
21 condition.

22 We'll then walk along the whole of the corridor on
23 the north side of the third floor, the one that we see
24 here, the one on which Flat 24 is, and I'll draw your
25 attention to the ventilation grill at the end of the

1 corridor. This isn't the one you'll be seeing, but the
2 one you will see is, for all relevant purposes,
3 identical.

4 As I indicated earlier, I will just point out by
5 looking through the front doors the different
6 configurations of halls and bathrooms along one side of
7 the corridor.

8 We will then leave the corridor and gather again in
9 the lobby area by the lifts on the third floor.

10 I'll point out the dry riser and remind you that on
11 the odd-numbered floors, the dry riser looks like this
12 with the red box which can be used to gain access to
13 a source of water supply, but on the even-numbered
14 floors there isn't that box, there's just the red
15 vertical pipe.

16 There is an equivalent lobby area on the
17 even-numbered floors. We won't be seeing that, but I'll
18 remind you that there are some differences between it
19 and what you have on the odd-numbered floors. In
20 particular, on the even-numbered floors there are no
21 lift doors and no access to the lifts.

22 I will draw your attention to the ventilation grills
23 in this central lobby area. This is an example of one.
24 You'll see that they are on both sides of the building,
25 both the west side and the east side of that central

1 lobby area.

2 You'll then have an opportunity to see where this
3 photograph was taken from. I phrase it particularly in
4 that way. You won't be able to see that particular
5 position because a camera was being held at arm's length
6 through the grill that you see at the extreme right of
7 that picture. The photographer held the camera through
8 those metal bars and pointed it downwards to give that
9 you view there, and that view is, as we've heard, the
10 back of one of the escape balcony doors, in this case
11 it's escape balcony door at second floor level, being
12 viewed from third floor level.

13 We'll walk up to fourth floor level, but we won't be
14 able to access the lobby on the fourth floor level,
15 because on all of the even-numbered floors the doors
16 from the central staircase onto the lobby have been
17 welded shut. I'll remind you that in order to leave,
18 for example, a flat on first and second floor level, it
19 will be possible that the upper floor, the second floor
20 level to use the balcony escape, come out of this door,
21 get into a central lobby area, and come out in due
22 course of the a door that looks like that onto the
23 central staircase and from there walk down the central
24 staircase.

25 Once we've done that at fourth floor level we'll

1 then return to the ground floor of the building, we'll
2 remove the all the personal protective equipment and
3 we'll walk once around the exterior of Lakanal House, so
4 we'll do a complete circuit of it. You'll be able to
5 stand on the corner of Dalwood Street and Sedgmoor Place
6 and see where this photograph was taken from, and note
7 the balconies at even floor levels and see to what
8 extent it is possible to see, the opportunity to walk
9 along that balcony, how visible the door at the end of
10 it is.

11 We will point out to you the presence of pigeon
12 spikes, and you will be able to see the extent to which
13 they are visible from outside the building. That's
14 a close-up photograph of the same. As I'll remind you,
15 we heard in evidence that at the time of the fire, some
16 of the balconies had netting on them like this.

17 That, in outline, is the proposal for the visit.
18 That's the visit you will have, and as you can see you
19 will have the benefit after it of photographs of many of
20 the features that you will have seen.

21 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

22 Members of the jury, we'll be accompanied on the
23 visit by Mr Graham, who's your jury usher, and Mr Clark,
24 one representative from each of the properly interested
25 persons will be there as well, and I shall be there.

1 Members of the press will not be accompanying us. I do
2 not want members of the press with us when we're having
3 this private site visit.

4 Is that clear to all of you? Does any of you have
5 an questions about the arrangements for tomorrow?

6 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Yes, madam coroner we do, shall
7 I address them directly to you or to Mr Maxwell-Scott?

8 THE CORONER: Sorry, questions?

9 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Yes, to yourself or to
10 Mr Maxwell-Scott?

11 THE CORONER: Address them to Mr Maxwell-Scott, I hope that
12 I shall be in the vicinity, but as you can see it's
13 quite cramped and given that Mr Maxwell-Scott will at
14 all times is be closest to you, that he's going to be
15 showing you the various features and talking to you
16 directly about that, it would be sensible if you
17 directed the questions to him initially.

18 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Sorry, I don't think I made myself
19 clear, I meant now.

20 THE CORONER: I'm so sorry, I misunderstood. Yes, please
21 do.

22 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Okay. Our first question was,
23 we've been told that we'll be visiting the third floor.
24 Given that there's been some concern in witness
25 statements that people were able to get out from the

1 13th but not the 11th floor, some members of the jury
2 were curious as to why the fourth floor had been chosen,
3 much further down, where it may for instance be easier
4 to get out rather than the 13th floor. Is this due to
5 fire damage, it just wasn't suitable? Do you understand
6 what I mean, is that clear?

7 THE CORONER: Yes, well, we're trying to make it a visit
8 which is accessible to everybody. The lifts in the
9 building are not working and we thought it was not
10 desirable to be asking all of you to have to walk to the
11 very top of the building. The features which you're
12 going to be shown tomorrow are typical of the building,
13 regardless of the precise floor, so I don't think that
14 you need to see those top floors. I think it would be
15 quite sufficient for you to see the third and fourth
16 floors as we've identified.

17 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Thank you. I think this should be
18 the last one. We were just curious as to -- given that
19 we need to take our bundle and our note pads and that
20 sort of thing back and fourth to secure places, while
21 note pads and pens, I presume, are a given, are we able
22 to take, for instance, overall aerial maps from our
23 bundles so that we can have an overall view of the site
24 as well as actually being in it?

25 THE CORONER: I would suggest that you leave all of the

1 bundles behind. I think that it will be quite
2 sufficient if you simply look and observe what
3 Mr Maxwell-Scott is going to be pointing out to you and
4 don't feel encumbered by papers and so on. So if I were
5 you I would not bring any papers or pens, I wouldn't
6 bring any papers with you, I would just simply bring
7 yourselves.

8 THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Okay, thank you very much.

9 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.

10 Perhaps I could just mention access to Lakanal House,
11 generally. It is, of course, a matter for the London
12 Borough of Southwark, and for the London Borough of
13 Southwark, alone, whether members of the press and other
14 media are given access to Lakanal House. In the
15 interests of the administration of justice, my
16 preference is that, if Southwark decide to grant such
17 access, then that should be limited to those areas which
18 the jurors are going to be shown tomorrow, and indeed
19 that access for that inspection should be delayed until
20 after the close of these inquests.

21 Yes, now is there anything further we need to do
22 with the jurors tonight, Mr Maxwell-Scott?

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Madam, I note the time, it's a matter for
24 you, but I could read one or two short statements.

25 THE CORONER: I think that would be helpful, because I think

1 it would be useful to use the time.

2 Members of the jury, as I think I explained to you
3 on the first day, you're going to be hearing from some
4 witnesses and we're going to be reading the statements
5 of other witnesses. This is because it's not necessary
6 for them to come along actually to give their evidence
7 in person. You'll appreciate that's quite disruptive
8 for people in their lives.

9 So where it's possible we've agreed that we should
10 simply read you the statements that they've made, but
11 they are just as important as the evidence you hear from
12 the witnesses who come. So if you can listen carefully
13 and take in the evidence which is being given by these
14 statements.

15 Yes, thank you. Who are you going to deal with
16 please?

17 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I was going to first read the witness
18 statement of Daniel Antwi-Basiako, who lived at
19 74 Lakanal House. This is page 3 of the selection of
20 potential statements to be read, which is in the second
21 bundle of witness statements.

22 THE CORONER: Sorry, page?

23 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Page 3.

24 THE CORONER: Thank you.

25

1 Statement of DANIEL ANTWI-BASIAKO (read)

2 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: He says:

3 "I live at 74 Lakanal House, Sceaux Gardens,
4 Camberwell, SE5. I have lived there for six years with
5 my wife and son. My flat is split over two floors. The
6 bedroom and bathroom are downstairs. The kitchen is
7 upstairs and looks out onto the shops. The lounge looks
8 out onto the street. There is a balcony each side. The
9 front door is on the 11th floor.

10 "On Friday, 3 July 2009, I was at home alone. I had
11 all the windows closed. At approximately 4.30 pm,
12 I received a call from my wife, Margaret. She told me
13 that the block was on fire and to get out as quickly as
14 possible. I was completely unaware of the fire. I did
15 not see any flames or smell the smoke. I left the flat
16 straight away. I did not see any smoke in the corridor.
17 I walked down the stairs and there were lots of people
18 rushing and panicking, because there is only the one
19 exit point. When I got to the bottom I saw some
20 firemen, but can't remember what happened because I went
21 to find my wife.

22 "I did not suffer any smoke inhalation. I just
23 watched after this. I have no complaints about what
24 happened. I have never had any problems with our flat.
25 I do not smoke and no-one does in our flat. I have not

1 known of any fires before at Lakanal.

2 "I'm 68 years old, a dark-skinned back African,
3 5 foot 5 inches, average build with very short grey
4 hair. I was wearing a blue and white striped shirt and
5 khaki-style trousers."

6 THE CORONER: Thank you.

7 MR HENDY: Madam, I'm sorry to interrupt. I wonder if
8 Mr Maxwell-Scott could give the date before he reads
9 each statement. It does make sense both for somebody
10 who says he lives there for six years and also the fact
11 that this statement was made within one week of the
12 fire.

13 THE CORONER: Indeed that would be helpful.

14 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Certainly, the statement is dated
15 10 July 2009. It may assist to have on the screen the
16 diagram showing the different flat numbers so that we
17 can identify where the person who has just given that
18 statement lived. So we've heard they were in flat 74.

19 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you.

20 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I will then read the statement that comes
21 immediately after it in the bundle, which is of
22 Sabina Adwoa Akabutu, who lived in Flat 93, and
23 therefore on the 1st floor, west side. Her statement is
24 dated 18 July 2009.

25

1 Statement of SABINA AKABUTU (read)

2 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: She says:

3 "Until recently, I lived at 93 Lakanal House in
4 Camberwell. This is a two-bedroom maisonette in the
5 upper two floors of the building. The maisonette is
6 immediately to the north of the central staircase and
7 the bedrooms face to the west.

8 "I lived at the address with my partner Sam Akilou
9 and my baby, Samuel Marfo Jr.

10 "On Friday, 3 July 2009, my mother was also staying
11 with us to help me look after my baby. My mother is
12 called Grace Zormelo.

13 "At some point in the late afternoon that day,
14 myself, Samuel and Grace [were] upstairs in the living
15 room. My partner was out at work. We were having
16 a nap. Grace was asleep on the floor and Samuel was
17 sleeping on the sofa. I was feeling sleeping but was
18 awake and watching Samuel. I became aware of a smokey
19 smell and noticed that smoke was coming into the room
20 from an open window on the east side of the flat.

21 "I went out and opened a door to the walkway. As
22 I went outside I looked down and I saw flames coming out
23 of the building on the floor beneath us. There was also
24 smoke. I was only outside for an instant.
25 I immediately woke my mother and told her that we had to

1 run. I shouted "Fire, fire". My mother picked up the
2 baby and we both ran downstairs to get out of our flat.

3 "As I opened the front door to get out onto the main
4 corridor, the main corridor had smoke in it that was
5 quite thick, although he were still able to see the
6 length of the corridor.

7 "We both ran downstairs and out of the building.
8 What surprised me was that there was no-one else in the
9 stairwell and there wasn't any screaming or shouting or
10 sirens going off.

11 "As we got outside, there were a few people. We
12 went to the back (east) of the building. There were
13 some firefighters there. I used my mobile phone to ring
14 my friend Quin, who lives on the other side of the
15 staircase to me. I told her about the fire. She said
16 she wouldn't be able to carry both her children down.
17 I told a fireman and I think it went upstairs to get
18 her.

19 "I think things got worse rapidly after that. I saw
20 people coming out onto the balcony on what I think was
21 the 11th floor. There was a man and his wife who was
22 holding a baby. They were threatening to jump and
23 people in the crowd were shouting at them not to jump.
24 I later saw them being treated by the ambulance.

25 "I went around to the front of the building and

1 I realised there was a lot more going on. The building
2 was actually on fire on the upper floors and the
3 Fire Brigade were using hoses to try and put it out.

4 "At the back of the building the fire started on the
5 9th floor and then appeared to jump between flats.

6 "My partner arrived at the scene at about 18.30 and
7 we remained in the vicinity until about 22.00.

8 "I have been living in Lakanal House for about two
9 and a half years and haven't experienced any fires there
10 before.

11 "When the family was threatening to jump, there were
12 also some guys out on the balcony on one of the floors
13 threatening to jump too."

14 That's the end of the statement.

15 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. Yes, that's helpful.

16 Members of the jury, that's all the work we'll need
17 to cover today, so thank you very much for coming, thank
18 you for your patience and concentration. Please
19 remember overnight at any time you mustn't talk to
20 anyone about this case and you mustn't try to undertake
21 your own research.

22 Those of you who are doing the visit tomorrow
23 morning, please be here as Mr Graham will ask you.
24 Those who are not doing the visit tomorrow morning need
25 not come at all, the morning will be free for you.

1 Similarly those of you who are doing the visit in the
2 morning, once that's finished and you're brought back
3 here then you'll be free for the rest of the day. So
4 I hope that's all clear. Thank you very much.

5 (In the absence of the Jury)

6 Housekeeping

7 THE CORONER: I wonder whether we might, just before we
8 close, might have a look at some timetabling issues so
9 that we can see where we're going next week and give
10 some thought to how we might try and catch up with some
11 of the evidence that we haven't yet been able to cover.

12 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Monday, 21 January, I understand from the
13 London Fire Brigade that Mr Badger will be able to
14 attend.

15 THE CORONER: He will be able to attend?

16 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: On Monday.

17 THE CORONER: I'm sorry, you said earlier that he couldn't
18 be part-heard for Monday.

19 MR WALSH: He is on duty, but we can arrange it to keep his
20 timetable free. The difficulty was having him part
21 heard three days over Monday, but if we can have him
22 here on Monday that would be useful.

23 THE CORONER: Well, I think that would be extremely helpful
24 because it would be very helpful to try to maintain the
25 chronology. So if he could be asked to come on Monday

1 that would be helpful. So we're planning to start with
2 Mr Badger?

3 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Mr Badger. Mr Farmer and Mr Sharpe are
4 also scheduled that day from the London Fire Brigade.
5 My understanding from Mr Clark is that Mr Morgan
6 wouldn't be able to attend on Monday.

7 THE CORONER: I think that's right.

8 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Enquiries are being made about whether
9 he's likely to be able to attend some weeks later, and
10 I'll liaise with other advocates about the extent to
11 which he's regarded as an essential witness or perhaps
12 a witness who could be read.

13 THE CORONER: Yes, that would be helpful, or even if there
14 are aspects of his statement which could be read, it
15 would be helpful.

16 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Indeed. So I will give consideration to
17 identifying perhaps two residents to come on Monday.

18 THE CORONER: Well, I think with the estimate that we were
19 looking at with Mr Badger, we were looking at about
20 an hour, were we not?

21 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Yes.

22 THE CORONER: Can we get a similar feel for the amount of
23 time we might need for Mr Badger and Mr Sharpe?

24 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: I would have thought they would be
25 similar. The difficulty is that until we have had

1 a witness like Mr Badger, who didn't have the command
2 responsibilities of Mr Willett, there's quite a lot of
3 guess work involved, but the witnesses on Monday should
4 be a good indicator of the time estimate for a number of
5 London Fire Brigade witnesses.

6 THE CORONER: Well, that would be helpful, because we do
7 need to keep an eye on the timetable, because we do need
8 to make sure that we keep as tightly run as we can.

9 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Perhaps I should liaise with Mr Clark
10 about identifying some residents who could come on
11 Monday afternoon and then could notify the advocates as
12 to who they are going to be by close of play tomorrow.

13 THE CORONER: Is that acceptable to everybody? Good. Okay,
14 that would be very helpful. I really don't want to be
15 inviting people to come, or asking them to come, and
16 then sending them away. We've had to do that today with
17 a couple of people and it's understandable, but I really
18 don't want to be repeating that.

19 All right. So for Monday then, Mr Badger,
20 Mr Farmer, Mr Sharpe and possibly a couple of residents?

21 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: Yes.

22 THE CORONER: Okay, and there will be some discussion about
23 Mr Morgan behind the scenes which will be very helpful,
24 okay. Yes. Then for the rest of the week, what is that
25 looking like?

1 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: There's going to be a discussion amongst
2 the advocates about the evidence on Friday of
3 Deborah Real and whether there might be other ways of
4 eliciting the evidence that she is due to give and how
5 many topics it's appropriate for her to be asked about,
6 and I'll update the court on that once I've had those
7 discussions. I would hope to be able to fit into that
8 timetable some of or perhaps all of the witnesses who
9 weren't called this week.

10 THE CORONER: Okay.

11 MR MAXWELL-SCOTT: But until we've completed the evidence on
12 Monday of some of the representative firefighters, by
13 which I mean firefighters who will then be a good guide
14 as to time estimates for their colleagues, I'm reluctant
15 to finalise anything.

16 THE CORONER: Okay. That's helpful, thank you very much.
17 Does anyone have any points to raise on the witnesses
18 and timetabling at this stage? Okay.

19 Any other case management issues that need to be
20 raised? Okay.

21 All right, well thank you very much. I shall look
22 forward to seeing those representatives who are coming
23 on the site visit tomorrow, and otherwise resume the
24 hearing in this room on Monday. Thank you very much.

25 (3.57 pm)

1	(The Court adjourned until 10 o'clock on Monday,	
2	21 January 2013)	
3		
4	Housekeeping	1
5	CM BARRY WILLETT (continued)	5
6	Questions by MR HENDY	5
7	Questions by MR MATTHEWS	42
8	Questions by MR DOWDEN	55
9	Questions by MS AL TAI	56
10	Questions by MS CANBY	58
11	Questions by MR WALSH	61
12	Questions from THE JURY	79
13	YOLIMAR CABOZ (sworn)	80
14	Questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT	81
15	Questions by MR EDWARDS	124
16	Questions by MR WALSH	130
17	Questions from THE JURY	132
18	Further questions by MR MAXWELL-SCOTT	136
19	Further questions by MR EDWARDS	139
20	Discussion re site visit	143
21	Statement of DANIEL ANTWI-BASIAKO	160
22	(read)	
23	Statement of SABINA AKABUTU (read)	162
24	Housekeeping	165
25		

