

OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 6

September 16, 2020

Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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1 Wednesday, 16 September 2020
 2 (9.30 am)
 3 MR GREANEY: Sir, this is the pen portrait of Angelika and
 4 Marcin Klis prepared by their daughters Aleksandra,
 5 known as Alex, and Patrycja. Alex and Patrycja are
 6 watching the proceedings remotely and, as everyone will
 7 appreciate, they have their parents very much in their
 8 thoughts today.
 9 Victoria Higgins, the family solicitor, will read
 10 out the tribute to Angelika and Marcin. As she does so,
 11 a photograph will be displayed on the screen. It is
 12 a photograph of Angelika and Marcin taken on the evening
 13 of 22 May 2017 by the Corn Exchange, adjacent to
 14 Victoria Railway Station, as they waited in Manchester
 15 to pick up their daughters.
 16 Mr Wilson, would you please display that photograph
 17 on the screen.
 18 I will now invite Victoria to read the tribute.
 19 Pen portrait of ANGELIKA and MARCIN KLIS
 20 VICTORIA HIGGINS: Our mum and dad were born in Slawno,
 21 Poland, and they both grew up in Darlowo, Poland.
 22 I don't know a lot about their upbringing or education,
 23 but I remember mum telling me that she studied economics
 24 at college.
 25 I'm not sure how my parents met but they met in the

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1 early 90s and fell in love. They got married in 1996 in
 2 Poland and then they went on to have me in 1997 and my
 3 sister, Patrycja, in 2003.
 4 Mum worked as a cleaner in Poland and dad was
 5 a postman. Dad moved to England in 2004. When he first
 6 arrived, he worked as a courier, he then worked at
 7 Tesco. For the last 4 to 5 years of his life he worked
 8 as a taxi driver in York. In 2007, we all moved to
 9 York.
 10 Mum initially worked as a cleaner in a hotel and
 11 when we moved to York, she became a customer services
 12 assistant for Tesco, where she worked for 10 years up
 13 until she died.
 14 Mum liked to watch films and her favourite thing was
 15 sunbathing. She would be out in the garden trying to
 16 get a suntan even if it was just slightly sunny. She
 17 was our best friend. We liked to do a lot together.
 18 We'd go shopping and go for massages.
 19 Dad liked photography and rock music. They both
 20 liked to travel. We would all go back to Poland once or
 21 twice a year as well as going on holidays to other
 22 countries. More recently, we went to Rome and to Egypt.
 23 Every few weeks they planned a family day because
 24 spending time with us is what made them both happy.
 25 We would head off to theme parks, go on hiking trips,

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1 meals out or holidays. We enjoyed every minute of time
 2 we spent together.
 3 Mum and dad's love was incredibly strong, something
 4 we should all aspire for in life. They were so in love,
 5 as if they were teenagers without a care in the world.
 6 But most of all, they were happy. They were soulmates
 7 and they didn't want to be without each other.
 8 Mum and dad were amazing parents, great friends and
 9 kind people. They did everything in their power to
 10 ensure we had everything we wanted and more. They would
 11 always put our needs before their own.
 12 Losing our mum and dad and the pain and the loss
 13 that we feel is so hard to explain. Our lives have
 14 completely changed and it is now just the two of us.
 15 I've had to grow up quite quickly and deal with things
 16 that I never imagined I would ever have to deal with.
 17 We are completely devastated by what has happened and
 18 our lives have been turned completely upside down.
 19 I don't know how else to describe it.
 20 We think of our parents all the time. They are
 21 never out of our thoughts. We haven't just lost our
 22 parents, but we have lost our best friends and
 23 protectors.
 24 Aleksandra and Patrycja.
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ms Higgins. Can I say to

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1 Aleksandra and Patrycja, through you, I am grateful, as
 2 we all are, for that picture of their parents that they
 3 have given to us and also for describing to us the
 4 effect of their death on them at such young ages and to
 5 assure them that we all feel for their loss.
 6 MR GREANEY: Sir, thank you very much. We'll now rise and
 7 return at 10.30 when we'll hear the first of two pen
 8 portraits about Lisa Lees.
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 10 (9.40 am)
 11 (A short break)
 12 (10.30 am)
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.
 14 MR GREANEY: Thank you, sir.
 15 This is the pen portrait of Lisa Lees prepared by
 16 her husband, Anthony Lees, and daughter, India. Anthony
 17 is present in the hearing room and India is viewing the
 18 proceedings remotely.
 19 Shane Smith will read a tribute to Lisa prepared by
 20 Anthony, and Victoria Higgins will then read a tribute
 21 to Lisa prepared by India and I will call on each of
 22 them in turn at the appropriate moment.
 23 A presentation of photographs will be played in the
 24 background as the statements are read. And as usual, if
 25 the reading of the statements takes a shorter time than

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1 the presentation , the presentation will be played to its
 2 conclusion . So Mr Wilson, would you please begin the
 3 presentation ?
 4 I will now call on Shane to read the tribute
 5 prepared by Anthony.
 6 Pen portrait of LISA LEES
 7 SHANE SMITH: Lisa Lees was born in Oldham on 21 March 1974.
 8 Lisa didn't have a middle name but would always say that
 9 her name was Lisa Madonna after her favourite pop star .
 10 Lisa's parents were Ivan and Elaine Hunter and Lisa
 11 also has a younger brother called Lee.
 12 Lisa attended Royton and Crompton School from 1985
 13 through to 1990.
 14 On 5 August 1992, Lisa gave birth to her first
 15 daughter Lauren Ashleigh Lees, who is now 29 years old .
 16 Two years later , Lisa and I were to meet at a nightclub
 17 in Huddersfield . I was 25 years old and Lisa was 20.
 18 A short while after this , Lisa moved in with me in
 19 Royton. On 29 October 1999, Lisa gave me the great
 20 honour of becoming my wife and we got married at a place
 21 in Denshaw, Saddleworth, called La Pergola. It was
 22 around that time that we had bought our first house
 23 together on Mellalieu Street .
 24 On 1 April 2002, our daughter India Ayesha Lees was
 25 born.

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1 Around 2007, Lisa started working at a beauty salon
 2 and started attending Oldham College on a day release
 3 basis where she obtained level 2 and level 3 in beauty
 4 therapy. From what I understand, level 1 was basic ;
 5 Lisa went straight to level 2.
 6 During her time at college Lisa learned all beauty
 7 skills plus holistic massage, which took Lisa in
 8 a direction where she started her own business called
 9 Pure Essence. Lisa used oils to massage terminally ill
 10 children and children who were basically at the end of
 11 their life . The feedback Lisa got from the families was
 12 fantastic . The children's behaviour and sleeping was at
 13 a much more relaxed level from which the families
 14 benefited and Lisa got a lot of joy and satisfaction
 15 from this .
 16 Lisa was a true angel, caring and beautiful , both
 17 inside and out. In 2012, Lisa's business was recognised
 18 by the Federation of Holistic Therapists and won an
 19 award for excellence in practice , to which we all
 20 attended a presentation night at St Paul's Hotel in
 21 London. We were all so proud of Lisa for what she had
 22 achieved .
 23 After a few years , Lisa decided to attend
 24 Huddersfield University at the Oldham Centre. During
 25 this time Lisa obtained a postgraduate certificate of

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1 education in order to teach beauty therapy. Once Lisa
 2 finished her course, we attended a graduation ceremony
 3 at Huddersfield University . Lisa wore a gown and mortar
 4 board. We were all so proud of what she had achieved
 5 and of course so was Lisa .
 6 In true Lisa style , she put 110% into her work. The
 7 students in her class would always phone Lisa up and be
 8 asking for help about the work that they were doing .
 9 Lisa would always assist in any way she could. That was
 10 just the fantastic caring nature of Lisa .
 11 A short time after this , Lisa worked at
 12 Oldham College where she would teach beauty therapy and
 13 train students at a shop called Salon 7. Here students
 14 would practice their beauty therapy treatments on
 15 members of the public under Lisa's supervision and with
 16 her training .
 17 Lisa was such a positive person and was always
 18 telling our two girls that they could achieve anything
 19 in life if they put the time and effort into it , like
 20 Lisa did. They and I wouldn't be the people we are
 21 today without Lisa's guidance. Lisa was the heart and
 22 soul of our family , ensuring that everything ran
 23 smoothly on a daily basis .
 24 Lisa enjoyed walking. Luckily for us we lived near
 25 a park called Tandle Hills and over the years spent

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1 a lot of time there with our dogs, family and friends .
 2 A Japanese blossom tree has been planted nearby so
 3 we can go and remember those happy times we all had with
 4 Lisa .
 5 Whenever Lisa had some free time she enjoyed going
 6 out for lunch with family or friends . Lisa also loved
 7 going into Manchester and eating out at different
 8 restaurants . One of her favourites was Spanish tapas,
 9 and we were led to believe she went to Evuna's tapas bar
 10 in Manchester's Northern Quarter on 22 May before the
 11 concert .
 12 Along with going out came the new outfits and Lisa
 13 absolutely adored to shop for clothes . She could spend
 14 all day walking around Manchester in and out of shops.
 15 And one of Lisa's favourite shops was Karen Millen .
 16 Lisa would try on a dress and ask me what I thought.
 17 She would always look absolutely amazing, as she always
 18 did .
 19 A few minutes later , the shop assistant would come
 20 over with the bag and shoes to match and, Lisa being
 21 Lisa , she would buy the dress , shoes and bag with no
 22 hesitation . Always get what you want in life , she used
 23 to say. Lisa was the type of lady who looked her best
 24 100% of the time, whether it was work or pleasure .
 25 Lisa enjoyed music and, as I mentioned earlier , her

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1 idol growing up was Madonna, hence the name Lisa Madonna
2 Lees. Lisa also loved dance music. She enjoyed going
3 to the clubs while she was growing up and if Lisa was in
4 a club or pub or anybody's house for that matter, Lisa
5 one getting the party going and would be dancing the
6 night away, enjoying and loving every minute.

7 Not only did Lisa put 100% into her work, she also
8 did with her daughters India and Lauren, and her
9 grandson Jayden. Sadly, Lisa never got to meet her
10 second grandson who was born in December 2017.

11 If I could describe Lisa in a short paragraph,
12 it would be that she was the most caring and loving
13 person, someone who was self-driven by a passion to
14 always succeed and achieve her goal in life no matter
15 how hard.

16 Lisa loved the social side of life and made many
17 friends throughout life. Lisa was great to be around.
18 She was funny, exciting, full of laughter, full of life,
19 and enjoyed every minute. She was the most positive and
20 definitely the most beautiful person I have ever met.

21 Lisa had so much more to give in life and if she was
22 still here she would have had such a big impact on many
23 more people's lives. Lisa will be missed and always
24 loved by anyone who had the pleasure of meeting such
25 a wonderful, beautiful, caring and special person.

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1 I will always love you and cherish the memories and
2 the 23 years that we had together. Anthony.

3 MR GREANEY: Sir, I'll now ask Victoria to read India's
4 tribute to her mother.

5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

6 VICTORIA HIGGINS: My mum was the most beautiful, selfless
7 and positive person I knew. She always helped me with
8 everything from my school work to helping me with my
9 nails and make-up and helping me choose the best outfits
10 to wear. She was obsessed with shopping.

11 We always did everything together. She was my best
12 friend. Whenever we went shopping, we would always go
13 to Starbucks and share a lemon drizzle cake. I would
14 have a hot chocolate and mum always had a cappuccino.

15 She always told me and my sister that we could
16 achieve anything if we put our minds to it and to always
17 believe. Without her, I would not have achieved so much
18 and become the person I am today.

19 I am so proud of everything that my mum achieved
20 throughout her life and I aspire to be just like her
21 when I grow up. She was so hardworking and caring. My
22 mum was always singing and dancing, making every
23 situation fun. I still remember all of her favourite
24 songs and riddles that her grandma and grandad sung to
25 her when she was a little girl.

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1 Mum always called me Noodle and I called her Moomin,
2 they were our nicknames for each other.

3 Mum was so beautiful and glamorous. All of my
4 friends always complimented her and said she looked so
5 much younger than she was. Her smile and her laugh lit
6 up any room and she will always be loved by so many
7 people.

8 Mum loved nature and animals. Whenever we would go
9 for a walk in Tandle Hills, mum would always point out
10 the butterflies, she loved them. Mum's favourite season
11 was autumn as she said she loved the sound of the leaves
12 crunching beneath her feet.

13 When I was 13 years old, we got a bulldog called
14 Buddy. He was so naughty. It was so funny watching my
15 mum chase him as he would steal her hairbrush.

16 On rainy days, me and my mum would always have
17 a snuggle day where we would stay in our PJs, get our
18 favourite sweets and chocolates, and watch films all
19 day. We both loved horror films and The Wizard of Oz.

20 At first, I felt very lost without my mum and
21 knowing that my best friend wouldn't be able to see me
22 achieve things through life, but I know that my mum will
23 always be looking down on us. I love and miss her so
24 much and I always will and I will think about her lots
25 and lots every day.

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1 MR GREANEY: Sir, we will keep the presentation on the
2 screen and view it to the end, as I indicated we would.
3 (Pause)

4 Thank you very much, Mr Wilson.

5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Smith, Ms Higgins, thank you very
6 much.

7 It is clear that Lisa had achieved a great deal in
8 her life and she used her talents to benefit a very
9 large number of people. But as her husband has said,
10 she had so much more to give and, had she been allowed
11 to live, she would have continued to be a power for
12 good, not just for her family but for many more people.

13 MR GREANEY: Thank you, sir. We will rise now and return to
14 court at 11.30 to hear the pen portrait of Lisa's mother
15 and brother.

16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
17 (10.50 am)

18 (A short break)
19 (11.28 am)

20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.

21 MR GREANEY: Sir, thank you.

22 This is also the pen portrait of Lisa Lees, prepared
23 by her mother Elaine Hunter and her brother Lee Hunter.
24 They are both watching remotely for reasons Mr Weatherby
25 will explain in a few moments.

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1 The pen portrait is comprised of a video and the
 2 video contains a song, Lisa's Song, written and
 3 performed by Lee.
 4 Mr Weatherby will now say a few words before
 5 I invite Mr Wilson to play the video.
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Weatherby.
 7 Pen portrait of LISA LEES
 8 MR WEATHERBY: Thank you, sir.
 9 Lisa's mum, Elaine, and brother, Lee, and daughter,
 10 Lauren, are watching remotely, as you have heard.
 11 Elaine has a substantial vulnerability to the virus and
 12 so can't attend and Lee works with people who are in
 13 a vulnerable category.
 14 The inquiry has already heard this morning a moving
 15 tribute from Lisa's daughter, India; Lisa's other
 16 daughter, Lauren, is watching with her nan and her
 17 uncle, Elaine and Lee.
 18 The tribute you're about to hear to Lisa includes
 19 a song, which has been quite widely broadcast, which is
 20 written and performed by her brother, Lee. He
 21 specifically asked me to say that he only found the
 22 strength to write the song from the inspiration that
 23 Lisa had given to him through her life.
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Weatherby, I obviously quite
 25 understand their reasons not for being here, which are

1 entirely reasonable, and I'm just very grateful for them
 2 to take the trouble and the time and the emotional
 3 effort into preparing this tribute.
 4 MR WEATHERBY: I'm obliged.
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 6 MR GREANEY: Mr Wilson, would you now play the video,
 7 please? {INQ035479/1}
 8 (Video played to the inquiry)
 9 "I am Elaine Hunter and I am the mother of
 10 Lisa Lees. Lisa was my first child and my only
 11 daughter. Although I did not yet know Lisa would be
 12 a girl, I knew during the pregnancy that she would be
 13 quite the little madam. I was poorly throughout the
 14 entire 9 months and was constantly passing out, meaning
 15 I had to stop working. But despite her bringing the
 16 drama early on, when Lisa was born she was a very good
 17 baby and slept through from the start.
 18 "When Lisa was 1 year old, and able to walk, that is
 19 when you could see her character start to properly show.
 20 She clearly had a mind of her own, she was very
 21 independent and knew so clearly what she wanted. She
 22 was a handful.
 23 "When Lisa was 4 years old she won the Charming
 24 Child Competition. Her photo was everywhere and I was
 25 so proud.

1 "When Lisa was 6 years old I had my second child, my
 2 son Lee. Lisa was a bit jealous as she had had us all
 3 to herself for all her life until then, but Lisa and Lee
 4 were soon thick as thieves. They used to like to play
 5 us off one another, but Lee could also be a bit of
 6 a telltale as he knew he could get her into trouble.
 7 "Because of the six-year age gap between Lisa and
 8 Lee, they didn't really play the same games but they
 9 were both into music and would always be dancing around.
 10 "Lisa was a huge fan of Madonna and even went to see
 11 her in concert in London when she was 16 years old. It
 12 was her first time to visit London and she came back
 13 full of it, armed with dozens of photos of her idol.
 14 She loved Madonna so much she even gave herself Madonna
 15 as her middle name.
 16 "At school Lisa was always the apple of her
 17 teacher's eye. She was a good girl who didn't like to
 18 be shouted at and when she was 10 years old she was the
 19 Harvest Queen at St James' Church. Everyone said Lisa
 20 was the most lovely Harvest Queen they had ever had.
 21 "Lisa's love of music and dance continued and she
 22 took classes in ballet, tap, modern and national. She
 23 was so good she used to choreograph all the school
 24 shows. But Lisa had a sporty side to her as well: she
 25 was an exceptional swimmer and swam for England for the

1 Church Girl's Brigade. She came second and got the
 2 silver medal. I wasn't able to travel to watch her
 3 compete as I had to stay home and look after Lee, but
 4 I was so proud of both her work ethic and her
 5 achievement.
 6 "As she progressed into secondary school, Lisa's
 7 independent streak continued and she took herself off to
 8 have her lovely long hair chopped off really short. She
 9 became the typical moody teenager so we occasionally
 10 clashed but she kept her strong work ethic and worked
 11 part-time alongside school from the age of 13. First,
 12 she worked as a cleaner in a newsagent's, then helped
 13 out with clothes parties.
 14 "After school, Lisa moved into college where she
 15 embraced her artistic side and studied art and design.
 16 She was also just accepted as a model and assigned to an
 17 agency to work in fashion shows when, at just aged 17,
 18 she found out she was pregnant.
 19 "Lisa still lived at home with us and we, of course,
 20 supported her and helped her after she gave birth to her
 21 first daughter, Lauren. Although she was of course
 22 a young mum, Lisa was a very good mother. She did
 23 however want to make sure she had a career, so went back
 24 to college to train and qualify in beauty.
 25 "Lisa met and married Anthony and Lisa had her

1 second daughter, India. There is a 10-year age gap
2 between Lauren and India, but they get on so well. They
3 also both look just like her. When I look at either of
4 them, it is like I am looking at Lisa.

5 "Lisa continued to push herself and while setting up
6 her own beauty business. She also went to
7 Huddersfield University where she gained a degree in
8 business management. She was very ambitious and had big
9 plans to open up her own beauty salon where her daughter
10 Lauren was also going to work.

11 "Lisa also went back to her old college and became
12 a tutor teaching the next generation of beauticians and
13 passing on her skills.

14 "Even though Lisa was a determined and ambitious
15 person she was also incredibly caring. When I had
16 cancer Lisa was with me every step of the way coming
17 with me for chemotherapy and giving me massages to help
18 ease my pains. She was a great support.

19 "One of Lisa's greatest achievements was that she
20 also set up an organisation that provided support to
21 children who were approaching the end of their life.
22 She would provide aromatherapy massages to the children
23 and also support to the parents. All the children had
24 different disabilities but you could see their eyes
25 light up whenever Lisa entered the room. The work Lisa

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1 did here was very emotional as she obviously lost many
2 of the children and that was difficult to cope with.
3 But she pushed on and did what she could to help.

4 "In 2012 Lisa was given an award in recognition of
5 her hard work and we all went to London to see her
6 receive it. I was so very proud of her and all that she
7 had achieved. Lisa made a real difference to the lives
8 of those people and many of the parents who Lisa had
9 helped came to her funeral to say their goodbyes.

10 "One of the biggest things I miss about Lisa is her
11 laugh. She used to laugh all the time and all her
12 friends would say what an infectious laugh she had. She
13 really did light up a room when she walked in. Lisa was
14 hardworking and determined, but also fun-loving and
15 incredibly caring. She touched so many lives with her
16 love and compassion. She was an amazing daughter,
17 mother, wife, sister and friend, and she's very much
18 missed by all who knew her. Someone very special was
19 taken from us all that day and I speak of her often but
20 nothing can replace the joy she brought when people
21 heard her laugh. We love you, Lisa."

22 "Just picking up on what my mum said, I was going to
23 say her laugh, that's the big thing we miss. It used to
24 ring out and you could sort of -- everybody knew about
25 her laugh, didn't they? And then she just -- the smile

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1 would just light up. It's what you still miss, you can
2 hear it sometimes in your head. She was so caring, she
3 was always there. I think with the kids, she used to
4 call them my kids, she used to look after, they were all
5 end of life and most of them were Muslim children, so
6 she loved them to bits and she was always proud of
7 her Indian ancestry. I just miss her so much, she was
8 my best friend.

9 "One thing I could sort of do is -- I remember when
10 I had depression and she wrote a letter, so I could
11 maybe read that out to you. I brought it with me just
12 to highlight who she was:

13 "Dear Lee, I am just writing to you to explain
14 about [this form that she had sent me]. We can't afford
15 much for people this Christmas, but I thought I'll give
16 you this phone and then I'll buy you some credit for
17 Christmas as I had a top-up card for it, so it will just
18 appear when I've done it. I hope you need a phone,
19 I didn't think that you had one, as I asked my grandad
20 and he said that he didn't think that you had one.

21 "Anyway, I'm going to ring you as soon as you
22 receive your mobile because I've been really worried
23 about you. My grandad has been telling me how you're
24 not been going out any more and how you've been seeing
25 someone about your head.

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1 "Just remember, Lee, I am always here for you and
2 if all this is true, I'd do anything for you. You're my
3 little brother and I'll always protect and love you. If
4 there's anything I can do to help, please tell me. I'd
5 hate to think you were going through loads of stuff on
6 your own because you're not on your own: you'll always
7 have me and my family to turn to.

8 "Hope I see you before Christmas. Love you loads,
9 Lisa.'

10 "That was Lisa. She was always there for her
11 family, always cared. When my mum was ill with cancer,
12 she got everything sorted, got the flat, and was always
13 at her house every weekend when we were growing up.
14 Anything I needed, she was just there. She loved the
15 kids a lot.

16 "Lisa was so popular as well. The day of the
17 funeral for her and Alison, everyone stood on the street
18 and clapped and it was like an ovation down to the
19 cemetery from the people we couldn't fit in the church.
20 We had to put speakers outside.

21 "It was always the same. Everyone knew Lisa growing
22 up, even the teachers. If they had a soft spot for me
23 it was because they knew Lisa and they had a soft spot
24 for her.

25 "You can look anywhere and it reminds me of her.

20

1 There's benches in parks and trees planted. She was
 2 more than just ours; I think the full community miss
 3 her. Every time (inaudible: distorted). Everyone
 4 misses her.
 5 "She always supported me in my music, even when
 6 I was watching Primal Scream once and she wouldn't leave
 7 Bobby Gillespie alone until he'd taken one of my demo
 8 tapes. She was always at the front of my gigs dancing
 9 and causing mayhem.
 10 "She was full of love, full of life. That was Lisa:
 11 she loved life, loved living, loved dancing. The
 12 stories we used to hear -- we shared a bedroom -- when
 13 my mum and dad were arguing at the top of the stairs
 14 when we were little and she would send me down to Spar.
 15 We were really close.
 16 "So to sum up, I really miss her.
 17 "Then we had -- 3 months before she died, we got
 18 a phone call because my dad had drunk himself to death
 19 eventually, and weeks before she were murdered, we had
 20 had a talk about her worst nightmares, because the way
 21 my dad died he ended up in a morgue for months, and that
 22 was Lisa's worst nightmare. People don't really know
 23 what went on with that, but it really affected her to
 24 the point we talked about the songs we were going to
 25 have at each other's funerals. That's weeks before she

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1 died.
 2 "So yeah, but again, there were things we were
 3 involved in. She still wanted to get in the morgue and
 4 get him buried. It wasn't possible in the end, but she
 5 never gave up on that man, and he wasn't worth it. But
 6 that was Lisa: family, she just wanted that family.
 7 "I know she'd be really proud of her daughters,
 8 really proud of them and how strong they've been, and my
 9 mum. Yeah, we all miss her so much."
 10 "I am Lauren Lees, eldest daughter of Lisa Lees. My
 11 mum fell pregnant with me at quite a young age but
 12 nevertheless turned out to be an amazing mum, always
 13 dressing me lovely and making sure I had everything
 14 I needed.
 15 "Growing up, my mum was my role model and I was very
 16 proud of her. My school friends in primary school would
 17 say she was beautiful and had the loveliest long hair.
 18 My mum was always well-presented and never went anywhere
 19 without putting on her make-up, a lot like myself.
 20 "As I got older my mum fell pregnant again with my
 21 sister. We did not know if the baby would be a boy or
 22 a girl. Her name choices were India for a girl or
 23 Dylan Jack for a boy. The day came at last and my mum
 24 phoned my grandma to say she had given birth to a baby
 25 girl. I was thrilled.

22

1 "My mum and dad brought my sister home and we all
 2 lived together in a house in Royton with our two dogs,
 3 Kia(?) and Marley. We were really happy. We went on
 4 lots of walks, days out, and holidays.
 5 "As I got older into my teens I became a bit more of
 6 a handful. My grandma would just say just like her and
 7 my mum, but even so I felt I could tell my mum anything
 8 except when I got into trouble for wearing make-up at
 9 school.
 10 "For a while at age 16 I moved in with my
 11 grandparents on my biological dad's side. I still saw
 12 my mum, stepdad and sister regularly and then I met my
 13 partner, Chris, at age 17 and at 18 I fell pregnant with
 14 my first child, Jayden. My mum was there every step of
 15 the way. She was there when I gave birth. She adored
 16 him so much and he did her.
 17 "We spent every Christmas at my mum and dad's. My
 18 mum made Christmas extra glamorous, always dressing the
 19 table lovely and the tree. Now Christmas is just not
 20 the same. Christmas 2017 was an especially hard one as
 21 I was pregnant with my second child. I did manage to
 22 tell my mum the news before the attack happened.
 23 We were convinced I would have a girl this time but if
 24 not, I promised her I would call my son Dylan Jack, the
 25 name my mum wanted for a boy. Also Jack was the name of

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1 my great-grandad, my mum's grandad. She was very close
 2 to him. She was so touched and thought it was a lovely
 3 idea.
 4 "On 23 December 2017, I had another son, I did name
 5 him Dylan Jack. I had him in hospital with my partner,
 6 but this time without my mum. She would have been
 7 there.
 8 "My life has not been the same since losing my mum.
 9 I have had many years of problems and grief, losing
 10 close friends that I could have coped with easier if
 11 I had my loving mum by my side. Just the thought that
 12 she will never see me walk down the aisle or see my boys
 13 growing up or see any of my sister's life milestones is
 14 a daily emotional battle.
 15 "My mum was not just our mum, she was our best
 16 friend too. Losing a mum in general is hard for anyone
 17 but to lose her in this way is unthinkable. She never
 18 got to meet Dylan and my eldest son has had so much
 19 heartache with what happened. He is now 10 years old
 20 and gets really distressed that he might lose me. It's
 21 hard to deal with my own grief and have to help my son
 22 through his too.
 23 "All I can do now is help my mum's memory live on
 24 and be there for my sister and family. My mum lit up
 25 all our lives and is missed every hour of every day."

24

1 (Lisa's Song played to the inquiry)
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Weatherby, and thank you
 3 to Lisa's mother, brother and eldest daughter for that
 4 personal and very moving tribute. Thank you.
 5 Mr Greaney.
 6 MR GREANEY: Sir, we'll now rise and return to the hearing
 7 room at 2 o'clock, when we will hear the pen portrait of
 8 Georgina Callander prepared by her mother, Lesley.
 9 (11.51 am)
 10 (Lunch adjournment)
 11 (2.00 pm)
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.
 13 MR GREANEY: Sir, thank you.
 14 This is the pen portrait of Georgina Callander
 15 prepared by her mother, Lesley Callander. Lesley is
 16 viewing the proceedings remotely together with her
 17 friends, Fiona and Sophie. It would have been her
 18 strong desire to be here in person, but because of the
 19 terrible events of 22 May, she simply cannot bear to
 20 come to Manchester, which of course we will all entirely
 21 understand.
 22 Friends of Georgina are present within the hearing
 23 room. They are: Lucy Morgan, Aliesha Crook,
 24 Phoebe Ramshaw, Gabrielle Ord, and Megan Rhoden.
 25 The pen portrait takes the form of a video, which

25

1 contains tributes to Georgina from Lesley and from
 2 Georgina's brothers, Daniel and Harry.
 3 Mr Wilson, I'll ask you please to start to play that
 4 video. {INQ035759/1}
 5 (Video played to the inquiry)
 6 Pen portrait of GEORGINA CALLANDER
 7 "My daughter Georgina Bethany made me into the
 8 person I am today. I am and must be living in
 9 a nightmare, I thought, as I looked down at Georgina
 10 clutched in my arms wondering why her(?) bloodshot eyes
 11 were wide open and I was staring in a trance-like state
 12 at her beautiful, pure, soft white skin.
 13 "As I watched a tear rolling down her face on to my
 14 arm, it was a look I felt that she was telling me, 'I'm
 15 so sorry, mummy, I guess I'm not going to get through
 16 this, I'm not going to make it, I am so sorry.'
 17 "Then I realised she was dead. Is this really
 18 happening? 'I'm not so sure', I thought.
 19 "Georgina Bethany was the one in many millions to me
 20 and now I'm going to tell you all about why. First
 21 things first. Where do I begin with my life on this
 22 nightmare of a roller coaster which has now lasted
 23 3 years and 3 months?
 24 "When I was around 6 years old I spent my childhood
 25 looking after my dolls, playing and enjoying my time as

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1 a child growing up. My doll's pram would always come
 2 with me and my grandad and I on the bus. I always
 3 insisted on pushing my pram with Tiny Tears laid
 4 carefully and tenderly wrapped up, wearing a pink
 5 knitted hat in silk linen.
 6 "We would walk to the park or to the village to buy
 7 groceries or into Liverpool shopping. This was the best
 8 trip of all as my grandad always took me to Blackley's
 9 and bought me a new outfit for my baby and it was always
 10 pink.
 11 "The vision is still with me now and throughout all
 12 of those happy years, I often wondered: would I ever
 13 have children and, if so, would I be gifted with a boy
 14 or a girl?
 15 "I was gifted two beautiful baby boys, but I could
 16 hardly dress them in glitter, glam, grow their hair down
 17 their backs and paint their nails. Then I was not just
 18 gifted, but amazingly blessed. Me, blessed? Surely
 19 not.
 20 "A beautiful baby girl, born on 1 April 1999, came
 21 into my life. I named her after my doll, Georgina
 22 Bethany. We bonded immediately, I could feel it. My
 23 prayers had been answered or my dreams had come true.
 24 My hopes and my wishes were honoured. I was so
 25 ecstatic. I just can't emphasise so much how

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1 tremendously happy I was. I was on cloud nine for as
 2 long as I can remember, in fact I never stopped staring
 3 and smiling at my bundle of joy for a very long time,
 4 a girl who I was going to create an amazingly close
 5 relationship with, teach her all I know, show her the
 6 meaning of life, to laugh at herself, point out all the
 7 opportunities that were waiting for her to experience
 8 and enjoy, but show her much more than that: how to
 9 respect, not to judge, be compassionate and
 10 understanding, adhere to her values and care for others,
 11 know the difference between right and wrong, to set
 12 personal goals, money is not everything and it won't
 13 make you happy, to be well-mannered, to console others,
 14 to be honest and principled and, finally, to treat
 15 everyone equally and at face value.
 16 "As Georgina was growing up with Daniel and Harry,
 17 her brothers, I was certainly going to make sure they
 18 would all have a fulfilled and special childhood, as
 19 I did. The fun times we all had together were simply so
 20 amazing. Travelling around Great Britain during school
 21 holidays, staying in lodges and guest houses by the
 22 river, picnics, flying kites, the children playing in
 23 the streams, building dams, fishing with their nets and
 24 collecting crabs, playing football on the beach,
 25 visiting castles, rock climbing, playing crazy golf and

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1 staying in caravans, visiting Center Parcs and
 2 family-orientated bed and breakfasts.
 3 "My three children are very close and we always had
 4 a really fun time together, especially as each of my
 5 children, with their different personalities and
 6 characters, created so much diversity during each and
 7 every day.
 8 "Of course it was even more fun and laughter because
 9 their gran and grandad had a caravan which they bought
 10 to stay nearby. From memory, as a mother, I think the
 11 best times were watching them all tuck into fish and
 12 chips on a wall or a bench by the sea followed by an
 13 ice cream with gran and grandad.
 14 "Just the basic things in life, quite simple, made
 15 their childhood so fulfilling and so happy. I find it
 16 quite amusing actually as I ask them now about things we
 17 did on holiday when they were younger. They don't
 18 remember very much. I think back to all my planning and
 19 expense. How ridiculous was I? But I do have every
 20 photo and video to prove that there was a method in my
 21 madness.
 22 "As I sat staring into space in absolute disbelief
 23 into nothing, into silence, enduring so much unbearable
 24 pain and anguish I never, ever imagined in my entire
 25 life I would have to express my catastrophic, distraught

1 feelings in a pen portrait about the senseless,
 2 pointless murder of my beautiful innocent daughter,
 3 Georgina.
 4 "I am and always will be a severely distraught
 5 mother, overwhelmed in immense grief with a broken heart
 6 in pieces and my family now broken. How am I supposed
 7 to put pen to paper as to where I should begin with this
 8 living nightmare and the harsh impact of how this has
 9 completely floored me and totally ruined my life and my
 10 boys' future forever?
 11 "Quite simply, I adored her. She was my whole
 12 world. She was an exceedingly exceptional girl, she was
 13 everybody's inspiration, she applauded and nurtured
 14 everyone's soul. She was like a beautiful melody and
 15 lit up the room with her famous smile.
 16 "There is no guarantee that my life will ever get
 17 easy. My life has completely fallen apart, never to be
 18 repaired and there's no light to break up my darkness.
 19 It's like when the waves are flooding the shore and you
 20 can't find your way home any more.
 21 "You loved me for who I am, like the stars of the
 22 moon, and I know I'm not alone. You appear, just like
 23 in a dream, to me and you are now a beautiful free
 24 spirit.
 25 "I miss her infectious laughter every day and every

1 night. Possibly fuelled by me, her personality grew
 2 from every corner and shone down without a doubt for
 3 everyone. She was a super amazing daughter. A daughter
 4 forever smiling. She was so geeky, especially in her
 5 choices. Her favourite colour was bright yellow even
 6 though her room was painted white. She had a fantastic
 7 leather jacket but never had her bright yellow rain
 8 jacket off her back. She was, and I'm sure everyone who
 9 knew Georgina would agree, an extremely caring person,
 10 with a very loving soul.
 11 "I can almost see her in my dreams I am dreaming,
 12 but there is a voice inside my head saying, 'You'll
 13 never reach her'. I feel there's always another
 14 mountain. I always want to make it move but I can't get
 15 past it. It's always an uphill battle and I feel I will
 16 always lose.
 17 "She was a massive superfan with an absolute love of
 18 concerts. She would get so ditzzy and rub her hands
 19 together on her nose followed by a big hug with
 20 laughter, with excitement, waiting for the many
 21 meet-and-greets. She loved conventions. She was very
 22 passionate. She lived for her music. This is why
 23 Georgina and I have included with this pen portrait some
 24 song lyrics for Georgina.
 25 "She had an absolute love for Disney and 'Beauty and

1 the Beast', which was always her favourite since she was
 2 very young. Georgina had every princess dress and she
 3 used to match for each Disney princess. She told funny
 4 stories and had an abundance of love, happiness and hugs
 5 for everyone. I miss her with words that I cannot
 6 possibly describe. In fact, there are no words. She
 7 was so gentle and loving. She loved life in a way that,
 8 again, I cannot find the words to describe her
 9 enthusiasm to live every day so positively and to the
 10 full.
 11 "My darling, Georgina Bethany, I love you. I miss
 12 you more than words can say, more than you or anyone
 13 will ever know or could possibly understand.
 14 "This world can hurt me like thunder crashing in the
 15 dark, but nothing breaks like my heart. My heart is
 16 shattered. Although it has been a while now, I can
 17 still feel so much raw pain. Like a knife it cuts you
 18 up so deep, heals, leaves a scar that remains. Things
 19 do fall apart but nothing compares to my broken heart.
 20 You left me cold as ice and high and dry without you.
 21 You were my strength when I was weak and you were my
 22 voice when I could not speak. You were my eyes when
 23 I could not see but you always saw the best there was in
 24 me. I sat within your four walls after you died. They
 25 whispered to me, they know a secret. I knew they would

1 not keep. It did not take long for your room to fill
 2 with dust and then these four walls crumbled around us.
 3 "There are so many days when I look at your
 4 beautiful face and feel your excitement and your genuine
 5 happiness. I'm so very proud of you accomplishing many
 6 goals and think what an extraordinary person you are and
 7 what you would become.
 8 "This is my harrowing climb I have to face alone,
 9 but I can't, it's just too hard. Too many tears falling
 10 like a thunder of raindrops. When will I ever get to
 11 the top of the mountain to feel free and freedom and
 12 air? But there is one thing I know: my only love
 13 Georgina, you're not going to be standing there.
 14 "Georgina sang around the house a quote from 'Beauty
 15 and the Beast':
 16 "'Winter turns to spring, famine turns to feast,
 17 nature points the way, nothing left to say.'
 18 "Then adding, 'Can we go to the chippy now?'
 19 I needed the shelter of someone's arms and you were
 20 there, I needed someone to understand my ups and downs,
 21 and there you were. Because all of me loves all of you.
 22 I love your curves and all your edges and all your
 23 perfect imperfections. You were like a leaf in a breeze
 24 we used to kick in the air but now the fallen leaves lie
 25 undisturbed because you are not here. You will never be

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1 here.
 2 "So how do I live without you, Georgina? Always
 3 smiling, you loved life. Your distinctive outstanding
 4 personality was so amazingly loveable, your attitude,
 5 behavioural patterns, emotional responses, social roles
 6 were exceedingly as innocent as nature. We were joined
 7 at the hip and, as you can see from all the fantastic
 8 tributes, we were always together.
 9 "She lit up the room when she walked in with her
 10 beautiful big smile and abundance of love for everyone.
 11 I find it excruciatingly hard and I am undoubtedly
 12 seriously mentally troubled to live without my Georgina.
 13 I am nothing without my Georgina. Everything has been
 14 taken away from me in a nanosecond.
 15 "I love Georgina so much I am unable to find the
 16 words, just in fact one word, to describe the dreadful
 17 feelings I have to endure day in and day out, night
 18 after night. I wish it would have been me and not her.
 19 For me, it's a daily living nightmare. I miss her
 20 cuddles which she gave me at least 50 a day.
 21 "I really miss our girly chats. She was so funny.
 22 We had them every day walking to the bus stop together.
 23 When she got to school she would ring me up, when she
 24 was going to college she would ring me. We would still
 25 be talking at break times, lunchtimes, in between

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1 waiting for lessons and home time on the bus and walking
 2 down to home. She always rang me on her mobile. I did
 3 say to her once, 'I've had an epiphany, I know why your
 4 mobile bill costs me so much', but she would just shrug
 5 it off with those puppy-dog eyes and a hug of
 6 distraction and say, 'Treat you to a Costa on Saturday
 7 shopping mummy.'
 8 "I always went to the bus stop to meet her with some
 9 of her dogs. She loved her chihuahuas -- in fact, she
 10 loved everything: animals, people, children, babies.
 11 Her ambition was to look after premature babies as
 12 a paediatrician, for she gained a place at university to
 13 start off this process. But she was so senselessly
 14 murdered by a brainwashed ISIS fanatic and she will
 15 never achieve this. The country has lost a wonderful
 16 NHS caring person who would have contributed so much to
 17 society. In that respect, it does not bear thinking
 18 about.
 19 "She had just passed her driving test and she had
 20 a little car which she called Peggy. We went out
 21 in that car so many times listening to music and show
 22 recordings, singing our heads off as loud as we could,
 23 yodelling and laughing and joking about various memories
 24 and doing the ditz things we always did together which
 25 brings me to the 20-plus times we visited London by

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1 train and upgraded to first class.
 2 "Mummy', she would say, 'I feel so posh.' She
 3 loved to watch a live musical. We did this on a regular
 4 basis and we always found the time to do our usual
 5 routine every time and sit on the top deck of the bus
 6 that takes you around London sightseeing, going on the
 7 London Eye, which I'll probably never, ever go on again,
 8 shopping in Oxford Street. Georgina loved plays when
 9 we were in London, we went to too many to name. She was
 10 so mesmerised in her own world. She always had
 11 a beautiful smile throughout and after each show was so
 12 ecstatic and would do the rubbing of her hands together
 13 on her nose. We would always go and get a pizza to take
 14 back to the hotel after the show, after buying some
 15 memorabilia to take home and stick on her wall.
 16 "I often wondered, 'It wouldn't take much more to
 17 fill those four walls', but she always found space. She
 18 was in her element and I loved watching her laughing and
 19 smiling.
 20 "Now all I experience day and night is loneliness
 21 and despair in the worst possible way. My life is
 22 a living nightmare, my nights are completely long and
 23 frightening, my days are even worse. I wake up thinking
 24 of Georgina, my days and thoughts and memories of
 25 Georgina. My nights are night terrors without Georgina.

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1 That just about sums it all up.
 2 "Georgina played football for Bolton Wanderers,
 3 trained once a week and played matches all over
 4 Lancashire. She was in her element and that was going
 5 really well until she broke her wrist and, boy, we never
 6 heard the last of that. She was involved in achieving
 7 all her RA qualifications at the YMCA. She loved ballet
 8 from age 2, brought on by Barney the Dinosaur, her
 9 absolute favourite. Thank you Barney, I'm forever
 10 grateful. She participated in ballet for 10 years
 11 including taking part in many stage roles and achieving
 12 many certificates.
 13 "She was also a black tag in taekwondo by the time
 14 she was 11 years old, preparing for her first dan. She
 15 gained many certificates and badges for swimming, which
 16 she loved.
 17 "Georgina had a great life, making the most of each
 18 and every day, never to waste a moment watched under my
 19 discreet eye. Georgina loved to travel and we travelled
 20 the world together as she loved new places. Over the
 21 years we've managed to grab some bargains and lucky
 22 enough, she's been as far as LA, Malibu, Orlando
 23 Florida, New York, Las Vegas, Warner Brothers Studios in
 24 Burbank with the Ellen DeGeneres studio and Friends
 25 studio. This was the time when she could not control

1 her with excitement. We sat on the famous Friends sofa
 2 and looked at the original Friends coffee bar and
 3 a selection of their clothes and bits which were used on
 4 the set. She was beyond herself with excitement and
 5 I can't explain in words how happy this made her. It
 6 was a dream come true.
 7 "We went to the Canary Islands, which involved
 8 getting excessively burnt. We were like a couple of
 9 crisps. Rome, Pisa and Paris in Europe, and so many
 10 more.
 11 "I think she made me take her to every theme park
 12 in the UK. She loved picnics anywhere, especially with
 13 some of her dogs. We were absolutely inseparable, and
 14 sadly, I thought because of our strong power of love for
 15 each other, our force put together by our happiness,
 16 love, our crazy personalities, laughing, joking and
 17 smiles, these would always keep us together.
 18 "That night has done nothing but to destroy every
 19 single living cell in my body. It destroyed my senses,
 20 my feelings and the rest of my life in each and every
 21 possible way. I am numb. I am weak. Sometimes I can't
 22 speak properly. I am fatigued. I am in an emotional
 23 and physical pain. I cannot and will not accept that
 24 I will never see her again. Sometimes I can see
 25 shadows, sometimes I think she's with me, sometimes

1 I feel her next to me. Sometimes all I do is cry for
 2 one of her special hugs and kisses. I miss her so much,
 3 I have shattered into a million pieces.
 4 [REDACTED]
 5 [REDACTED]
 6 [REDACTED]
 7 [REDACTED]
 8 [REDACTED] The emotional pain is so strong,
 9 [REDACTED] I choose [REDACTED] tattoos, all
 10 of which are a reference to my beautiful Georgina.
 11 [REDACTED]
 12 [REDACTED]
 13 [REDACTED]. Tattoos at my age.
 14 Good grief. She would not be happy with me.
 15 "Another thing I've always wanted was my nose
 16 pierced. 'Not a chance', says Georgina. As many times
 17 as I asked her, quite simply she bit my head off.
 18 Anyway, after everything quietened down, I did get my
 19 nose pierced four times and it never seemed to stay in.
 20 So it closed up. I would wake up in the morning with
 21 missing jewellery, never to be seen again. This was the
 22 process every night until I got fed up with it and
 23 retired them all to a box in a drawer. Georgina had one
 24 which she always did with me.
 25 "Georgina had 32,000 followers on Instagram and even

1 more on Twitter. Her friends were from all around the
 2 world. They all still send me messages of love, hope
 3 and support. What would I do without these friends of
 4 Georgina? She was loved by everyone. I am quite sure
 5 she would want me to say a big-hearted thank you for
 6 keeping me going.
 7 "Sadly, she never had the pleasure of kissing a boy.
 8 Secretly, I was gutted, although I'd always joked with
 9 her it was never a pleasure, always a chore, a bit like
 10 housework. And the one about she couldn't get married
 11 until after she was 30, but she could live with a cat,
 12 which we always joked about. She also had great fun in
 13 sharing these many comments with her friends.
 14 "As we progressed towards her 18th birthday, there
 15 were hours consumed talking about what she wanted to do.
 16 However, with her no alcohol fear, her brothers Daniel
 17 and Harry said they would invite all her friends and
 18 take her out on the town to Preston to have a few beers,
 19 which her exact words to that were, 'Get stuffed.'
 20 "Instead, she had this amazing brainwave, with her
 21 geekiness shining through, to visit the zoo and then on
 22 to Pizza Hut. This was also another ordeal for me
 23 because she would never order a pizza like anyone else
 24 as it took so long to describe and it went something
 25 like this: 'A medium crust lightly done in a pan,

1 topping just cheese, no sauce, just cheese lightly
2 done.' This would be repeated by the server, who would
3 always repeat, 'No sauce?' and then she would repeat it
4 all again. If she wasn't so geeky, you would just ask
5 for a margarita with no sauce. Unbelievably this is how
6 she celebrated her 18th birthday. To a mother this was
7 just not normal.

8 "She had a fetish for buying puzzle books for which
9 I took no pleasure in this. She constantly asked me
10 questions as if I was an encyclopedia. Georgina's
11 passion apart from music, shopping and chocolate, on top
12 of that came her chihuahuas which she enjoyed walking
13 and training very successfully, might I add, as how good
14 she was. We shared 11 to be precise with the occasional
15 litter to better our breeding line. She was excellent
16 when delivering chihuahuas. It can become quite
17 difficult, but she never was fazed. Sometimes we would
18 have to feed the slow feeders and she would prepare the
19 Welpy and syringe feed them and top them up so they
20 would not become weak.

21 "She was so young at the time and it was amazing to
22 watch Georgina doing this. Some of the older ones slept
23 at the top of her double bed in their dog bed. But you
24 could always guarantee by morning there would be one
25 tucked under her arm sleeping with another on her head

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1 lying on top of her pillow. Her training techniques
2 were far better than mine. Even though I had 47 years
3 of learning the techniques, she was just a natural.
4 "I can remember one time we were in Malibu on the
5 beach. I was amazed and she met this dog who she
6 couldn't leave alone and the dog felt the same from what
7 I could see. It felt like I'd brought her to this
8 amazing place to show her Malibu and, one of her TV
9 favourites, Chandler Bing's beach house. But it wasn't
10 about that now, it was all about the dog called Max. To
11 be honest, she loved all animals.

12 "One day we had to rush off whilst in the middle of
13 her baking after her shouting from the bathroom,
14 panic-stricken, 'There's a hedgehog on the path across
15 the road, we need to take it to the rescue centre and
16 these should not be out during the day.' Needless to
17 say I got left with the baking and Daniel, Harry and
18 Georgina, along with the hedgehog in a box, went to the
19 rescue centre. Anyway, my cakes turned out delicious.

20 "She had many recipes she tried and out of all of
21 them. She excelled at the chocolate brownie, which she
22 could make 365 days of the year. It cost me a fortune
23 though, buying 25 child's chocolate bars. I'm sure she
24 ate most of them, catching her eating tablespoons or
25 spilling it all over the kitchen worktops.

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1 "Well, I have been so very deeply mentally affected
2 by the loss of my best friend. My only girl, Georgina
3 Bethany. We had so many laughs, so much fun, being in
4 each other's company, grabbing a pizza or McDonald's,
5 taking in a movie, taking a drive out, visiting other
6 friends, visiting chihuahua friends. Every day was fun
7 with my Georgina. I do miss our pizza and chips on
8 a Saturday night watching Friends tucked up in bed.

9 "Although it's been a while now I still feel so much
10 pain, like a knife that cuts you, the wound heals but
11 the scar remains.

12 "My grief has paralysed me. It doesn't feel real.
13 How could I be losing you forever after our 18 perfect
14 beautiful and fun years together? How could life be so
15 cruel to me? And yet there was so much more to come
16 that left me crying every day. My sweet melody,
17 Georgina. You were like a new song every day. You
18 brought fresh air into my world. After all that I've
19 been through, who on earth can I turn to? After all, my
20 strength has gone.

21 "My grief is love's shadow, with the presence of
22 absence forever. An unbearable weight of emptiness.
23 I carry this around in my body every second of the day
24 and night. I love you so much more than I did before.
25 Every day I can see your face. If I just had one wish,

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1 it would be for you to be by my side.

2 "Georgina, I miss you, I need you. I'm trying to
3 live without you, but I'm so torn inside. All I am is
4 a shadow of a broken mum. I loved how you would hold me
5 close in your arms, I loved the way you felt so strong.
6 I never wanted you to leave. I wanted you to stay here
7 hugging me. I miss you. I miss your smile. I still
8 shed tears every day for a while. Even though it's so
9 different now, you are still here somehow. My heart
10 won't let you go and I need you to know I miss you
11 without an end in sight.

12 "I can honestly say you are always on my mind since
13 I wake every day. I look at your photograph all of the
14 time. There's beautiful memories which come back to
15 life for you and me. I frequently experience flashbacks
16 of Georgina and can describe them in minute detail.
17 Everything is still so raw and vivid. In my flashbacks,
18 I never see your face, but I need to see that smile
19 again. These are brought on by smiles associated with
20 my trauma. Places that Georgina and I visited, most
21 I cannot go, especially to her home villages. There are
22 sounds, music, loud bangs, hospitals, shops, people,
23 noise, loud crowds. I just want to be with those people
24 that are very close to me and look after me.

25 "The anniversary, her birthday, my birthday,

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1 Christmas I cannot celebrate Christmas without her as
 2 she loved it so much. That was her time of year. She
 3 will never get to set the table again on Christmas Eve.
 4 She always did a very pretty presentation with flowers .
 5 She loved decorating the Christmas trees we had and
 6 putting the reindeer sleigh and tree in the front
 7 garden. She rotated the decorations of colour each
 8 year. She was just so ecstatic at Christmastime.
 9 "The shopping, of course, was on another level .
 10 I was never sure if we ended up with less presents and
 11 more clothes for her. I didn't care. She deserved
 12 everything I bought her and so much more and when you
 13 said you loved me, I said, 'I love you more', and when
 14 you said, 'I needed you', I said, 'I need you more and
 15 the most'.
 16 "We always used to link arms shopping and holding
 17 hands. She was my bag lady as she carried all my bags,
 18 but was always well rewarded.
 19 "I cannot eat as I feel constantly sick. I try to
 20 have one meal a day. I live in a constant state of
 21 physical and emotional stress. I'm exhausted through
 22 the lack of uninterrupted sleep which makes me feel on
 23 edge and physically strung out. I also find myself
 24 shaking and feeling very weak and fatigued. I would
 25 walk on hot coals for you, Georgina, just to take away

1 my emotional pain of losing you. In fact, I feel in
 2 despair with thinking of my future alone.
 3 "There will never be a time that I will conquer this
 4 emotional pain throughout my body. Let me make this
 5 perfectly clear, as in crystal clear to everyone: time
 6 is not a healer. I can confirm that if you think time
 7 is a healer, then you are sincerely mistaken if you have
 8 not had the experience of burying your own child. You
 9 belong in a special group, you see. Your children are
 10 not to be buried before their parents.
 11 "Be strong', the other favourite. Strength isn't
 12 about how much you can handle before you break. It's
 13 about how much you can endure after you have been
 14 broken. You have to live it to believe it, and I'm
 15 living it and I'm believing it. Even in times of trauma
 16 and in my depths of despair I try to maintain a sense of
 17 normality until I no longer can. That, my friends, is
 18 called surviving, not healing. I will never become
 19 whole again; I am a survivor. If you are here today
 20 after all that, we are called survivors. But for those
 21 of us who are making their way through hell and are
 22 still standing we bear a different name of warrior.
 23 "It is with great sadness to my loving, very elderly
 24 mum and dad, and my coolest kids ever, Daniel and Harry,
 25 and to my new amazing family who took me into their home

1 when in my deepest depths of despair, mentally and
 2 physically, when I had nowhere to go, with 11
 3 chihuahuas, and are to this day still taking care of me.
 4 "To especially her extra-special loving friends, you
 5 know who you are.
 6 "I now have to draw a line and complete my wave of
 7 sharing my beautiful memories of Georgina Bethany with
 8 you all. This is so traumatising for me as I still feel
 9 numb and am still in deep shock. I feel in this moment
 10 of time she has come alive again. I would like each and
 11 every one of you to know that I deeply love you and
 12 thank you for all the gifts, messages of hope, your
 13 comforting letters, her named stars, the flowers and the
 14 cards, the paintings and drawings, but most of all for
 15 being there for me, sharing my tears along the way.
 16 "Finally, there's no easy way of ending this apart
 17 from dedicating my pen portrait of Georgina to each and
 18 every one of you. You are all so very special to me and
 19 not one of you mentioned in my pen portrait have let me
 20 down. This is what Georgina would have wanted more than
 21 anything: for someone to take care of her mummy and look
 22 after her mummy, even a phone call to ask if I'm okay.
 23 At least she can rest knowing I am not alone as my
 24 heartbreaking loss painfully extends so far beyond
 25 losing my Georgina Bethany and being left in the gutter.

1 "In Georgina's eyes, I am a hero, I am strong and
 2 wise and I know no fear, but the truth is plain for
 3 everyone to see: she was sent to rescue me. I see who
 4 I want to be in Georgina's eyes. In Georgina's eyes,
 5 everyone is equal, darkness turns to light, and she
 6 wants the world at peace. This little miracle that was
 7 sent to give me strength when I was weak. I find the
 8 reasons to believe in Georgina's eyes. When she wrapped
 9 her hand around my finger, it put a big smile in my
 10 heart and everything becomes a little clearer, and
 11 I realise what life is all about: it's hanging on when
 12 your heart has had enough, it's giving more when you
 13 feel like giving up. I have seen the light in
 14 Georgina's eyes.
 15 "In my Georgina's eyes, I can see a future,
 16 a reflection of who I am and what will be, and though
 17 she will grow some day, leave, maybe she'll raise
 18 a family, but she's gone and I hope she will be as happy
 19 wherever she is as she made me. For I'll be there in
 20 Georgina's eyes.
 21 "As for how I can end this, there can only be one
 22 ending. Georgina's most favourite music and movie of
 23 all time: 'Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme,
 24 Beauty and the beast.'
 25 "She's my little sister, obviously. She was the

1 light of the house, shall we say. She lit up the room
 2 with her little dimples and her little smile and just
 3 made everybody happy."
 4 (Pause)
 5 "This is Georgina Callander, an 18-year-old
 6 Ariana Grande superfan and the first confirmed casualty
 7 of the arena attack."
 8 "I don't feel like she's gone. I do obviously know
 9 she's gone, I know she isn't here with us any more, but
 10 I still feel like she's going to walk through the door.
 11 The immediate feelings that you get, the immediate
 12 trauma has definitely, obviously gone, but she's not
 13 in the house any more. There's one room in the house
 14 none of us go into any more, there's one less car on the
 15 drive now."
 16 "Georgina had two big brothers who shared her love
 17 of Marvel comics, and for Daniel, the eldest, returning
 18 to Manchester isn't easy."
 19 "I thought I'd be all right, I thought I'd be a bit
 20 more stronger than I have been. Definitely anxiety. It
 21 was just more when I got out of the train station and
 22 saw the arena again."
 23 "The last time he was here, the Callander family
 24 were shown the spot where Georgina lost her life."
 25 "We went into the foyer and there was a rose there

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1 for every single person that had died and we got shown
 2 where they thought -- obviously they can't predict 100%
 3 but where they thought Gina was stood. For me it was
 4 going back, it was all about just getting my head round
 5 it, seeing what she saw and putting myself in her
 6 footsteps, putting myself in his footsteps."
 7 "Georgina's favourite colour was yellow and in the
 8 days after the attack her parents added their own
 9 flowers to the sea of support in St Ann's Square and
 10 felt the love of their community in Hesketh Bank who
 11 have kept their little girl's memory alive."
 12 "Everybody was amazing. It was ribbons around the
 13 entire village, it was -- obviously we both worked in
 14 the local Booth's so we have had a bench put in there.
 15 The community's just been really -- wrapped their arms
 16 round us. She wasn't just somebody; she was my little
 17 sister and she deserves to be remembered."
 18 "I am now going to read Daniel's, her loving
 19 brother, tribute:
 20 "This is a tribute of Georgina's life and character
 21 description written by her brother, Daniel. I hope that
 22 the people listening to this can get an idea of the type
 23 of wonderful person Georgina was and what she meant to
 24 so many people.
 25 "From an early age Georgina wanted to help people,

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1 always helping my mum clean up and look after their
 2 dogs, of which there were quite a few, doing late nights
 3 when they were in labour and just anything she could do
 4 to help. She would be the person to call on.
 5 "Her passion to care for people was also shown by
 6 her choice of course at Runshaw College for Health and
 7 Social Care. She was just finishing her second year and
 8 then being accepted to Edge Hill where she intended to
 9 study paediatrics and care for very ill and sick young
 10 babies.
 11 "There was one person who she cared for the most
 12 and spent all her time with. You could say she was the
 13 favourite child to at least one parent: her mummy. They
 14 spent all their time together going on holidays, out for
 15 meals together, shopping together, anything you could
 16 think of, they would do together. This started from the
 17 early days where she would get forgiven by mum for the
 18 little things where me and Harry would get shouted at.'
 19 "That's not strictly true, but anyway:
 20 "They weren't so much mother and daughter, they
 21 were much more than that. People described them as best
 22 friends and I must agree. They were inseparable.
 23 "The first thing that people will say when they are
 24 describing Georgina is her big smile, the smile that lit
 25 up the room. She was like a ray of sunshine on the

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1 darkest of days. If you were feeling down she would
 2 help you through it. It was infectious how she made you
 3 feel. Her smile, her bubbly personality. She brought
 4 everyone's spirits up when she entered the room.
 5 "She loved concerts, her travelling around with her
 6 mum, her dogs and going to see Marvel conventions.
 7 "She was an Ariana Grande superfan and that is how
 8 people will remember her. She met Ariana Grande. Her
 9 wall in her bedroom was covered in concert tickets and
 10 pictures of places she had visited. It was like
 11 a timeline of her life, of every place she had been to
 12 and where she wanted to go. It was amazing.
 13 "One thing as a brother that we shared was our
 14 fondness of our geeky culture, such as Marvel and
 15 comics. We went to Comic Con in Manchester together the
 16 year before the attack and had the greatest time walking
 17 round stalls together, looking at everyone's costumes,
 18 taking lots of pictures. It was such a great day and
 19 a memory that I will always hold dear to my heart.
 20 "It was always something I enjoyed growing up,
 21 having a sister who enjoyed similar stuff to me. We
 22 always had to talk about something. One thing I do wish
 23 is that she had got to see was the Avengers film. She
 24 really was looking forward to that. Her favourite was
 25 Peggy Carter -- she named her car after Peggy -- and

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1 Captain America. She had posters of them on her wall.
 2 "Gina and I worked at the same Booth's store and
 3 everyone knew us as DC and GC. It was so funny having
 4 her work there. I had been there for years when she
 5 showed up. Everyone loved her.
 6 "She made many friends working there and everyone
 7 misses her. It's hard going in there sometimes not
 8 seeing her there with a big smile across the counter.
 9 Since then, I've finished my degree and left the Booth's
 10 store and am now in a full-time job.
 11 "We all miss her dearly, me, the many friends she
 12 had on Instagram and Twitter. We miss her smile, her
 13 laughter and her abundance of love for everyone, and
 14 of course just being around us. We miss you so much,
 15 Gina. Rest in peace. Daniel, loving brother.'
 16 "I'm going to read Harry's tribute, a loving
 17 brother:
 18 "To describe the person and character of my sister
 19 justly is a futile attempt. I feel disarmed at how
 20 words have been diluted. In this day and age no
 21 language can suffice in articulating the effect she had
 22 on my life and many others.
 23 "In every classical or traditional sense of the
 24 word, Georgina was good, for the world and everyone in
 25 it. Through every aspect of her life leeches passion

1 and joy, from the love she felt to her friends and pop
 2 music to the school homework she put her heart into.
 3 The world and its people have never and will never, ever
 4 see such a pure soul down to her foundations again.
 5 "The testimonies from countless people are proof of
 6 how genuine she was, the impression she gave was
 7 entirely pleasant. Everybody loved Georgina and
 8 ultimately everybody cries for her. The same can be
 9 said for most.
 10 "The consequences, the travesty brought from that
 11 night can simply never be exaggerated. I weep for
 12 friends, I weep for her, yet the one grievance that
 13 stains my heart the most is the life she will never,
 14 ever get to experience, the places she will never travel
 15 to or the people's lives that will never be graced by
 16 her love, smiles and her infectious laughter.
 17 "Despite this, I can proudly say that my beautiful
 18 sister Gina lived more of a life than most people in the
 19 time she had. Innocently taken for whatever reason, an
 20 act of sheer malice by brainwashed morons or
 21 a coincidence, or perhaps divine intervention beckoning
 22 for an early place in heaven. I fail to comprehend.
 23 In the end the question can never be answered, but what
 24 can be seen is the scale of an abundance of affection
 25 that people had for Georgina, speaking volumes for the

1 caring and loving person she was.
 2 "Georgina lived her best life and accomplished more
 3 than I could ever hope to, fulfilled more people than
 4 I could name, and made more happy memories that will
 5 always be a part of us. The narrative of her life is
 6 total happiness in everything she did. I know in my
 7 heart of hearts what she wanted most for us is to all
 8 live, laugh and love as she did. This echoes through
 9 me, embodying the ethos which Georgina lived by and
 10 radiated through nothing other than by being herself.
 11 "The effect the loss of my sister Gina has had on
 12 me just by far is too many descriptive emotions to share
 13 with you all. My life and direction completely changed
 14 from that day on 22 May 2017. The first is being that
 15 I could not carry on, nor cope, with my degree at
 16 university. Who knows how where life will take me?
 17 "I will always miss your cheeky face, Gina. Harry,
 18 loving brother.'
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you to Georgina's friends for
 20 joining us this afternoon. Thank you to Lesley, Daniel
 21 and Harry for telling us about Georgina, the person she
 22 was and the person she would have become. It is
 23 important as well that you have felt able to tell us of
 24 the awful devastation and despair that you have suffered
 25 as a result of what Lesley aptly described as "the

1 senseless, pointless murder" of her beautiful daughter.
 2 It has caused, in Lesley's words, unbearable emptiness.
 3 Mr Greaney.
 4 MR GREANEY: Thank you, sir.
 5 We will now rise for the day and resume the
 6 commemorative hearing tomorrow morning at 9.30, please.
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 8 (3.12 pm)
 9 (The inquiry adjourned until 9.30 am
 10 on Thursday, 17 September 2020)

1 I N D E X
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3 Pen portrait of ANGELIKA and1
4 MARCIN KLIS
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6 Pen portrait of LISA LEES5
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8 Pen portrait of LISA LEES13
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10 Pen portrait of GEORGINA CALLANDER26
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