

# OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 9

September 22, 2020

Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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1 Tuesday, 22 September 2020  
 2 (9.30 am)  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.  
 4 MR GREANEY: Sir, thank you.  
 5 Pen Portrait of WENDY FAWELL  
 6 We're going to begin today with the pen portrait of  
 7 Wendy Fawell, prepared by her son Adam Fawell and mother  
 8 Julia Tiplady. Wendy's family and friends are watching  
 9 the proceedings remotely, including her son Adam, her  
 10 daughter Charlotte, and her mother Julia.  
 11 The pen portrait takes the form of tributes prepared  
 12 by members of Wendy's family and by Julia, Wendy's  
 13 mother. Those tributes will be read by  
 14 Alex di Francesco, a member of the family's counsel  
 15 team. Before they are read, a presentation of  
 16 photographs will be played. Once they've been read,  
 17 a further presentation of photographs prepared by  
 18 Wendy's mother will be played, and at the beginning of  
 19 that presentation there is a song; the song is  
 20 "Miss You" by Elvis Presley.  
 21 So Mr Wilson, I'm going to ask you to begin this pen  
 22 portrait, please, by playing the first presentation of  
 23 photographs of Wendy. {INQ035453/1}  
 24 (Photographs shown to the inquiry)  
 25 Next, I am going to invite Mr Di Francesco to read

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1 the first pen portrait, which is entitled "Pen portrait  
 2 of Wendy Fawell by her loving family".  
 3 ALEX DI FRANCESCO: Wendy was born on 12 December 1966 in  
 4 Leeds. She attended at Rawdon Little Moor Primary  
 5 School and then went on to Benton Park High School in  
 6 Rawdon. She gained employment working in Wendy's Woools  
 7 Factory in Guiseley before working in Wilkinson's  
 8 butchers. She then started working at a playgroup and  
 9 got a job working at Eye Spy, a before and after-school  
 10 club for St Oswald's and Guiseley primary schools. She  
 11 also worked as a dinner lady.  
 12 She loved her job, she loved children, and as she  
 13 was fun to be around, children warmed to her and enjoyed  
 14 spending time with her. She worked in this job until  
 15 the time of her death. Her death left all the children  
 16 she cared for bewildered.  
 17 Wendy has always been a fun person, the life and  
 18 soul of the party. She loved socialising and she loved  
 19 her role of being a mum to Adam and Charlotte. She  
 20 tried to mother everyone; she was just a nice and caring  
 21 person that way.  
 22 Adam has fond memories of his friends calling round  
 23 to our house for pre-pub drinks and mum rustling up food  
 24 for his friends to eat before they went out. She loved  
 25 people around her and was a brilliant cook. She was

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1 a true feeder and Christmas dinners were amazing with  
 2 everything you could possibly wish for and more.  
 3 She loved being outside and walking the dog. She  
 4 was a true sun worshipper: if the sun was out, then mum  
 5 was out. She enjoyed reading and spending time with her  
 6 family and friends. She had so much to live for and she  
 7 gave so much of herself. She was the one that could be  
 8 relied on.  
 9 How can anyone put into words the devastation of  
 10 losing a loving daughter, mother and friend in such  
 11 tragic, insane circumstances? The loss is  
 12 indescribable. We have never felt such grief.  
 13 Her father never got over her death when he passed  
 14 away 11 months later, and her mother was left without  
 15 the support she should have had from Wendy. Her brother  
 16 took her loss badly, as did the rest of her family and  
 17 friends. All this has left us all totally heartbroken  
 18 and our lives will never be the same.  
 19 Every day little things bring home the fact that she  
 20 is no longer with us. This we will have to live with  
 21 for the rest of our lives.  
 22 MR GREANEY: Next, Mr Di Francesco will read the tribute to  
 23 Wendy by her mother, Julia.  
 24 ALEX DI FRANCESCO: On 12 December 1966, Wendy came into the  
 25 world weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces. It is amazing how

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1 much love one can have for such a small being. She was  
 2 beautiful and, along with her older brother Andrew, made  
 3 mine and Michael's lives complete.  
 4 She was 8 months old when we moved to Rawdon and  
 5 this is where she grew up. She was walking and putting  
 6 three words together at 1 year old. At that time, when  
 7 friends called to see us at Christmas, bringing a bottle  
 8 of Martini with them, we were asked if we would like a  
 9 Martini, upon which Wendy piped up, "Wendy want a  
 10 'tini". You don't expect that from a 1-year-old. This  
 11 was Wendy: bright, sharp and a fast learner.  
 12 She was about 18 months old, playing a game with  
 13 Andrew, when I noticed they were quiet. At that age,  
 14 quiet meant they were up to something. I opened the  
 15 lounge door to find Wendy sat on a buffet with a tea  
 16 towel round her neck playing barbers. Yes, she had sat  
 17 there and let Andrew cut her hair right down to the  
 18 scalp. I just wish she'd been that good when I took her  
 19 to the hairdresser's to have it sorted out.  
 20 She attended Rawdon Little Moor School, where I was  
 21 on the PTA committee for a number of years. She enjoyed  
 22 her days there. One incident I remember was when she  
 23 was 5 and I took her to the dentist. As I took her coat  
 24 off, she said, "I'm not telling you what I have in my  
 25 pocket." At the time I was more concerned with how she

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1 was going to cope with being at the dentist, I just  
 2 said, "I don't want to know."  
 3 A few days later I was picking up her coat and  
 4 remembered her remark, so I had a look in her pocket and  
 5 found my silver charm bracelet all scratched. It turned  
 6 out she had been using it to play hopscotch at school, a  
 7 chain being the in-thing for hopscotch. When I asked  
 8 her about it, she beamed up at me in all innocence and  
 9 said, "It's brilliant, mam, a lot better than everyone  
 10 else's." I explained that she shouldn't have done it  
 11 and not to do it again and that was the end of that  
 12 I still have the bracelet, complete with scratches, and  
 13 I treasure it.  
 14 One day I had a call from Jack Eades, the  
 15 headmaster, who explained that while waiting for the bus  
 16 to go swimming, Wendy had slipped backwards on some ice  
 17 and banged her head on the ground. She was dazed and  
 18 a hospital visit was desired. As we got into Mr Eades's  
 19 car, Wendy announced she felt sick. I took her swimming  
 20 towel and spread it over her in case she was actually  
 21 sick. The inevitable happened: she pushed the towel  
 22 away so not to soil it and you can imagine the rest.  
 23 Our Sundays were special. As Michael would load the  
 24 car with tea-making facilities, I would do a picnic and  
 25 it was off to the seaside, usually Bridlington. Wendy

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1 really enjoyed this, especially when we took gran with  
 2 us.  
 3 It has always been our aim to make our two children  
 4 equal, so when Andrew went on a school trip to London,  
 5 Michael was determined to do something for Wendy. I was  
 6 helping out at a jumble sale at Little Moor when Michael  
 7 came in and asked where Wendy was. He found her and  
 8 said he was going somewhere and taking Wendy with him  
 9 and he would see me back at home.  
 10 When I arrived home, Wendy was holding what looked  
 11 like a small soft toy, then it moved. Honestly  
 12 I thought it was a rat. What is it, I asked. I then  
 13 got one of Wendy as wonderful smiles, "It's a puppy."  
 14 She had wanted a Yorkshire terrier ever since she saw  
 15 the ones belonging to a friend of mine. That's how we  
 16 acquired the fifth member of our family.  
 17 When Wendy was 7, I said to Michael, "There is an  
 18 Elvis film on television tonight." Wendy chipped in,  
 19 "Who is Elvis?" I told her we would watch it and she  
 20 would find out. I expected her to turn her nose up and  
 21 go play, but no, she was hooked and an Elvis fan to the  
 22 end. She had all his films. I remember the day news  
 23 came out that he had died. We had bought a trailer tent  
 24 and were away at Skirlington. The routine was Wendy and  
 25 Andrew would go to the shop on site to get the daily

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1 paper while we made brake fast. I put the radio on just  
 2 in time to hear the announcement of Elvis' death.  
 3 I looked at Michael, he looked at me. We both said the  
 4 same thing, "I'm not telling her."  
 5 As they came back, Wendy was elated that they were  
 6 playing Elvis songs and danced around to the music.  
 7 Then the announcement came on again: "We are playing  
 8 an hour of Elvis tracks in tribute to the king who died  
 9 this morning." Well, that was it. We had a weeping,  
 10 wailing child on our hands. There was just no consoling  
 11 her. The next day the promise of a trip somewhere and  
 12 treats soon brought Wendy back to normal, though I did  
 13 spot the odd tear forming.  
 14 One day Andrew came downstairs fuming, "Have you  
 15 seen what she's done?" I hadn't, so I went upstairs to  
 16 see what had happened. Wendy had glued everything to  
 17 the tops in his bedroom. I asked her why she'd done  
 18 this and she said, "He accused me of moving things in  
 19 his room and I didn't. He said when he put things down  
 20 he expected them to stay there. Well, now they will  
 21 stay there." What could I say? She'd inherited my  
 22 wicked sense of humour. It took Michael ages to get rid  
 23 of the glue.  
 24 From Little Moor she went to Benton Park. There she  
 25 made many friends and brought them home to meet me; some

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1 of them I'm still in contact with. One day when she was  
 2 15, she came home with a friend. "This is Sharon", she  
 3 said. Sharon Powell became a frequent visitor to our  
 4 house and they became good friends, spending time in  
 5 Wendy's bedroom playing music and discussing boys. On  
 6 occasions they would come in with a bottle of Coca Cola,  
 7 sneak my rum upstairs, and have a sneaky rum and coke.  
 8 They were never silly about it, just one naughty drink,  
 9 but they thought I didn't know. These were happy times  
 10 and Sharon became a lifelong friend. Through good times  
 11 and bad they were there for each other. Sharon still  
 12 calls me mam and I think I her as one of my own.  
 13 After Wendy left school she went to work at  
 14 Wendy's Wools with Sharon. They were always together.  
 15 Michael and I called them "The Terrible Two". Time  
 16 moved on and although Sharon married Trevor and had  
 17 a new life, their friendship was still strong.  
 18 Things have not always been easy for Wendy. With  
 19 two failed relationships behind her, Wendy and her young  
 20 son were back living with us. She got a job working for  
 21 Catherine Rigg, a preschool nursery in Yeadon. She took  
 22 to this like a duck to water. Working with toddlers was  
 23 a dream for her. She decided she would get some  
 24 qualifications. She did and passed with flying colours.  
 25 Unfortunately, the nursery closed, she was very upset,

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1 but, Wendy being Wendy, she moved forward.  
 2 Around about this time, Sharon and Trevor moved into  
 3 the house next door, the Terrible Two ride again. It  
 4 has never been the same since they moved out.  
 5 Wendy then went to work at Wilkinson's Butcher's and  
 6 many people still remember her warm, cheerful  
 7 personality and of course that smile as she served  
 8 customers. Wendy didn't go out at night, but it was  
 9 just before Christmas and her birthday that Sharon  
 10 insisted they go out to celebrate. It was on this night  
 11 she met someone from her past. Things moved quickly and  
 12 she moved in with Richard. They were married a few  
 13 years later.  
 14 I remember the barbecues in their back garden.  
 15 There was enough food to feed an army. This was Wendy  
 16 at her best: looking after everyone, making sure they  
 17 were having a good time.  
 18 When they moved to Guiseley, Wendy went to work at  
 19 a preschool nursery attached to Oxford Road School. She  
 20 was back where she belonged. She loved the children and  
 21 they loved her. She had always wanted more children of  
 22 her own. It was late coming but I remember I was in bed  
 23 with a very bad cold when she came and sat on my bed.  
 24 Visitors were the last thing I needed, but she said  
 25 something that put me on top of the world, "You are

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1 going to be a grandma again."  
 2 I was with Wendy when Charlotte was born. Richard  
 3 at one side of the bed, me at the other. I can still  
 4 feel the vice-like grip she had on my hand. It's hard.  
 5 It was hard watching her go through it, but it was an  
 6 experience I would not have missed for the world,  
 7 witnessing a miracle.  
 8 She was a wonderful mother to Adam and Charlotte.  
 9 They were always paramount in her thoughts and deeds.  
 10 Then there were the caravan holidays, particularly  
 11 the ones in Devon at Shrubbery Caravan Park. We were  
 12 often joined by Tony, Sue, Stewie and Lorraine. If  
 13 I close my eyes I can still see us walking from one end  
 14 of Lyme Regis to the other, stopping now and then for  
 15 Charlotte to have a go on the small rides or playing  
 16 push penny in the arcades, and the cheesy chips.  
 17 The evenings we spent in one of the awnings with  
 18 a takeaway and a few beers. So simple, no frills, but  
 19 oh so happy. I have had many holidays abroad but none  
 20 stay in my heart the way these do.  
 21 As Charlotte grew up, Wendy moved from the nursery  
 22 where she worked to the after-school club Eye Spy, where  
 23 she became the manager looking after older children.  
 24 They all loved Wendy, especially the girls with long  
 25 hair. They would go home with differently plaited hair

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1 every day. I remember she organised foods from around  
 2 the world for them, cooking different things for them to  
 3 try.  
 4 We often got phone calls from her. Did I have any  
 5 of this, that or the other for something she was  
 6 planning for the children at Eye Spy. One time  
 7 I remember her telling me it was time to go home from  
 8 work but one child had not been picked up. The mother  
 9 rang her because she'd been held up for some reason.  
 10 Wendy had to be home, so she took the little boy home  
 11 with her, gave him his tea, and waited to his mother to  
 12 pick him up. That was all part of the job to Wendy.  
 13 I also remember her being upset at the beginning of the  
 14 6-week holiday because some of the children would be  
 15 leaving to go to secondary school.  
 16 Wendy will be missed by so many people. The days  
 17 after we lost her, my house was full of flowers and  
 18 cards from many people who knew Wendy but I didn't know.  
 19 My memories of Wendy are countless; these are just  
 20 some.  
 21 The day I lost her, a part of me died with her too.  
 22 I put on my make-up, brave a smile and face the world,  
 23 but it's a different world now without Wendy. It was  
 24 double heartache for me when, 11 months later, I lost  
 25 Michael, Wendy's father. I like to think he is with her

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1 now doing what he always did: looking after her.  
 2 Lots of love, mum.  
 3 MR GREANEY: That was the tribute to Wendy by her mother,  
 4 Julia Tiplady, and I am next going to ask Mr Wilson to  
 5 play the compilation of photographs accompanied by music  
 6 that Julia has put together.  
 7 (Photographs shown to the inquiry)  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr di Francesco, and  
 9 thank you to the family for telling me about Wendy.  
 10 While not encouraging others to do it, I particularly  
 11 liked the story about the glue. And thank you to the  
 12 family as well for telling me the gap in their life that  
 13 her death has caused. She was a larger-than-life  
 14 figure, who gave so much to make the lives of others  
 15 happy. Thank you.  
 16 MR GREANEY: Sir, would you rise now, please, and we'll  
 17 return to the hearing room at 11 o'clock?  
 18 (9.50 am)  
 19 (A short break)  
 20 (11.00 am)  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.  
 22 MR GREANEY: Sir, thank you. This is the pen portrait of  
 23 Saffie-Rose Roussos, who I will call Saffie during the  
 24 course of my introduction. She was aged just 8 years  
 25 when she was killed and this pen portrait has been

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1 prepared by her family .  
 2 In the hearing room alongside me are Saffie 's dad  
 3 Andrew Roussos, and Saffie 's older sister ,  
 4 Ashlee Bromwich. Watching remotely are Saffie 's mum  
 5 Lisa , who we will see in a short time pay tribute to her  
 6 daughter in a video recording. Lisa will be with  
 7 Xander, Lisa and Andrew's son, and the brother of  
 8 Saffie . Also a family friend , Sam Harrison, will be  
 9 there with them. Other family and friends will be  
 10 watching our proceedings from locations throughout the  
 11 United Kingdom and in Cyprus.  
 12 Andrew will read his tribute to Saffie . He will be  
 13 on the screen as he does so , save where he indicates  
 14 that photographs should be shown on the screen. Ashley  
 15 will also read her tribute and she too will be on the  
 16 screen. Once Ashlee has finished , a presentation will  
 17 be played .  
 18 So sir , I 'm now going to invite Andrew, when he's  
 19 ready, to stand and pay tribute to his daughter.  
 20 Pen portrait of SAFFIE-ROSE ROUSSOS  
 21 ANDREW ROUSSOS: First I would like to thank you, sir, the  
 22 inquiry team, and my legal team for their hard  
 23 dedication for our daughter Saffie . Mr Greaney, we are  
 24 watching the inquiry remotely and you are coming across  
 25 with the highest compassion and sensitivity .

1 My daughter, Saffie . How can I describe perfection ?  
 2 How do you describe heart-melting love? How can  
 3 I explain them big brown eyes? How can I stand here and  
 4 explain to you all in words what a beautiful little girl  
 5 she is? It 's like the best artists got together and  
 6 drew her from top to toe with a heart so pure, so  
 7 innocent she melted people 's hearts .  
 8 Her mum worried in this world that we live in about  
 9 how open, trusting and social she is . I use "she is" as  
 10 I can't accept I 'm doing this without Saffie . It 's like  
 11 having an out-of-body experience, it can't be real .  
 12 That will never happen. I am never going to accept life  
 13 without Saffie . She is my star, my admiration, my  
 14 perfect daughter.  
 15 Going out with Saffie was like magic. She captured  
 16 people by just looking at them and smiling. We would  
 17 constantly get stopped on the street by people  
 18 commenting how beautiful she is with her amazing eyes  
 19 and smile. She always made people laugh, filled them  
 20 full of love, always wanted to stop and help people in  
 21 need, and even then got a compliment and a smile. Don't  
 22 get me wrong, she had a naughty side that drove us up  
 23 the wall , from pranking her brother , Xander, 5 minutes  
 24 before school, she used to put empty yogurt pots in his  
 25 shoes, stalling him getting out of the house so she

1 could sit in the car where she liked . Laid-back Xander  
 2 didn't know what hit him as she worked him to her  
 3 advantage, but I remember the first time Xander had  
 4 a sleepover the back of the car was silent and when  
 5 I looked back the tears were running down her face.  
 6 Bravery and strength is one thing that she has.  
 7 Just like her mum, she will fight to the end and not  
 8 show defeat in anything she faced. From smashing the  
 9 record on a pogo stick to climbing the highest ,  
 10 somersaulting in the most daring places, I've got to  
 11 say, kept us on our toes. I always watched in amazement  
 12 and admiration on how someone at 8 years old had so much  
 13 charisma and confidence to become whatever she wanted to  
 14 be. Even though mum was biting all her nails down and  
 15 worrying on Saffie 's every move, we both quickly  
 16 realised on how much of a free spirit Saffie is .  
 17 We watched and protected. I used to try and  
 18 calculate the dangers ahead that could occur as Saffie  
 19 was skipping down the pavement without a care in the  
 20 world. From climbing a 10-foot pole, hanging off the  
 21 top with one hand, to doing back flips off the couch in  
 22 front of a large mirror weighing around 15 kilos , she  
 23 would not stop until she had perfected what she was  
 24 doing.  
 25 The first night Saffie had a sleepover I remember

1 waking up at 3 am having my very first panic attack and  
 2 worrying about what could happen as our friends might  
 3 not fully understand how daring she could be. I wanted  
 4 to go and fetch her so I could keep her safe , but at the  
 5 same time, knew how disappointed Saffie would be as she  
 6 was sleeping over for the first time.  
 7 I talked earlier about perfection . Saffie loved  
 8 gymnastics. She would practice and practice until it  
 9 was perfect . "Couldn't do it" wasn't Saffie 's style .  
 10 Mum and I took her to join a class and we were getting  
 11 worried about how these all back flips and somersaults  
 12 and jumping off walls would end up in disaster . On her  
 13 first lesson her teacher says she needed to moved to  
 14 more advanced class as she was special . So I looked at  
 15 Saffie and I said, "Are you excited?" for her to reply ,  
 16 "No." I looked at her and said, "Why?" "I already know  
 17 everything, daddy."  
 18 To become something in life you need to push forward  
 19 and not let anything get in your way. The knocks, the  
 20 bangs, the injuries throughout whatever Saffie was doing  
 21 never once stopped her or complained about it ; just  
 22 a cuddle and a kiss is all she wanted.  
 23 She loved to explore and see new things. She loved  
 24 big cities , big cities of a night time when all the  
 25 lights were switched on. I remember the first time we

1 went to New York, I waited for dusk before I took her to  
2 Times Square. As we turned the corner I covered her  
3 eyes. What can I say? That look of amazement will stay  
4 with me forever.

5 We walked around and she spotted Toys R Us on  
6 Times Square and that's where we were heading. Saffie  
7 spotted somebody dressed as Olaf and it was mine and  
8 Saffie's favourite Disney character. He was outside the  
9 store taking pictures for a fee. Well, not Saffie. She  
10 smiled and said, "Do you want your picture taken with  
11 me?" Olaf said, "How could I resist?" Saffie got  
12 her picture, kept the money and, headed into the toy  
13 store.

14 On another full day in New York we headed back to  
15 the hotel as we were all hungry. When Saffie gets  
16 hungry, then you know about it. We got to the hotel at  
17 4.30 pm but the restaurant didn't start serving until 5.  
18 You can just imagine. But Saffie being Saffie, with the  
19 big brown eyes and her beautiful smile, walked up to the  
20 manager and explained the tiring day that she had had in  
21 the city and how hungry she was. But guess what? The  
22 kitchen was open.

23 I can go on and on. Never will there be another  
24 Saffie. Never will there be another kiss, a cuddle or  
25 a smile. I try and picture what she would look like

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1 now, what she would be doing. What career she would  
2 choose to the wedding dress she would pick to the adult  
3 Saffie would be. I hope I can put across this precious  
4 little girl, a victim of innocence, that all she wanted  
5 to be is happy, loving and free to be a child, as every  
6 child should be.

7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

8 MR GREANEY: I'm now going to ask Ashlee, once she's ready,  
9 to stand, if she wishes to do so, and read her tribute  
10 to Saffie.

11 ASHLEE BROMWICH: Saffie-Rose, my sister, was the most  
12 beautiful and innocent little girl, yet very cheeky and  
13 mischievous in her own way. She would know exactly how  
14 to get what she wanted with one big, huge beaming grin.  
15 It was impossible to ever say no. Her soul beamed so  
16 much joy and energy. She would always be dancing,  
17 singing, spinning, doing acrobatics. She was a born  
18 entertainer and I knew that for the rest of her life she  
19 would live to put a smile on everybody's face, even  
20 a stranger's.

21 She loved to make everybody laugh, usually by doing  
22 something ridiculously silly, and if she knew she could  
23 make you laugh the first time, she would never stop.  
24 And if you didn't laugh, she would never stop trying  
25 until she had you in the palm of her hand.

18

1 The highlight of my weeks were when I went to visit  
2 my family. Away from the troubles of the world, I knew  
3 they were always there to keep me going and keep life  
4 wholesome, being able to spend time with Saffie and my  
5 brother, Xander. Saffie would always ask me, "Ashlee,  
6 can we play a game?" I'd never hear the end of it until  
7 I gave in and said yes.

8 I'd sometimes surprise Xander and Saffie by picking  
9 them up from school. I'd be waiting for them in the  
10 school playground, waiting for them to spot me. She'd  
11 come running over, "What are you doing here?" And she  
12 would always ask, "Have you got me anything?" usually  
13 meaning sweets. So I learned my lesson to never arrive  
14 empty-handed when coming to see Saffie.

15 I was always proud to call Saffie my sister, I still  
16 am. She was someone I always wanted to tell people  
17 about and talk about. She was more than special: a rare  
18 soul. I didn't really ever realise just how precious  
19 each and every one of those times would be. How I wish  
20 I had said yes to every single time she would ask me to  
21 play a game with her. What I would give to see her  
22 running out of those school doors again directly towards  
23 me. Our family will never be the same. Each and every  
24 one of us remains a spare part watching the world pass  
25 us by.

19

1 I have lost the ability to feel such emotions other  
2 than grief and anger. It's like falling down  
3 a never-ending empty pit of sadness. We are here but  
4 not. Our bodies move and our voices can be heard, but  
5 our minds are absent. Still we carry on the days for  
6 each other, my family. It doesn't get easier, just more  
7 and more confusing and the constant question of why.  
8 The things that once brought us joy don't. How can we  
9 feel joy in our lives without Saffie? She was our joy.

10 The way I see the world will never be the same.  
11 I feel so naive to think that life could bring no harm  
12 to those I love. Saffie didn't know of the horrors of  
13 this world. A child should be allowed to live an  
14 innocent life. At 8 years old she should have only  
15 known of love and happiness and what she could only  
16 dream to become one day. She should never have had to  
17 experience that.

18 I'll never get to see Saffie grow from a child to  
19 a bright young crazy teenager and into the beautiful  
20 woman I imagined her to become.

21 Somehow she still gives me the strength to go on.  
22 She won't get to meet my daughter, but I know she would  
23 have been the most loving, incredible aunt and role  
24 model. But my daughter will know her because we will  
25 never stop keeping her alive and taking her with us

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1 wherever we go.  
 2 Thank you.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 4 MR GREANEY: Sir, I'm next going to ask Mr Wilson to play  
 5 the video presentation .  
 6 "I'm Chris, this is Pat and Anastasia. I'm Andrew  
 7 Roussos' brother and Saffie -Rose Roussos' uncle and I am  
 8 just here to say a few words about Saffie .  
 9 "We had the pleasure of all of us being together in  
 10 this little house of ours. At this stage or at some  
 11 stage we were nine of us in the house, was it? We all  
 12 lived to the. There was Andrew, Lisa, Ashlee, Xander  
 13 and Saffie , of course, and our two girls . Renee is not  
 14 with us right now, she's in the UK, that's why she's not  
 15 in the video.  
 16 "I used to come home from work and Saffie used to  
 17 come round with my kids as well , going, 'Dad, dad, dad!'  
 18 Her dad was not me, she thought Dad was my name. Her  
 19 dad was daddy, so daddy was daddy and I was dad. That  
 20 was my nickname from Saffie.  
 21 "She was a bit of a character. She just wanted to  
 22 play all day and wanted to know things, wanted to do  
 23 things all the time. She sneaked into the bedroom of my  
 24 eldest daughter and drew pictures on the wall without  
 25 nobody realising . To this day they're still there .

21

1 "Another memory is when they came over for the last  
 2 Christmas. We saw Saffie in Cyprus. We sort of sneaked  
 3 Saffie into the car and told her mum we were going to  
 4 our house for a sleepover, and off we went. I'll let  
 5 you tell the story, Pat, because you brought her home  
 6 in the car."  
 7 "We just talked all the way home. Saffie was good  
 8 at that, chatting away, and we got home, put a DVD on,  
 9 snuggled down, ready to settle in for the night, and  
 10 10 minutes later her dad turns up to get here: no  
 11 sleepover with us only; he liked the family all to be  
 12 together ."  
 13 "At least we got that half an hour! We had a small  
 14 sleepover . It was the one and only time we had her on  
 15 her own.  
 16 "Lisa is a bit too stuck to her kids. I remember  
 17 taking Xander one day and we sent her a picture of him  
 18 holding a beer bottle and she went crazy.  
 19 "But Saffie was something special . I think we've  
 20 all lost something really , really good. Who knows what  
 21 she could have been? I think she could have been  
 22 something spectacular. Amazing. Unfortunately, it was  
 23 not to be. But at least we had some times, some  
 24 memories. I think we have just ... I don't know how to  
 25 say it . The time that we had was so precious and at

22

1 least we had it. We're very grateful for that time.  
 2 Anything else you want to say?"  
 3 "Another funny memory: I used to love coming home  
 4 because they would all run to the door whenever you came  
 5 home and there would be a fight to get to the door and  
 6 for whoever got to greet you first , to say hi to  
 7 whatever was coming in, and obviously because we all  
 8 came home at different times because of working hours,  
 9 we ate at different times, but Saffie used to think it  
 10 was her eating time every time someone sat down and she  
 11 would buddy up to you and she'd be, like, hello, trying  
 12 to eat your dinner again, for like the fourth sitting ,  
 13 with her hand usually ."  
 14 "I hope this gives some insight into what Saffie  
 15 was, what she was to us, what she meant to us, and as  
 16 I repeat, in the few months that we had together here,  
 17 even though it was difficult , it was the best times of  
 18 our lives , I think, that we had with Saffie , Andrew,  
 19 Lisa, Ashlee, Xander, Renee and Anastasia, and of course  
 20 me and Pat -- and the dogs!"  
 21 "To everyone who met her, she was someone special.  
 22 She lit up the room. She had no fear, no scares .  
 23 I remember we went to England to visit them and we  
 24 didn't have much time, so I said, 'Come on, let's take  
 25 Xander and Saffie and let's go round to Tesco.' I said,

23

1 'I'll let you buy whatever you want', and she filled the  
 2 trolley up: can I have this, can I have that, can I have  
 3 the other, Polly Pockets. As I say, she had no fear, it  
 4 was just joy. Just a happy child. Lovely child .  
 5 Always wanted to do things .  
 6 "Later on, which my dad says he used to go to  
 7 England and visit , and there used to be gymnastics, she  
 8 used to do dancing. The last time we were here,  
 9 before -- we took the Mickey out of her saying -- she  
 10 was telling us she was going to see Ariana, and we were  
 11 saying, 'Who is she, we don't know who she is', and she  
 12 would go crazy .  
 13 "So that's it . We're done. A thousand words are  
 14 not enough to explain what Saffie meant to us. It's  
 15 goodbye from me and it's goodbye from them."  
 16 "I'm Saffie's godmother. I miss my beautiful girl  
 17 so much. One thing I remember about Saffie is that she  
 18 learned the word godmother in Greek, which is Nona, and  
 19 kept calling me that every time. She was always very  
 20 happy and full of energy. One thing I will never forget  
 21 is while I was baptizing her, she didn't scream or cry,  
 22 instead she was telling me to put on her baptizing  
 23 outfit .  
 24 "She loved dancing and singing . She would always  
 25 send me her videos. Her smile filled the room with

24

1 happiness. I miss her so much and I love her so much."  
 2 "I'm Saffie's cousin. Saffie was a brilliant ,  
 3 brilliant kid. I guess one thing I remember is that she  
 4 used to call me monkey. She came up with this nickname,  
 5 and she would always play with me and run around the  
 6 house, she would hide, she was always full of energy,  
 7 she wants to go out and do stuff, so that's one thing  
 8 that -- it was Saffie's identity, she was always so  
 9 playful .  
 10 "One thing I remember, the only second that I left  
 11 her to go and get some rest because she wouldn't stop  
 12 playing, I went on the couch and I slept for like  
 13 10 minutes and then she came up, climbed the couch, and  
 14 she woke me up like that, and she was like, 'Come on,  
 15 monkey, it's time to play again', and she was sucking  
 16 her thumb. So even though at that time she was 5,  
 17 I remember I couldn't outsmart her. She was so smart.  
 18 Even though I was 20 years older than her, I couldn't  
 19 trick her, she'd always find a way to beat me in  
 20 anything that we were doing at that moment.  
 21 "I have met and I have seen many kids playing, but  
 22 everyone knows that Saffie had something really special .  
 23 Her smile, the way she talked to people, the way she  
 24 approached people. She was very much sure for her age  
 25 and always she would like at you in a way that she would

25

1 understand. If you were going through something, she  
 2 would come and ask you if you were okay. And it's  
 3 something you don't expect from a 5-year-old little girl  
 4 at that time. And yeah, we miss her so much. We wish  
 5 she was here with us."  
 6 "Hi, I'm going to be talking about my best friend ,  
 7 Saffie. I took her to her first disco and she loved it ,  
 8 but before the disco we gave each other facial tattoos  
 9 with red Sharpie, and it never came off, so we went to  
 10 the school disco with big red blotches on our face.  
 11 "But when we went to her house we always used to  
 12 sing and play the drums in the chippy, and the first  
 13 thing she'd say to me when we got in the car was, 'I'm  
 14 going to have a burger', and she goes, 'because that's  
 15 my favourite thing in the whole wide world.' Then  
 16 I'd say, 'I'll have fish and chips because that's my  
 17 favourite thing.' So that was her favourite food.  
 18 "Our signature thing was when we were in bed and we  
 19 had hot chocolate. For sleepovers, hot chocolate was  
 20 our thing. We loved it.  
 21 "Her favourite song was 'One Last Time' by  
 22 Ariana Grande and her favourite singer was  
 23 Ariana Grande.  
 24 "When she's older, I reckon she would be a famous  
 25 dancer. I don't know why, I could just tell. And when

26

1 she tried, she could dance, she really could. I miss  
 2 her so, so much, words can't even describe it .  
 3 "It's not like any normal -- it's not a normal day  
 4 without Saffie. A normal day with Saffie would be  
 5 crazy, but now a normal day to us is just calm, and  
 6 I don't like it, I really don't. I have dreams of  
 7 Saffie waiting for me at the school gate and wake up and  
 8 it isn't real. I feel torn, I feel broken, and I just  
 9 miss her so, so much."  
 10 "I just want to speak about Saff, an 8-year-old who  
 11 had clearly, clearly been here a million times over.  
 12 The funniest, the best sense of humour out of any  
 13 8-year-old I've ever met in my life. The biggest heart,  
 14 the laugh -- oh, you've never heard a laugh like her.  
 15 She wasn't like a normal 8-year-old. She might have  
 16 looked like one, but she definitely wasn't a normal  
 17 8-year-old. She knew exactly what she wanted to do.  
 18 She knew where she wanted to go in life, she knew how  
 19 she was going to do it, and nothing was going to stand  
 20 in her way.  
 21 "My daughter met Saffie at school and instantly they  
 22 were inseparable. They went for dinner with each other  
 23 at each other's houses, they had sleepovers, many, many  
 24 sleepovers. They'd play their music too loud and you'd  
 25 tell them to stop it and they would just turn it up

27

1 a bit more.  
 2 "I don't understand how she's not here. I don't  
 3 understand how someone can just go, just disappear. The  
 4 roll-on effect it has on family, friends, even people  
 5 that didn't even know each individual person who passed  
 6 away. But for us, Saffie was our biggest challenge  
 7 we've ever, ever come across in our whole entire life,  
 8 and I know for a fact that the day Saffie was gone, that  
 9 was the day my daughter disappeared.  
 10 "Not once have I ever seen something just disappear  
 11 from her eyes. It was like the sparkle had gone out of  
 12 her eyes. I didn't really understand it straightaway.  
 13 It was more: but she's got a birthday party, mum, her  
 14 birthday is the week before mine, because we've got the  
 15 invitation, we're going to be going to the party, she  
 16 will be back by then, she'll be back by then. I don't  
 17 think anyone's ever tried to explain to another  
 18 8-year-old child that it doesn't work like that.  
 19 "I remember picking my daughter up from school on  
 20 the day that everything was announced. And I walked  
 21 into the school hallway and she just dropped to her  
 22 knees and she was uncontrollable. She couldn't catch  
 23 her breath, couldn't get her words, couldn't get her  
 24 words, couldn't get her words, and all of a sudden it  
 25 just stopped, just stopped. There was nothing, she felt

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1 nothing. She didn't want a cuddle. She was the most  
2 cuddliest person in the world, my daughter, and that  
3 went. That went for a long time.  
4 "Having to be the strong person for your daughter  
5 who's just lost her best friend when deep down you can't  
6 get to grips with it yourself, that will be the hardest  
7 thing that my daughter and myself and her father will  
8 ever, ever go through in our whole entire life.  
9 "Every birthday that goes by, every anniversary that  
10 goes by, every picture that gets put up in my daughter's  
11 bedroom. Every couple of days there's something new,  
12 there's something here: mum, but Saffie loved this, that  
13 was Saffie's favourite colour, can I buy it because  
14 I would want to wear it, Saffie would have loved that,  
15 mum. You keep going and keep going and keep going, but  
16 she still can't accept it.  
17 "One day my daughter came to me and said, 'Mum,  
18 I want to go to heaven, I want to go to heaven and I  
19 want to be with her, I wish I went to the arena with  
20 her, I would have got in the way and I would have pushed  
21 her out of the way.' It was like it was guilt. And  
22 every single day it's guilt. It's guilt, and there's  
23 never a single day that goes by that Saffie isn't  
24 involved in our life at all. We've got pictures of her  
25 round the house, songs come on the radio, the radio gets

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1 switched off, my daughter can't process songs. I don't  
2 know if she ever will.  
3 "We do still go to concerts. My daughter loves  
4 concerts. Saffie loved concerts. Why should a child  
5 not go to a concert? We're not going to stop doing  
6 anything, nor would have Saff. Saff would have kept  
7 going, of course she would have. She would have been at  
8 the next Ariana Grande concert that we went to. She's  
9 not allowed, she's not here.  
10 "She would have made the best, the best, entertainer  
11 in the whole entire world. She loved to sing, she loved  
12 to dance. She loved to get on the sofa at our house and  
13 jump from one corner to the other, from the other to the  
14 other, and I used to just look at them and think, 'You  
15 are never, ever going to get that time back, enjoy it.'  
16 "They'd leave a mess. They'd drop drinks. They'd  
17 be 8-year-olds. They were 8. Saffie is 8. She should  
18 never, ever have had to miss out on anything. Just like  
19 I'm going to make sure that my daughter misses out on  
20 nothing."  
21 "Saffie was my best friend. When I had bad days at  
22 school she'd be there for me when I got home. Most  
23 nights we would sit at the TV and watch Pitch Perfect  
24 together and then dance to our favourite bits until Lisa  
25 shouted at us.

30

1 "Saffie was special. She would put a smile on your  
2 face without even trying. She would have grown up to  
3 have been an intelligent girl who put others first with  
4 love and laughter."  
5 "It's hard to talk about Saffie. It has taken  
6 a long time to make this video. There's so many things  
7 that you can talk about with Saffie. There's also two  
8 versions of Saffie. It's really hard to remember  
9 because you remember all the happy times and then  
10 obviously you remember all the bad times, so it's very  
11 hard to look back.  
12 "I first met Saffie coming into my shop and she had  
13 a phone to repair or something like that. Quite often  
14 I'd fix her iPads and phones -- every week actually --  
15 and it seemed to become a regular thing. She also used  
16 to play with my children, Lily especially, and she was  
17 a regular in our house. It was routine that she'd come  
18 to our house. My mum and dad were cooking fish and  
19 chips, and she'd go back at 8 o'clock and then there was  
20 the first stopover that she ever had was at our house.  
21 I felt very, very privileged and very protective,  
22 I suppose, of that little girl because obviously it was  
23 my friend that said, 'This is the first time she's ever  
24 stopped out.' On that first night I think that's where  
25 my real bond with Saffie came about.

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1 "I remember everybody fell asleep and Saffie knocked  
2 on our bedroom door and she came in and she said, 'My  
3 mum and dad always give me a kiss and a cuddle before  
4 I go to sleep', so we had to do the thing of giving her  
5 a kiss, giving her a cuddle, which is very bizarre not  
6 being our child, but it also showed how much she trusted  
7 us and how much she thought of us. That made me think  
8 about her a lot more.  
9 "After that, it was like she was one of the children  
10 in this house. It was very bizarre, very bizarre, but  
11 she was lovely. Adorable. A pain in the arse, a very  
12 big pain in my arse. She would come running in at  
13 4 o'clock every day, demanding to phone Lily off my  
14 phone, asking if she could come out to play. We called  
15 them The Trio at one point because they were all playing  
16 together all the time and it was amazing for my children  
17 because they didn't have anybody around this area that  
18 they knew and vice versa, so they just played and  
19 played.  
20 "What do I think she could have been? I don't know,  
21 I don't know. An astronaut, brain surgeon, a nurse,  
22 a housewife. Whatever she would have been, she would  
23 have been amazing. She would have been -- she was very  
24 competitive and she always wanted to do better than  
25 everybody else or show off, so I can imagine that her

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1 job or what she would have been, she'd have been the  
2 best at.

3 "I really miss her presence and I think all this has  
4 changed everything. She gave me love and looked at me  
5 in a certain way that made me feel like somebody, and  
6 I loved that back.

7 "She was just amazing. Yes. She wasn't one of  
8 these girls that come round and play with your kids and  
9 you just think they're bloody annoying, she wasn't one  
10 of them kids, she was just funny, laughing all the time,  
11 used to like to wind me up. She knew that I was  
12 overprotective of her and scared that if she got  
13 a graze, her daddy would tell me off and she knew that  
14 I was scared of that fact, so she used to play on it and  
15 used to stand on top of a wall and wave at me, saying,  
16 'Mike, look, Mike, look', and give me a thousand heart  
17 attacks, but that was Saffie. She was very sarcastic,  
18 very funny. She seemed to work out my level of how to  
19 scare the shit out of me."

20 "Hi. My name is Sam and I'm a very close and dear  
21 friend to Lisa and Andrew, who I have known for around  
22 25 years and I would like to share with you today some  
23 of my memories of Saffie-Rose. I have two children,  
24 George, 16, and Ava, 13, and we have spent many weekends  
25 with Lisa, Andrew, Ashlee, Xander and Saffie, making

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1 some wonderful memories together.

2 "Saffie, even from being a baby, was beautiful,  
3 bubbly and had an infectious nature about her.  
4 I remember those huge eyes, big smile, always laughing,  
5 and so content in the world. On the weekends we would  
6 visit, Saffie would be the first at the window waiting  
7 for us with her big smile. She was so full of  
8 excitement: bouncing around, making dance routines up.  
9 She had so much confidence and energy and also gave the  
10 best cuddles.

11 "Saffie would let me have her room whenever she  
12 stayed. She would creep back in early in the morning.  
13 I could hear that infectious giggle and when I opened my  
14 eyes, I would find her upside-down, challenging Ava to  
15 handstands or practising gymnastics, which she  
16 absolutely loved. Saffie knew who she was and what she  
17 wanted and had so much determination. I remember Lisa  
18 would leave clothes out for her in the morning to wear,  
19 which Saffie would completely ignore and bounce into the  
20 room in a completely different random and mismatched  
21 outfit. We'd just roll our eyes and laugh. Lisa would  
22 know she wouldn't win this argument.

23 "Our final memories of Saffie were a few weeks  
24 before the attack and we decided to go to the fair.  
25 Saffie was fearless and wanted to go on everything. She

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1 also had a very special connection and bond with George,  
2 so she spent most of the day with George going on all  
3 the rides, the faster the better. She dragged me on the  
4 log flume and I could hear her laughing behind me as we  
5 all got soaked. I am so very grateful now for that day  
6 and will treasure those memories forever.

7 "Saffie was intelligent, funny, caring and had so  
8 much passion, determination and excitement about her.  
9 We all knew that she was going to do great things in  
10 life. There is a huge hole in our lives now she has  
11 gone and we miss her very much."

12 "I am George and I was a friend of Saffie's. Me, my  
13 mum and my sister spent a lot of weekends with Lisa,  
14 Andrew, Xander, Ashlee and Saffie. A lot of memories  
15 were made. Me and Xander would just be chilling out and  
16 Saffie and my sister, Ava, who's a similar age to her,  
17 would just come in, teasing, making jokes, pranking all  
18 of them, and even at that point you could see Saffie's  
19 adorability, charisma, her energy. She had so much  
20 potential and she could have done whatever she wanted,  
21 I think. Everyone who knew her would agree with me  
22 there.

23 "My favourite memory with Saffie would have to be  
24 when we went to the fair one time. Me and Saffie  
25 partnered up -- the two fearless ones, it was -- and we

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1 just went on every scary-looking ride there was. There  
2 were times where I was more doubtful of a ride than  
3 Saffie was. That's a true representation of her  
4 character: just fearless and just so energetic and how  
5 amazing she was.

6 "The world is a worse-off place without her and she  
7 is dearly missed and her memory is so loved. I'm sure  
8 she's looking down on her family and friends and she's  
9 proud of them and how strong they've been."

10 "Hi. I'm Chloe and I know Saffie from the chip shop  
11 in Leyland. I was an employee, a babysitter, a teacher,  
12 all rolled into one. She was somebody that you cannot  
13 put into words. She was cheeky, charming, confident --  
14 a bit too confident sometimes with the fear factor was  
15 zero. There's a lamp post and anyone in Leyland that  
16 knows the lamp post outside the chip show will know she  
17 used to make it to the top regularly and slide back  
18 down. I had my heart in my mouth a few times. We would  
19 go to the park and Saffie would be the one that wanted  
20 to go on the highest swing and the thing where you  
21 dangle with one hand or something, and you'd get Xander,  
22 the complete opposite, who wanted to take it easy and  
23 stick to the safe side, but he always looked after her.

24 "She was somebody that I would hope would have been  
25 in my life forever. I think about her every day. Not

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1 a day goes by ... One thing that I wish I could have had  
2 was Saffie to be able to come to my wedding day.  
3 I always imagine now Saffie being a bridesmaid or  
4 something, maybe like aged 18, and it'd be, I don't  
5 know, probably her first bridesmaid go. But she will  
6 always be there even though she's not there.

7 "I struggle to talk about what happened. I struggle  
8 to look at any news posts, talk to people about it, look  
9 at photos. I don't mind thinking about it now, because  
10 before I couldn't even think, I had to try and shut it  
11 off all the time. It affected a few of my relationships  
12 and just general life, really. I have got a tattoo  
13 which I got for Saffie on the back of my neck, so I'm  
14 proud when people ask about that, I'm proud to tell them  
15 who she is and what it's for. That will always be with  
16 me forever.

17 "She was something else. I'll never forget: I've  
18 never known a little girl be able to eat a full fish all  
19 on her own at age 4 or 5, with a tub of curry sauce and  
20 still be sniffing round for yours after. It's food,  
21 I mean there's certain foods that I eat now and they  
22 remind me of Saffie, like pesto, pesto and chicken  
23 pasta. Fish and chips reminds me of everybody. Yogurt  
24 remind me of Saffie. When I have a yogurt, I always  
25 imagine getting a yogurt out of the fridge and looking

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1 down when I'm taking the lid off and seeing her little  
2 face underneath.

3 "If you knew Saffie, you were blessed. I'll never  
4 forget her, ever. She made a part of me that will never  
5 disappear. She was the un-biological little sister and  
6 everybody that meets me will know about Saffie.

7 "Bye-bye. Love you, Saffie."

8 "My name is Chris Upton and I'm the headteacher of  
9 Tarleton Community Primary School in Lancashire. I also  
10 had the privilege of being the headteacher of  
11 Saffie-Rose Roussos, the youngest victim in the  
12 Manchester Arena attacks. The following statement aims  
13 to reflect the life of Saffie-Rose Roussos as a learner  
14 and a member of our school community, as well as  
15 reflecting what her future could have been in line with  
16 her friends and other children within our community.

17 "As Saffie joined our school in Year 2, I have also  
18 spoken to Saffie's teachers at her previous school,  
19 Kew Woods Primary School in Southport, to reflect her  
20 younger school years. Saffie is fondly remembered by  
21 the Kew Woods staff, with one teacher describing her as:

22 "A lovely, quiet member of the class. Saffie would  
23 sit near the back of the class trying not to get picked  
24 to answer questions and preferred working with her  
25 friends rather than the adult-led activities. Within

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1 the reception class Saffie got on with everyone, but had  
2 a small select group of friends. She had one in  
3 particular called Imogen, and they were thick as  
4 thieves, playing together and most importantly having  
5 fun.'

6 "Saffie loved outdoor learning and this was a great  
7 passion of hers in her formative years. When asked what  
8 she wanted to learn about, Saffie wanted to learn about  
9 flowers as she found them both interesting and  
10 beautiful. She showed great curiosity in her learning,  
11 especially watching caterpillars turn into butterflies  
12 and a lesson where her teacher made it snow in the  
13 classroom by banging a balloon on the ceiling, resulting  
14 in Saffie playing happily in the snow.

15 "She would also spend many hours across the year  
16 in the craft area as she had an incredible imagination,  
17 when designing and making things, as well as being  
18 a very talented drawer. Saffie really came alive when  
19 she could dress up and role play as well as when there  
20 was any music involved. At the Christmas disco the  
21 quiet little girl became confident whilst dancing and  
22 singing and having a thoroughly good time putting  
23 a smile on everybody's face.

24 "In other classes teachers reported that Saffie  
25 continued to enjoy dressing up and role play, always

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1 enjoying putting on a costume in the Annual World Book  
2 Day. On one occasion the class travelled to Salford to  
3 the BBC Studios to participate in a show, CBeebies  
4 Swashbuckle. Saffie loved every minute of this,  
5 arriving at school early to go on the trip.

6 "Saffie was again quiet in class but came alive on  
7 the playground, with her friends acting out scenarios,  
8 dancing and singing. Saffie had a long plait in her  
9 hair and the class would see each day whether or not it  
10 had grown enough for her to be able to sit on it. This  
11 was done in a playful manner and Saffie would sit  
12 quietly, taking it all in. Clearly the other children  
13 thought the world of her.'

14 "Saffie then left Kew Woods Primary School, joining  
15 our school, Tarleton Community Primary. The school is  
16 part of a close-knit community in a small village in  
17 Lancashire. Saffie and her brother Xander settled in  
18 well and she was again highly thought of by everyone.

19 "Saffie's teacher reflects that Saffie was  
20 a beautiful little girl, both inside and out. She was  
21 extremely well-liked by her classmates and always had  
22 a kind word and a smile for everyone.

23 "She was an exceptionally gentle and caring child  
24 and would go the extra mile to make sure her friends  
25 were happy. On one occasion two of her best friends

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1 were arguing on the playground and Saffie was trying to  
 2 get them to stop. They wouldn't listen to her, so in  
 3 the end she did the splits in the mud. All three of  
 4 them fell about laughing and immediately the argument  
 5 was forgotten.

6 "During a gym lesson Saffie reluctantly agreed to  
 7 let her teacher film her performing a sequence that she  
 8 had created. Even though she told her that the sequence  
 9 was fantastic, she wasn't one for showing-off at school  
 10 and was much happier celebrating the achievements of  
 11 others. She performed the sequence to perfection and  
 12 a look of relief spread across her face as the class  
 13 cheered and applauded. It was then her teacher realised  
 14 she hadn't switched the camera on. Most children would  
 15 have politely refused to perform again but not Saffie,  
 16 delivering yet again another perfect performance.

17 "That's the kind of person Saffie was: kind,  
 18 generous, caring, always thinking about others and  
 19 modest to a fault.

20 "Her teacher will never forget Saffie's excitement  
 21 when we returned to school after the Christmas holidays  
 22 and she stood in front of her classmates telling them  
 23 all about the concert tickets she had been given as  
 24 a Christmas gift. Saffie was so excited and the envy of  
 25 all her friends. They could not believe that she had

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1 tickets to see their idol, Ariana Grande.

2 "She was so excited and filled with hope for the  
 3 future, just like all the children should be. Saffie  
 4 loved creative subjects such as music and art and often  
 5 could be found making pictures and cards for her  
 6 friends, teachers and family. These were always  
 7 accompanied by loving messages and kind words; she just  
 8 wanted to make people happy.

9 "Saffie's capacity for hard work and determination  
 10 to succeed was most evident to her teacher in her bid to  
 11 become elected to our school council. Most children  
 12 used a computer to create their campaign posters but not  
 13 Saffie. She drew and coloured her posters by hand and  
 14 must have spent hours writing out stickers for her  
 15 supporters to wear. Her teacher discovered a whole roll  
 16 of them in her tray weeks later, each one carefully  
 17 handwritten and colourfully decorated. Thankfully she  
 18 got her wish and was able to spend many happy months  
 19 serving on our school council. Saffie was incredibly  
 20 hard-working and always tried her best no matter what.

21 "The future. Saffie was a kind, friendly and most  
 22 talented little girl. It may sound like a cliché, but  
 23 the world really was her oyster. Her friends left our  
 24 school in July 2019, moving up to Tarleton Academy,  
 25 which is approximately half a mile away, and we

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1 regularly see those children walking past. Saffie  
 2 should have been and would have been there proudly  
 3 wearing her blazer.

4 "At Christmas, my deputy and I popped into the café  
 5 at Booth's supermarket between various Christmas plays.  
 6 As we walked in, we were warmly greeted by the academy  
 7 choir, which was filled with Saffie's friends excitedly  
 8 telling us about their first term. Saffie should have  
 9 been and would have been there.

10 "We have close contact with our former pupils, such  
 11 is the nature of our school, and it would have been  
 12 likely that Saffie would have been a young sport leader,  
 13 helping out at sporting events that are held across the  
 14 local primary schools.

15 "Each year there is a show hosted by  
 16 Tarleton Academy in which every school from the cluster  
 17 performs with the academy pupils acting as role models.  
 18 I am sure we would have seen Saffie there too. She may  
 19 well have nervously come to see me as a Year 10 pupil to  
 20 ask me if she could do her work experience with us. I,  
 21 of course, would have said yes.

22 "And beyond that, Saffie could have been anything  
 23 she wanted to be career-wise. She was talented and  
 24 driven with a wonderful family behind her. She was  
 25 curious about the world and kind, two lovely qualities,

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1 to do something wonderful and continue to be a fantastic  
 2 human being."

3 "Hi, my name is Lisa Roussos, the proud mummy of  
 4 beautiful Saffie-Rose. Saffie as a little girl was  
 5 gentle and shy yet at the same time she loved to be  
 6 around people, especially friends and family. She was  
 7 a very helpful and pleasing little girl, who loved to  
 8 dance and make people laugh.

9 "Saffie at school. I remember taking Saffie to  
 10 school on her first day. She was very excited now that  
 11 she could go to school with her brother, Xander. I left  
 12 her at school playing happily as I walked away in tears.  
 13 Later that day, as I walked to pick her up, her teacher  
 14 spoke to me and informed me that Saffie had been playing  
 15 dress-up and had lost a shoe. They had looked  
 16 everywhere but couldn't find it, so she came in with one  
 17 shoe. Saffie found it very funny.

18 "As Saffie grew, she became more confident and  
 19 outgoing. She remained very gentle and helpful, always  
 20 giving us cuddles and leaving little notes of 'I love  
 21 you' everywhere. She looked up to big sister, Ashlee,  
 22 and absolutely adored Xander. Once Xander had  
 23 a sleepover at his friend Oliver's house and after we  
 24 dropped him off, she cried all the way home.

25 "She was a sensitive soul who loved and gave

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1 generously. She had a way with people, she could engage  
2 with them whoever they were. She could and would talk  
3 to people and have their complete attention, all the  
4 time being her gentle, funny self, almost animated. She  
5 had this amazing, magnetic personality that drew people  
6 to her of all ages and I would just watch with wonder.

7 "I remember being in Croatia on holiday and we were  
8 staying on a local resort. We had a meal in the busy  
9 restaurant and Saffie wanted dessert. We looked over at  
10 the dessert table and there was a long queue. Saffie  
11 stood up and walked to the front of the queue. She  
12 looked up at the man behind her and gave him the biggest  
13 smile. He returned her smile with first a smile and  
14 then a laugh. Other people in the line began to laugh  
15 too. Saffie had an infectious smile that she would  
16 share often. She was a beautiful soul, one I had never  
17 known before.

18 "She was special and I understood this the moment  
19 she was born. Saffie's school has a heritage plaque for  
20 her and a stage. Her teacher asked me for three words  
21 to describe her. How do you find three words to  
22 describe somebody like Saffie? It's impossible.

23 "You had to meet her to know who she was. She was  
24 8 years old, yet she felt empathy and pain for others.  
25 She was clever and imaginative, she was bright and

1 beautiful, funny and kind. She was enthusiastic about  
2 everything. She lit up any room and was so very  
3 precious. We settled in the end for 'beautiful',  
4 'captivating' and 'kind', with contributions from her  
5 friends.

6 "Saffie was a very energetic little girl who loved  
7 dancing and gymnastics. She was a natural gymnast and  
8 would constantly be doing different routines. She was  
9 very active and would always be riding her bike or her  
10 scooter or doing 200 jumps on her pogo stick. More than  
11 once we caught her climbing up the telegraph pole  
12 outside the shop.

13 "Saffie found joy in everything that she did. She  
14 didn't like people being sad and would do her best to  
15 make everyone laugh with success. She loved school and  
16 her friends, she loved her family and she loved to  
17 entertain and make people smile. She was a pure,  
18 gentle, beautiful soul who touched people's hearts with  
19 her kindness and infected people with her smile. She  
20 would never walk past a homeless person without giving  
21 them money and a smile. It was just her way. She would  
22 smile at strangers and they would smile back. The world  
23 was a joyous and happy place for Saffie with so much to  
24 offer and in turn she had so much to offer the world.

25 "To say our lives now are completely devastated is

1 an understatement. Saffie completed our family and was  
2 a huge part of it, the leader of it, you might say,  
3 always taking centre stage with her beautiful smile.

4 "The day I woke up from the coma, Andrew held my  
5 hand and looked up at me. I instantly knew. 'Saffie  
6 has gone, hasn't she?' and he replied, 'Yes'. I cried  
7 and begged and pleaded with him to let me die too.  
8 'I can look after her', I cried.

9 "I did die that day. Inside I'm dead. My heart is  
10 so heavy, it weighs me down. I've still got my part to  
11 play in my family. I'm a wife and a mother and I have  
12 to be there for Andrew, Ashlee and Xander. When my  
13 children are grown and have their own families and  
14 I have fulfilled my role as a mother, I'll be with my  
15 little Saffie again.

16 "I'm so desperate to hold her close and smell her  
17 hair and to feel her cheek on mine. My precious baby  
18 girl."

19 ANDREW ROUSSOS: Sir, could I just say something before  
20 I finish?

21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Of course.

22 ANDREW ROUSSOS: I just feel I need to say a couple of  
23 words.

24 Sir, with the highest respect, I feel I need to say  
25 this. What we're all going through, the failures we are

1 all listening to and the excuses we will all sit through  
2 needs to stop. Enough is enough, sir. At present in  
3 2020, if we are still learning lessons, then nothing  
4 will ever change.

5 The biggest lesson and wake-up call should have come  
6 from 7/7 and 9/11. Saffie's life is not a practice  
7 exercise for the security services or the emergency  
8 services. Lessons should have already been learned and  
9 in place.

10 Sir, with the greatest respect, thank you.

11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

12 It's very difficult to say anything after those  
13 tributes. But can I say, thank you to Andrew and Ashlee  
14 for reading them, those moving tributes, and to all  
15 those on the video who have given equally moving  
16 tributes.

17 Andrew, you described Saffie as your star, and from  
18 all we have heard, you were right to describe her  
19 in that way: she was a star. Her death and the manner  
20 of it has been and still is devastating to her family  
21 and friends, and we do understand that. Her star will  
22 continue to live in your hearts. For the rest of us,  
23 the star that was Saffie has stopped and we are all the  
24 losers for it.

25 Mr Greaney.

1 MR GREANEY: Sir, would you now, please, rise, and we will  
 2 return to the hearing room at 1 pm?  
 3 (12.11 pm)  
 4 (A short break)  
 5 (1.00 pm)  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.  
 7 MR GREANEY: Sir, thank you.  
 8 This is the pen portrait of Elaine McIver prepared  
 9 by her partner, Paul Price. Paul is present in the  
 10 hearing room alongside me, along with Jo Doyle, a family  
 11 friend, and Jo's husband, Charlie.  
 12 Jo worked alongside Elaine as a police officer and  
 13 had known her for 17 years and she will read Paul's  
 14 tribute to Elaine. In the background, as she does so,  
 15 a collage of photographs will play.  
 16 Sir, at this stage I'm going to invite Jo to stand  
 17 when she's ready and, before she starts to read the  
 18 statement, I'll ask Mr Wilson to please start the  
 19 collage of photographs.  
 20 Pen portrait of ELAINE McIVER  
 21 JO DOYLE: I am lucky enough to say that Elaine was my best  
 22 friend. The words that I'm about to read, though, are  
 23 not mine. They are from Elaine's partner, Paul Price.  
 24 They are all his words and it is clear that they come  
 25 from the heart. I only hope that I can do them justice,

1 for Paul and for Elaine. Paul's words are as follows:  
 2 "These are the hardest and most heartbreaking words  
 3 I will ever write. I know that words will never be  
 4 enough to convey my feelings. Quite simply, there are  
 5 no words. So this is the pen portrait for my partner,  
 6 the love of my life, Elaine McIver, who was murdered  
 7 during a terrorist attack on Monday, 22 May 2017 at the  
 8 Manchester Evening News Arena. I was also seriously  
 9 injured during the attack and I am still recovering from  
 10 my injuries.  
 11 "This statement is intended to paint a picture of  
 12 Elaine, show what type of person she was, how we met,  
 13 the life we had together and the future we had planned.  
 14 "Elaine and I met in 2014, through mutual friends on  
 15 a blind date. I have previously been married and have  
 16 two children, Miles and Gabrielle. Elaine hadn't been  
 17 married and didn't have any children from previous  
 18 relationships. We came together because of our love of  
 19 music. I love music and love going to concerts. If  
 20 there was a concert I fancied going to, I would often  
 21 buy two tickets in advance in the hope that by the time  
 22 the show came around I had met somebody and we could go  
 23 together.  
 24 "I had bought two tickets to see the Human League  
 25 and, as the date for the concert was approaching, I was

1 in contact with a friend called Joanne and asked if she  
 2 would like to come along with me. She declined as she  
 3 was not into music that much, but I wondered if she knew  
 4 anyone who might want to come along with me as I had the  
 5 spare ticket. Joanne mentioned this to her friend,  
 6 Laura, who was a work colleague of Elaine's. Elaine was  
 7 single and also had a love of music. Between them they  
 8 thought it would be good to introduce Elaine and I, not  
 9 just to go to the concert but also because we were both  
 10 single and shared that interest in music.  
 11 "Laura mentioned the show to Elaine and Elaine  
 12 agreed to go. I thought it would be good if we met up  
 13 and introduced ourselves before the concert. We  
 14 arranged to meet at Liverpool One for a coffee late one  
 15 afternoon. I am from Liverpool and I just presumed that  
 16 Elaine was also from Liverpool. I knew that Elaine was  
 17 a serving police officer so I just assumed that she  
 18 worked for Merseyside Police. I had no idea how the  
 19 date was going to go, so once the date and time were set  
 20 up, I arranged to go from the coffee shop on to a yoga  
 21 session just in case the date wasn't going too well and  
 22 I had a get-out clause.  
 23 "Elaine and I met at Starbucks for coffee and we got  
 24 along just great, but I had the yoga session booked so  
 25 I told her I only had an hour before I had to make my

1 way to the session. Unbeknown to me, Elaine had driven  
 2 from Warrington to meet me. I only found that out  
 3 during the concert, but when I found out I felt awful.  
 4 I now know that Elaine was not best pleased about it  
 5 either.  
 6 "When I first met Elaine, I really liked her. She  
 7 had a lovely, pretty face and a great personality too.  
 8 We got on really well during the coffee date and I was  
 9 a bit annoyed with myself that I'd actually booked the  
 10 yoga session and could only stay for the hour,  
 11 especially when I found out that Elaine had travelled  
 12 from Warrington. I lived only a few miles outside  
 13 Liverpool city centre so I didn't have far to go home  
 14 and I just presumed Elaine was the same.  
 15 "I can't remember the exact date I first met Elaine,  
 16 I'm rubbish with dates because I keep everything in  
 17 a diary, so I don't really need to remember, but Elaine  
 18 would know the date: she had a fantastic memory and  
 19 retained lots of detail. I can only assume that the  
 20 concert was in or around October 2014 and I recall that  
 21 we would have initially met maybe 2 weeks before the  
 22 show.  
 23 "After the first coffee we went on to speak a few  
 24 times on the telephone and arranged to meet up and have  
 25 a meal on the night of the concert at a restaurant

1 nearby on Hope Street. This was the second time I'd met  
2 Elaine. I don't recall the name of the restaurant but  
3 it was just around the corner from the Philharmonic Hall  
4 where the concert was being performed. On that evening  
5 Elaine picked me up in her car. The meal was excellent,  
6 the meal was lovely. There was no awkwardness and  
7 I just felt at ease being in her company. As we spoke  
8 we realised that we both shared so much in common. We  
9 both shared a love of music and enjoyed going to  
10 concerts. The conversations just flowed. The show was  
11 great and all in all it was a lovely, enjoyable evening.

12 "After the concert we spoke on the telephone many  
13 times. I'd purchased two tickets for another show to  
14 see The Who at the Echo Arena; again Elaine accompanied  
15 me. We had another lovely evening and we went for  
16 a meal at East is East before the show. After the  
17 concert, we went to a bar in the Albert Dock.  
18 I remember being in the bar looking at Elaine and  
19 thinking, you look beautiful, and before I could think,  
20 I said it out loud, which is so unlike me. It was while  
21 in the bar I knew that I was very much falling in love  
22 with her. Later in our relationship, Elaine mentioned  
23 it to me and said that it meant a lot to her.

24 "By now I knew that Elaine wasn't from Liverpool,  
25 and she didn't work for Merseyside Police. She was

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1 a police officer but she worked for Cheshire Police.  
2 Elaine lived by herself in Frodsham and she invited me  
3 over to her house the following weekend and cooked  
4 a meal for us both. Shortly afterwards we both started  
5 seeing each other regularly. She would come to my  
6 house -- I was living with my mum and dad at their house  
7 at the time -- and in turn I would visit her at home,  
8 and this went on for about two or three months.

9 "During our conversations, we both established that  
10 we were very alike and had quite a lot in common. We  
11 had both been emotionally hurt in past relationships and  
12 although we were both looking for somebody to settle  
13 down with, we were both reluctant and were very much  
14 afraid as we didn't want to be hurt again.

15 "Although I was living back with my parents, I was  
16 also in a position to buy a property in my name. I was  
17 looking for an apartment or something similar in  
18 Liverpool. I initially thought that I wasn't ready to  
19 live with somebody; I was simply looking for  
20 companionship, someone who I could spend time with, stay  
21 over at each other's houses, and go on holiday together,  
22 but at the same time be separate and have our own  
23 properties.

24 "I had a conversation with Elaine and told her what  
25 my thoughts were. Elaine agreed and said she had

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1 exactly the same views. However, no sooner had we had  
2 that conversation, we both started to think some more  
3 about it. I remember Elaine asking me if I would like  
4 to move in with her as it was silly for us both to have  
5 a house with the costs and live quite a distance away  
6 from each other. We might as well live together, and  
7 I agreed.

8 "So around March/April of the following year, 2015,  
9 I moved in with Elaine. I must admit when I first moved  
10 in with Elaine, I struggled to live in Frodsham. I'm  
11 from Liverpool, a big city. All my family and friends  
12 live there, my work was there too. To me, Frodsham was  
13 in the middle of nowhere and I used to tell Elaine that.  
14 She used to laugh, she would say it wasn't, but Elaine  
15 had lived there for several years so she was used to  
16 driving everywhere. To me, just crossing the  
17 Runcorn-Widnes bridge was a nightmare and outside of my  
18 comfort zone initially.

19 "When I first moved to Frodsham I didn't know  
20 anyone, I didn't know any of the neighbours and it was  
21 initially a struggle, a significant change and  
22 everything was so unfamiliar. There was even a time  
23 when I thought for a few weeks that I didn't want to be  
24 living in Frodsham as I missed Liverpool and my family  
25 and friends.

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1 "However, I knew that I wanted to be with Elaine and  
2 this was the whole reason I was there. After a few  
3 weeks, I settled in and enjoyed living with Elaine in  
4 Frodsham. I made friends and became familiar with the  
5 life outside of Liverpool.

6 "Our love of music is what first brought Elaine and  
7 I together. During our time together we enjoyed going  
8 to lots of concerts. Some evenings Elaine and I would  
9 just sit on the sofa and listen to music all night.  
10 Even though we both loved music, Elaine liked some types  
11 of music that I didn't and vice versa, but we'd happily  
12 listen to each other's choice of music even if it wasn't  
13 to our taste.

14 "Elaine and I enjoyed going on weekends away. She  
15 would plan everything. Sometimes we would go and visit  
16 Elaine's best friend, Jo, who lived in Norfolk, and stay  
17 over at her house for a couple of days. Jo used to work  
18 with Elaine earlier in their careers for Cheshire Police  
19 and they'd known each other for years. Jo has since  
20 moved to a different force and has a young son called  
21 Ollie. Elaine is Ollie's godmother.

22 "Elaine wasn't a fan of gardening or that kind of  
23 thing, but if it needed doing we would spend the weekend  
24 doing it together as we enjoyed having a lovely garden  
25 but not necessarily the gardening.

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1 "Elaine had a big circle of friends , she had friends  
 2 from college , work, and also from the Frodsham area.  
 3 She was very well thought of and liked by all . She had  
 4 a warm and friendly personality . One of Elaine 's  
 5 friends , Karen, moved to Frodsham after Elaine did so  
 6 they could be close together . If Elaine and I ever went  
 7 out around Frodsham everyone used to stop and chat with  
 8 her and I was continually saying, 'Who's that?' Elaine  
 9 knew so many people from work, she would stop and talk  
 10 to everybody. That was what I loved about her .

11 "Elaine is originally from Ellesmere Port and she  
 12 moved to Frodsham from there when she got her job with  
 13 Cheshire Police . Elaine 's family still reside in  
 14 Ellesmere Port and she would visit her parents regularly  
 15 each week and, on occasion , visit her sister and two  
 16 nieces .

17 "Elaine and I spent many weekends away together,  
 18 visiting the Lake District , and to London for my  
 19 birthday and concerts . We loved travelling but equally  
 20 loved spending our weekends together, snuggled up on the  
 21 couch . We couldn't have been happier .

22 "During our time together , we had two holidays  
 23 abroad . I remember saying to Elaine before our first  
 24 holiday to Tenerife that it was going to be the best  
 25 holiday ever . I just couldn't wait and was very

1 excited . Although I very much hoped it would be the  
 2 best holiday , I guess deep down I didn't believe that  
 3 it would be, but it turned out to be just that .  
 4 Everything about that holiday was just perfect . We were  
 5 so in love and looking back, it was so perfect , it  
 6 almost doesn't seem real now .

7 "I told Elaine when which first met that I had two  
 8 children , Miles and Gabrielle . She was not phased and  
 9 was happy as she loved children , but by her own  
 10 admission, she couldn't eat a whole one . Elaine  
 11 probably met Miles before she met Gabrielle and this  
 12 would have been before I moved in with Elaine . Miles  
 13 was at Keele University and we drove to him and took him  
 14 out for a meal . Elaine and Miles got on excellently .

15 "When Elaine first met Gabrielle , Gabrielle was  
 16 a bit reserved at first . The past 9 years had just been  
 17 Gabrielle and I, and now there was this other person in  
 18 our lives when we were together . Although Gabrielle  
 19 never said anything, she probably felt that her nose was  
 20 being pushed out a little bit by this other person in my  
 21 life . Elaine met Gabrielle when she was about 10 or  
 22 11 years of age . Elaine took to having Gabrielle as  
 23 part of her family and bonded with her very well . She  
 24 eased herself in and was conscious that Gabrielle had  
 25 her mum and Elaine didn't want to impose or overpower

1 her .

2 "If Gabrielle was coming over to spend time with me,  
 3 Elaine was prepared to make herself busy and keep out of  
 4 the way if that was what I wanted, but she was also  
 5 happy to spend time with Gabrielle as she also wanted to  
 6 have a relationship with her and get to know her and so  
 7 we'd often spend time together playing board games or  
 8 whatever Gabrielle wanted .

9 "In the year leading up to Elaine 's death, Elaine  
 10 and Gabrielle were getting along so well . Gabrielle was  
 11 asking Elaine about things such as hair , make-up and  
 12 nails , the sort of things I knew nothing about and  
 13 something that Elaine was interested in too, and they  
 14 were getting along brilliantly .

15 "We all went away at Easter 2017 to North Wales,  
 16 saying in a caravan and we took Gabrielle 's best friend ,  
 17 Macie, with us . It was a Haven holiday and I'd been  
 18 there before so I knew what it was like and I decided to  
 19 book the platinum package as it 's a little nicer and  
 20 away from the hustle and bustle . I didn't tell Elaine  
 21 and I know she was thinking it was a Haven holiday in  
 22 Wales at Easter half-term and we're taking two teenage  
 23 girls . Not her idea of a holiday , but she went with it  
 24 because she knew that I'd love it and it would be a nice  
 25 break for us all .

1 "Elaine told me after the holiday that when we  
 2 pulled up at the reception and there were loads of kids  
 3 running everywhere, she was sat in the car thinking to  
 4 herself : oh God, I've got a week here, I 'll just have to  
 5 put up with it . But as we drove past all the other  
 6 caravans parked a few feet from each other and ended up  
 7 in a beautiful gated area with lovely accommodation  
 8 overlooking the countryside, she had a massive sigh of  
 9 relief . The holiday was brilliant and everyone got on  
 10 so well . It was just what I wanted .

11 "Elaine was such an amazing person, always putting  
 12 others before herself and I wanted her and Gabrielle to  
 13 get along so much . Elaine had the top of her ear  
 14 pierced and Gabrielle was interested in it , asking her  
 15 about it . Gabrielle has decided to get that same  
 16 piercing now that Elaine has passed away . She wanted to  
 17 get it done for Elaine 's funeral but because of where  
 18 the piercing is , she can't have it done until she's  
 19 16 years old .

20 "The impact Elaine had on my parents was incredible .  
 21 Elaine was very much a hug type of person, which is the  
 22 complete opposite of what my dad is . He has never been  
 23 a hugger, but when he met Elaine, whether he wanted  
 24 a hug or not, he was getting one . When I look back,  
 25 I think before I met Elaine I had only ever hugged my



1 dad once. Elaine changed that.  
 2 "My mum, who has recently passed away, had dementia.  
 3 The impact Elaine had on my mum was massive. My mum  
 4 would change when Elaine was in the room. Elaine would  
 5 talk to her, she would take her out for the day, take  
 6 her for coffee or to the local garden centre. They both  
 7 loved her and she was like the daughter they never had.  
 8 "I remember one time my mum asking Elaine's mum,  
 9 Pat, if they could have Elaine as their daughter too.  
 10 Pat said she could be an honorary mum provided they  
 11 could have me as a son too. I think both our parents  
 12 could see just how happy we were now that we had found  
 13 each other.  
 14 "Elaine had a lovely personality. She was always  
 15 sorting things out for everyone or helping them. It was  
 16 like her job was to make other people happy. If there  
 17 was an occasion, a get-together or a party to plan,  
 18 Elaine would sort it out. That was her thing. Plus she  
 19 was very good at it. She always had lots of ideas to  
 20 make things extra special.  
 21 "Elaine had a close circle of girlfriends and they  
 22 would all get away together every so often. Elaine  
 23 would organise everything and plan it and book it. She  
 24 enjoyed organising.  
 25 "Elaine did everything for me too, and she took me

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1 under her wing. She was very thoughtful and bought the  
 2 most thoughtful amazing gifts, not necessarily the most  
 3 expensive ones but Elaine always put a lot of thought  
 4 and effort into them, always choosing something just  
 5 perfect. She was great at picking up on things and  
 6 everything she ever bought me was a wow present.  
 7 "I was 50 years old in June 2017 and Elaine had  
 8 planned a nice gift for my birthday. She was going to  
 9 buy me a personalised registration plate. The September  
 10 registration plate was a 67, which was the year I was  
 11 born, so Elaine spoke about finding a registration  
 12 personal to me. Starting with PP67, the remainder of  
 13 the registration was going to be decided by Elaine.  
 14 Maybe something to do with Liverpool, LFC or the Kop or  
 15 perhaps a band name. Elaine was going to sort all that  
 16 out. However, it never happened and now I'll never know  
 17 what she had lined up for me.  
 18 "As our relationship developed and deepened, the  
 19 conversation turned to moving house and buying  
 20 a property together. We were both so excited at this  
 21 prospect and in no time Elaine had decided to advertise  
 22 her house for sale and we began looking for our dream  
 23 home together. After taking all factors into account,  
 24 we finally decided on buying a property in Widnes. It  
 25 made complete sense to us both and suited our

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1 circumstances until my children had grown up. Widnes  
 2 was closer to Liverpool and suited us for family and  
 3 work commitments.  
 4 "Elaine and I both wanted to live by the sea  
 5 eventually, so when the time was right, we thought we'd  
 6 look to buy somewhere else, either on the Wirral or  
 7 towards Southport, Crosby way, somewhere preferably with  
 8 a sea view, but for the time being we were looking to  
 9 move to Widnes.  
 10 "When I said we were looking, obviously I mean  
 11 Elaine was looking. She was a very organised person in  
 12 all aspects and when she decided she was going to do  
 13 something, that was it, it was planned and done. She  
 14 was always looking at potential houses in Widnes.  
 15 Eventually, she found one she loved and when she showed  
 16 it to me, well, I was blown away. It was lovely, but  
 17 I thought it was too expensive for us to buy, but Elaine  
 18 had her heart set on it. We did our maths, and with the  
 19 sale of Elaine's house, some savings I had, and some  
 20 money from my dad, we could afford our dream home  
 21 together.  
 22 "Then our plans changed from Widnes just being  
 23 a stopgap to it being our forever home. We put in an  
 24 offer for the house, which was declined, and we were  
 25 told someone else was looking at it, and then we had the

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1 mind games and the stress of trying to buy it. I would  
 2 say to Elaine, 'Even if we don't buy this house, as long  
 3 as we are together we will be happy, we'll just be in  
 4 a different house.'  
 5 "Purchasing the house became an obsession. We  
 6 wanted it so much. In the spring of that year we ended  
 7 up just putting in an offer for the asking price. It  
 8 was accepted. We had someone who wanted to buy the  
 9 Frodsham house and we were just so happy. Everything  
 10 was just coming together nicely and it was everything  
 11 that Elaine and I wanted and we couldn't wait to start  
 12 our new life together in our new dream home.  
 13 "We couldn't stop talking about our new house and  
 14 our new future together, what we were going to do, how  
 15 we were going to have the house, with the spare room for  
 16 people to stay over, a room for my children if they came  
 17 to visit and stay. Elaine and I even had our rooms in  
 18 the new house: she had her make-up room with a walk-in  
 19 wardrobe and I had a music room in which to keep my huge  
 20 vinyl collection and music memorabilia. We talked about  
 21 our future together continuously. It was everything we  
 22 both wanted and we couldn't have been happier.  
 23 "My daughter Gabrielle is a massive fan of  
 24 Ariana Grande and I took Gabrielle to see her in 2015.  
 25 That time, I got Gabrielle meet-and-greet tickets.

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1 I knew that she was touring again in 2017, so I got two  
 2 tickets for Gabrielle as a Christmas present. Gabrielle  
 3 decided to take her good friend Macie to the concert.  
 4 On the night of the show, the plan was to take the girls  
 5 to the arena, drop them off, then Elaine and I would  
 6 have an evening in Manchester while the girls were at  
 7 the concert and, once it finished, we'd pick them up and  
 8 take them home again.

9 "On the morning of Monday, 22 May 2017, I dropped  
 10 Elaine off at work. As I was going to be picking her  
 11 straight up from work it was more convenient to do so.  
 12 That afternoon, I collected Gabrielle and her friend,  
 13 Macie, from Liverpool and drove to Warrington to collect  
 14 Elaine from her place of work. We all went into  
 15 Manchester and I parked the car up.

16 "We took the girls to the arena and made sure that  
 17 they got in there safely. Once we got in the arena,  
 18 we'd planned to get Gabrielle a T-shirt before she went  
 19 into the concert, but it was just too busy by the  
 20 merchandise stall, so I told her that I would pick one  
 21 up for her when I collected her later.

22 "I remember it being a beautiful evening and once  
 23 the girls were safely inside the arena, Elaine and  
 24 I just wandered around town for a bit. We found a nice  
 25 little bar and we stopped for a drink and we chatted

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1 about the new house. We left the bar and found  
 2 a Mexican restaurant and had a meal together.

3 "Afterwards, we made our way back to the arena to  
 4 collect the girls. Elaine and I were waiting for the  
 5 girls near to the merchandise stall as I'd just bought  
 6 the T-shirt for Gabrielle as promised.

7 "After the bombing, at first it was hard for me to  
 8 remember the wonderful times I had shared with Elaine  
 9 and the time we'd spent together. It was upsetting for  
 10 me as I would do anything for things to go back to those  
 11 days. But now, as time has passed, and I am beginning  
 12 to cope with the loss of Elaine and process my emotions,  
 13 I truly feel blessed to have those memories, which  
 14 I will always treasure in my heart.

15 "I was incredibly proud of the fact that Elaine was  
 16 a police officer and I told her so. Elaine was also  
 17 proud to be an officer and she loved her job, although  
 18 she never talked about her work with me. She would just  
 19 say, 'It's just a job and it pays the bills'. It's only  
 20 since her death that I have learned she has been given  
 21 several awards for her contribution to policing.

22 "It's hard to describe the effect the bombing has  
 23 had on me. If I took the loss of Elaine out of the  
 24 equation and it was just me with the life-changing  
 25 injuries I have, that alone would be all-consuming.

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1 Because of the loss of Elaine, I can't even start to  
 2 think about me and my injuries. Words can't even begin  
 3 to describe how devastated I am. My whole world has  
 4 been turned upside down. Elaine and I had both just  
 5 found each other, the love of our lives, after years of  
 6 heartache and being alone, and now we had our whole  
 7 future to look forward to. All we did was make plans  
 8 for our future. We'd planned to move to our new house  
 9 that year in the summer of 2017, Elaine was going to  
 10 retire at 55 years of age, after working 30 years for  
 11 Cheshire Police, and we were going to do everything that  
 12 we'd planned and always wanted to do.

13 "We spoke about travelling, maybe spending a few  
 14 months of the year in Spain during the winter. Elaine  
 15 wanted to visit Australia and New Zealand and I wanted  
 16 to take her to see Israel and show her where I used to  
 17 live. We wanted to see America and Canada. The list  
 18 was endless. We wanted to do so much. She was  
 19 everything to me. No one has ever truly understood me  
 20 or known me like Elaine.

21 "For the first and only time in my life, I was able  
 22 to be me. I think everyone puts on different faces with  
 23 different people; I know I do. I'm one person with  
 24 friends, another with family, work colleague, a dad,  
 25 a brother and a son. Being with Elaine, I was able to

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1 be myself. Elaine was able to get me to lower all my  
 2 defences and I was able to show her who I really was.

3 "I loved her unconditionally and gave her the most  
 4 precious thing that I could, knowing that she would keep  
 5 it safe. That was my heart. Elaine was an  
 6 extraordinary person, and everyone who knew her would  
 7 say the same. She just had a way with people. You felt  
 8 that you could open up to her and tell her anything. My  
 9 dad's auntie, who is 99 years old, described Elaine as  
 10 an earth angel that had come into my life, and that is  
 11 precisely what she was, an angel.

12 "I loved Elaine so much. We had our whole future  
 13 ahead of us and we were finally going to live happily  
 14 ever after. Now that that has been so cruelly taken  
 15 away, I don't even know what the future holds for me,  
 16 I don't know if I will work again or where I will live.  
 17 I can't go back to the house we shared. Too many  
 18 memories. The loss of Elaine is unimaginable and  
 19 I don't know what the future will hold for me. I am  
 20 lost and I am alone. In one way, my life ended on that  
 21 night, but I know that Elaine would want me to be happy  
 22 and enjoy life again.

23 "It is so hard to face each day without her, but  
 24 I hope one day to return to work and to try and find  
 25 some happiness again. But I am forever broken-hearted

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1 and the sadness will never go away."  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mrs Doyle.  
 3 I'm confident that Paul is happy that you have done  
 4 justice to his words, so thank you.  
 5 Mr Price, thank you for telling us so eloquently the  
 6 type of person that Elaine was and the life you had with  
 7 her. You have also told us of your plans for the  
 8 future. Tragically, those plans were never to be  
 9 brought to fruition because of the actions of a violent  
 10 criminal, the sort of person who, as a police officer,  
 11 Elaine devoted her working life to protecting the public  
 12 from. Thank you.  
 13 MR GREANEY: Sir, would you now rise, please, and we'll  
 14 return to the hearing at 2.30.  
 15 (1.35 pm)  
 16 (Lunch adjournment)  
 17 (2.30 pm)  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.  
 19 MR GREANEY: Thank you, sir. This is the pen portrait of  
 20 Olivia Campbell-Hardy, known by her mum,  
 21 Charlotte Hodgson, as Ollie, and Charlotte Hodgson is  
 22 the author of the tribute that we are about to hear.  
 23 The family and friends of Ollie are watching the  
 24 proceedings remotely, as Mr Weatherby will explain in  
 25 a few moments, and the pen portrait takes the form of

1 a video in which Ollie's mum gives her tribute to her  
 2 daughter.  
 3 It contains a recording of Ollie singing "On My Own"  
 4 from Les Miserables and singing also "There You'll Be"  
 5 by Faith Hill.  
 6 Before I invite Mr Wilson to play the video, I know  
 7 that Mr Weatherby wishes to address you.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. Mr Weatherby.  
 9 MR WEATHERBY: Thank you. Charlotte, Ollie's mum, very much  
 10 wanted to be in the hearing room for this moment, but  
 11 because of her vulnerabilities to the COVID virus, she's  
 12 not able to be here, and therefore Charlotte is watching  
 13 from home along with Ollie's stepdad, Paul. She's asked  
 14 me to mention a number of people who will be watching:  
 15 Nana and Gramps, Grandma Hilary, Grandad Jack, sister  
 16 Trina, stepbrothers Daniel and Colin, stepsister  
 17 Chelsea, and many other many and friends.  
 18 Charlotte has specifically asked me to say, and  
 19 I quote:  
 20 "We as a family would like to thank the chair for  
 21 making our princess a person and not a number. The  
 22 family hopes and trusts that the way in which the  
 23 families have been engaged in this part of the process  
 24 will continue throughout and at every stage of the  
 25 inquiry."

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. I'm very grateful for those  
 2 words. Thank you, Mr Weatherby.  
 3 MR GREANEY: Sir, I will now ask Mr Wilson to play Charlotte  
 4 Hodgson's tribute to her daughter. {INQ035498/1}.  
 5 Pen portrait of OLIVIA CAMPBELL-HARDY  
 6 "Ollie is my daughter. She would have been 18 years  
 7 old now. She was just 15 years old when she was killed.  
 8 Ollie had an older sister, my first born, Catriona.  
 9 When Ollie was 6 years old I met Paul and they got on  
 10 immediately. Paul's daughter, Chelsea, also lived with  
 11 us. She and Ollie became the best of friends, but were  
 12 also the most strongest sisters.  
 13 "Whilst I was pregnant with Ollie, I felt as if her  
 14 foot was permanently stuck in my ribcage. I said then  
 15 she was going to be the biggest pain in my life. This  
 16 was towards the end of my pregnancy. Instead of being  
 17 fit and well, I was just in pain. I knew she would go  
 18 on to give me hell.  
 19 "Ollie was born 17 days late. She had been due on  
 20 11 November, but was eventually born on the 28th. This  
 21 trend of being late continued all throughout her life.  
 22 She simply wouldn't do anything, not before she was  
 23 ready, so she was late for everything. She would have  
 24 made a great lawyer, though, because she would con you  
 25 and convince you that she was always right about the

1 timing and that you had got it wrong.  
 2 "Throughout her toddler years Olivia and Catriona  
 3 either got on or they didn't. They would fight like cat  
 4 and dog in the house or they would be the best of  
 5 friends, but if they were outside and one of them got  
 6 picked on, by God you'd know about it off the other one.  
 7 They struck together.  
 8 "Ollie was my shadow and I couldn't even have a bath  
 9 without her, go to the toilet, anything. I couldn't get  
 10 her to go to nursery. The only way I could was to agree  
 11 to promise that afterwards, we could sit and watch  
 12 Supermarket Sweep. I hated that programme but she was  
 13 obsessed with it for some reason and this continued on  
 14 to be the start of her shopping addiction.  
 15 "Ollie made lots of friends at nursery, but her best  
 16 friend was one of her teachers called Kerry. She  
 17 absolutely doted on her and Kerry doted back.  
 18 "Olivia's favourite things to do were to dress up  
 19 and drawing. She was always creative and enjoyed  
 20 performing. When Ollie was very young, for some reason  
 21 everyone thought she was a boy. I hated that fact. She  
 22 had really tight curls and it didn't matter what  
 23 I dressed her in, she still looked like a boy. It  
 24 didn't help that she loved nothing more than the rough  
 25 and tumble with the boys and getting muddy. It wasn't

1 until her hair started to grow longer that she started  
 2 to look like a girl . One day I put her in a stripy top  
 3 and dungarees and the photographer turned up at nursery  
 4 and for all the world she looked like a boy. I'd show  
 5 you the picture but Ollie would literally kill me.  
 6 "One year we went to Haven in Blackpool with  
 7 friends . Ollie was about 5. She decided to enter the  
 8 talent competition with her sister and my friend's  
 9 daughter. All three of them had made a dance routine up  
 10 to the Tiger Club song. They came second; Ollie was  
 11 dead proud of herself . She always said she hated being  
 12 the centre of attention , but I could see how much she  
 13 enjoyed herself that night in the limelight .  
 14 "After finishing nursery Ollie went on to St Peter's  
 15 school, which was the same school her sister went to and  
 16 that I had also been to when I was younger. Her first  
 17 few years there were great and she made many friends.  
 18 However, a new headmaster started and she began to hate  
 19 the school .  
 20 "Olivia's sister , Catriona, was about to move to  
 21 high school and Paul's daughter, Chelsea, also living  
 22 with us needed to get into a high school. We wanted  
 23 them to all be in the same school together so they could  
 24 look after each other, so after finding the right one we  
 25 finally moved Ollie to a different primary school which

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1 would eventually take her to the same high school as her  
 2 sisters .  
 3 "Ollie moved to Totty Primary in Year 5. She loved  
 4 it and she thrived . She became a different child . She  
 5 joined the choir, and her education came up. It was the  
 6 best marks she was ever getting . She was a different  
 7 child overnight and was coming home from school so  
 8 happy. The teachers loved her, and when she left they  
 9 didn't want her to go. They all cried .  
 10 "When the time came to leave primary school, there  
 11 was a primary prom. Ollie's favourite colour was blue,  
 12 so she decided that everything had to be blue. And  
 13 I mean everything. She loved blue so much. She had  
 14 this gobstopper once that was blue and it coloured her  
 15 tongue, her fingers , in fact her entire face. She was  
 16 so proud of herself . I managed to get some of the blue  
 17 off her face, but she had to go to school with blue  
 18 fingers and a blue tongue. She said the teachers didn't  
 19 pull her up about it, but she was so cheeky she'd have  
 20 talked her way out of it if she was in trouble .  
 21 "So prom time. She has the blue hair , the blue  
 22 nails , blue dress. Aaron, Ollie's adopted uncle, my  
 23 best friend , dyed the ends of her hair blue. We managed  
 24 to get the school's permission for this , which we were  
 25 quite shocked about because they were quite strict , but

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1 yet again Ollie talked them round.  
 2 "Ollie also had decided on her mode of transport for  
 3 the prom. I'm sat thinking , my God this is going to  
 4 cost me. It turned out that she wanted Paul's brother  
 5 Stephen's blue scooter and that's what she got. The  
 6 school said it had never been done before, but they  
 7 could facilitate it . That was Ollie: always wanting to  
 8 announce that she was going to arrive . Stephen drove  
 9 her in through the school gates, just as a stretch  
 10 Hummer arrived. No one cared about the Hummer,  
 11 everybody turned and was so impressed that this  
 12 11-year-old girl had turned up on the back of a scooter .  
 13 "Ollie had a date for prom called David. Knowing  
 14 Ollie so well , he bought her a prom gift of blue  
 15 earrings . She had a great night and danced her socks  
 16 off. When I went to pick her up, all she wanted was  
 17 a photograph with her three favourite teachers. They  
 18 adored her .  
 19 "Any of the school reports I got for her said she  
 20 was funny and cheeky and that they couldn't shout at her  
 21 because she would make them laugh and she was just  
 22 a pleasure to have .  
 23 "At some stage she went away with the school to  
 24 London and she loved it and she was amazed how different  
 25 it was to her town of Bury. Her teacher called me

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1 whilst she was away, quite concerned at the fact that  
 2 Ollie had had a full conversation during her sleep about  
 3 sausages and handbags, and then had told the teacher to  
 4 eff off but was quite clearly asleep . The teacher was  
 5 in fits but had to let me know about this conversation .  
 6 I just couldn't do anything but laugh because that was  
 7 just Olivia . The conversations we had in her sleep over  
 8 eyelashes and bags and she didn't have any recollection  
 9 of them. It was hilarious .  
 10 "She said she was going to go to London again, but  
 11 she didn't, she never got there. She didn't want to be  
 12 away from me for one. And two, she was too young.  
 13 "Olivia then moved on to Totty High School. She  
 14 loved it there. She did find it hard because there was  
 15 a lot of pupils , but she made lots of friends . She  
 16 thrived , especially with her music. She got so much  
 17 from her lessons and the teacher really invested a lot  
 18 of time into Olivia because he could see how interested  
 19 Olivia was in her music .  
 20 "She really enjoyed being at school and hated having  
 21 to miss it when she was ill . She was never any trouble ,  
 22 except for talking and singing in class .  
 23 "At some point Olivia developed a severe problem  
 24 with her legs , which caused her a lot of pain. The  
 25 muscles weren't growing properly and she had to have

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1 physio to stretch them. At this time Ollie had been  
 2 playing football for Bury Junior Girls. She had to stop  
 3 playing for 18 months because the physio meant she  
 4 wasn't allowed to do certain sports. But Ollie was  
 5 determined. She was going to get her legs right and get  
 6 back to her sports. She had the determination to do it.  
 7 "When she was about 12 years old, the school was  
 8 holding a charity swim gala and Olivia was going to take  
 9 part in that. Even though she was advised by  
 10 specialists, myself, doctors that she wasn't to do it,  
 11 she was so determined and she managed it. The  
 12 headteacher watched the event and told me he was so  
 13 proud of Olivia. Even though she'd had this difficulty,  
 14 she wanted to raise money to help others. When she  
 15 finally climbed out of the pool I could tell she was in  
 16 agony, but she still had that smile on her face because  
 17 she was proud she'd done it. That was Ollie: always  
 18 putting others before herself.  
 19 "Ollie were a funny kid. She would always do things  
 20 purposely to make people laugh. We once had a bag  
 21 in the front room and she was determined she was going  
 22 to fit in it. She didn't; she got her head and top in  
 23 and that was it and she then crawled around the floor  
 24 trying to get the rest of her body in.  
 25 "On other occasions, we decided to go to McDonald's

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1 for food. She got dressed in her onesie, her wellies  
 2 and her coat, but there was no talking her out of it,  
 3 I told her we were staying in and she was determined  
 4 that's what she was going to wear. If that's what she  
 5 wanted, that's what she got. She said, 'Mum, if I can  
 6 make someone smile, then my day's happy.'  
 7 Ollie didn't walk into a room; she made an entrance.  
 8 The door would fling open and standing in the doorway  
 9 and she'd shout, 'Bonjour.' It was her way of saying,  
 10 'I'm here.' She opened the door with such force that  
 11 Paul had to put a doorstop in because we were worried  
 12 she was going to break it.  
 13 "Anything she did, she made funny. We were painting  
 14 the living room one day and the song 'Writing on the  
 15 Wall' by Sam Smith came on the radio. Ollie could sing,  
 16 but she started singing along in this silly voice and  
 17 she changed the words to 'The Paintings on the Wall'.  
 18 All I could do was laugh at her.  
 19 "She was always coming up with something to make  
 20 people laugh and you just had to have your phone  
 21 constantly on and ready to catch her in the act. One  
 22 Easter she'd left her Easter egg in the fridge and it  
 23 was rock solid. So instead of just breaking it on a  
 24 worktop or something, Ollie walked over to Paul, sat  
 25 beside him, waited for him not to look, and whacked it

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1 on Paul's head. The crack was horrendous. But we  
 2 couldn't tell her off because we were all busy laughing.  
 3 It was impossible to be angry with her. All she did was  
 4 make you laugh.  
 5 "One thing Ollie was serious about was her music and  
 6 singing. This was her life. If anyone had taken that  
 7 away from her, her life would have been over. Music or  
 8 make-up or her bed, those were her favourite things.  
 9 "Ollie was good at doing her make-up. She was  
 10 self-taught, watching videos on YouTube. She spent  
 11 hours and hours trying different stuff out. She got me  
 12 mad with it. But she had to have her contouring and her  
 13 eyebrows on fleek. I still don't know what that means,  
 14 but she always said it.  
 15 "Although the school was strict about pupils not  
 16 wearing make-up, Ollie got away with it because she was  
 17 so good at it and you just couldn't tell she had it on  
 18 half the time. Despite her love of make-up, Ollie  
 19 wasn't a girly-girl. She loved her sport and she was  
 20 basically a tomboy in make-up. I remember the first  
 21 time she FaceTimed me, she was at her friend Laura's,  
 22 and I was in shock. Ollie and Laura had been playing  
 23 make-up and had tried to do it like a drag queen.  
 24 I took a photo and Ollie asked me why. I told her  
 25 it would come in handy one day when she turned 18.

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1 I never got the chance.  
 2 "Ollie had really wanted to make music her career,  
 3 either as a singer in the West End or as a music  
 4 teacher. It always had to be about music. She told me  
 5 she was going to be famous one day and get a house in  
 6 New York and she said she wanted me to have a big house  
 7 and a cleaner and someone to do my ironing so I could  
 8 have a break. Her house was going to be decorated with  
 9 llamas and dinosaurs and unicorns. She was a funny  
 10 girl.  
 11 "Ollie had a thing about dinosaurs. She never  
 12 really said, 'I love you' to people. She told us that  
 13 in dinosaur language 'roar' means 'I love you', so she  
 14 would come up and just say, 'Roar, mum', and that was  
 15 her way of saying that she loved me.  
 16 "Olivia's other favourite TV programme was  
 17 Judge Rinder. He would do his thing and would put his  
 18 hand up and say, 'Talking', if someone tried to  
 19 interrupt him and she would do a great impression of  
 20 him. Olivia learned to do the song 'On My Own' from  
 21 Les Mis. The song contains a line, 'I'm talking to  
 22 myself but not to him.' Every time that line came on,  
 23 she couldn't keep her face straight and she would always  
 24 revert to Judge Rinder's impression for the word  
 25 talking, but then seamlessly go back to the beautiful

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1 love song.  
 2 "When Olivia was 12, she sang at my mum's wedding.  
 3 She stood up in front of 150 people and sung "All of Me"  
 4 by John Legend, completely a cappella. All night people  
 5 were coming up to me saying there hadn't been a dry eye  
 6 in the house, grown men crying over an 11-year-old's  
 7 voice and how beautiful it was. The pride I felt in her  
 8 was only matched by the pride she rightfully felt in  
 9 herself.  
 10 "Ollie had too much to give. She had her whole life  
 11 ahead of her. With her determination, she would have  
 12 accomplished whatever she set out to achieve. She put  
 13 100% into everything, but she always did it with a smile  
 14 on her face. She'd have made people laugh. She just  
 15 wanted everyone to be happy.  
 16 "Ollie made an impact on everyone she met. My best  
 17 friend Aaron said:  
 18 "Ollie was the perfect annoying little  
 19 sister /daughter/niece/friend anyone could ask for. She  
 20 was passionate about everything she put her mind to and  
 21 knew just what to say in every situation, even if it was  
 22 to be said in a silly way. No one will come close to  
 23 that girl. She was and she will always be in my heart.  
 24 Olivia, I miss you, love Uncle Aaron.'  
 25 My mum Ruth, Ollie's nana, said:

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1 "Ollie, to miss you would be an understatement.  
 2 You know that as I tell you every day, the one thing you  
 3 can't tell me is what boy it is this week, but I dare  
 4 say you're telling your grandad or should I say bugging  
 5 your grandad. You can't sit on my sofa on your phone,  
 6 headphones in, and say, "You all right, nana?" And  
 7 I would say, "Yes", and you would say, "I love you", or  
 8 you would just say, "Roar", and I would just say,  
 9 "I love you too, baby girl." It's strange you not  
 10 telling me what you want for your birthday from January  
 11 to October and Christmas from September. You were  
 12 funny, loving, smiley and also a pain in the neck when  
 13 you had one of your moods on. But that's what made you  
 14 you.  
 15 "You would have loved your niece, Piper Olivia.  
 16 She was named after you. She's a star. I bet you have  
 17 a laugh when you're watching her. Well, baby girl,  
 18 I could go on and on about what I miss about you, but  
 19 I expect you have to go and sing with the other angels,  
 20 so for now, until we have our little chats, I will say  
 21 I love you and look after that piece of heart you took  
 22 from me with you. Hold it tight and you will know I'm  
 23 always with you and you are always with me.'  
 24 "Since Olivia's gone, the laughter's left us too.  
 25 I tell a story and expect to hear her laugh but there's

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1 just silence. I'm never going to hear her laugh again.  
 2 The house is silent. It could be full of people, but  
 3 there's a silence and an emptiness that can't be  
 4 explained because that was only filled by you. The fun  
 5 and the laughter has gone with you. We sit in the  
 6 living room and every now and again the door will fling  
 7 open and we know it's you. I never believed in anything  
 8 like that but it's your way of saying hello. Her way of  
 9 saying bonjour and Olivia's way of saying roar.  
 10 "With all her funny ways, Olivia also hated odd  
 11 numbers. If the volume on the TV was 11, she would turn  
 12 it to 10. When she died, she was given a body number.  
 13 She was number 5. She would have hated that. Being an  
 14 odd number, whoever gave her that number is surely being  
 15 haunted by her. Olivia is not a number. To the world  
 16 she is one of the 22 angels, not to me. She is Ollie,  
 17 she will never be just a number.  
 18 "Ollie was a 15-year-old girl, she had her whole  
 19 life ahead of her. She got to meet her first nephew  
 20 Thomas, who was born just days before she died, but she  
 21 never got to meet Piper Olivia, but Piper is a mini  
 22 Olivia. Even her due date was 22 May. Piper has  
 23 definitely got Ollie's attitude and flings the door open  
 24 in the same way. I tell Catriona all the time, 'God  
 25 help you.' Olivia would have loved Piper and she would

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1 have spoiled Thomas and Piper rotten.  
 2 "Ollie, my princess, I miss you so much. You were  
 3 special, or speckle, as you would say. You know we love  
 4 you so. I will simply say, 'Roar from mummy'.  
 5 "This is Ashley Rowe, Ollie's 10-year-old niece and  
 6 this is what she wrote:  
 7 "When I was sad, she was always there. When my  
 8 world was dark, she stood by me and lit it up again.  
 9 She was understanding of my problems and she was the  
 10 only one I could trust with my feelings and emotions.  
 11 She dreamed to be a singer. She made the world a better  
 12 place for me. She was my world. When she went, my  
 13 world went dark. I'm nothing without her. All of me  
 14 loves all of you.'  
 15 "And she does."  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Weatherby, I am very grateful to  
 17 Olivia's mother Charlotte for helping me and all of us  
 18 get to know her daughter. This has been a very  
 19 important process for me and for all of us involved with  
 20 the inquiry. Neither Olivia, nor any of those who died,  
 21 are or will be simply numbers to us. And with her  
 22 determination and sense of humour, Olivia would have  
 23 made a success of a life in music or in anything else  
 24 she chose to do. Thank you.  
 25 MR GREANEY: Sir, that completes those pen portraits that

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1 we were due to hear today. So we will now invite you to  
2 rise , please , and we'll resume tomorrow morning at 9.30.

3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

4 (2.58 pm)

5 (The inquiry adjourned until 9.30 am on  
6 Wednesday, 23 September 2020)

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I N D E X

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