

# OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 21

October 19, 2020

Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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Monday, 19 October 2020

1  
2 (9.30 am)  
3 (Delay in proceedings)  
4 (9.44 am)  
5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.  
6 MR GREANEY: Good morning, sir. Could I start the day  
7 before I call the first witness, by indicating that of  
8 course these proceedings are being viewed by family  
9 members who are present within the hearing room, but  
10 they are also being viewed by family members who are  
11 present within the family annex and also by many family  
12 members who are viewing by the link.  
13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
14 MR GREANEY: Sir, I call Stephen Corke, please.  
15 MR STEPHEN CORKE (sworn)  
16 Questions from MR GREANEY  
17 MR GREANEY: Would you begin, please, by telling us your  
18 full name?  
19 A. Stephen Geoffrey Corke.  
20 Q. In 2017, were you a constable with British Transport  
21 Police?  
22 A. That's correct, sir .  
23 Q. Was that a role that you had held for 30 years?  
24 A. At that point, sir , yes.  
25 Q. And I believe that before that you had served in the

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1 British Army?  
2 A. That's correct.  
3 Q. And in the army, had you qualified as a battlefield  
4 medic?  
5 A. That's correct, yes.  
6 Q. Had the knowledge that you gained as a medic stayed with  
7 you over your period as a constable?  
8 A. Without a doubt, yes.  
9 Q. So did you bring it to bear on the night of 22 May?  
10 A. That's correct, yes.  
11 Q. Before we get to 22 May, I would like to ask you about  
12 how events at the arena were policed by British  
13 Transport Police in general in May 2017.  
14 So first , was it the approach of BTP to police  
15 events at the arena?  
16 A. It was, yes.  
17 Q. Had you personally over the years policed many events  
18 there?  
19 A. Yes. Many dozens of events, yes.  
20 Q. We've understood that there were something in the order  
21 of 250 events each year at the arena.  
22 A. I would say about 100 over the time that I was in that  
23 role, yes.  
24 Q. And you had policed about 100.  
25 In May 2017, were you aware of the terrorism threat

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1 level in the UK?  
2 A. I was, yes.  
3 Q. And what was that threat level?  
4 A. At that stage, it was severe.  
5 Q. So before the attack took place, does it follow that you  
6 were aware that it was highly likely that a terrorist  
7 attack would take place?  
8 A. That's correct, yes.  
9 Q. When you attended each day for your shift, did you  
10 receive a briefing from a more senior officer?  
11 A. Normally a sergeant, yes.  
12 Q. And during each briefing, would you tend to receive  
13 information about the terrorism threat?  
14 A. It would tend to depend on which sergeant you had. Some  
15 would bring it into the briefing , some would just make  
16 you aware of the threat that was still present at the  
17 time, so it just depended on which supervisor was  
18 available .  
19 Q. I see. Let me make sure I understand that: would all of  
20 the supervisors say something about it?  
21 A. I would think the majority at that period of time would  
22 certainly make you aware of the level, sir ; it would  
23 depend on the supervisor to do any further briefings  
24 in relation to that.  
25 Q. So generally speaking, something would be said about the

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1 threat level , but depending on who the supervisor was,  
2 some would say more about the threat level?  
3 A. Correct, sir , yes.  
4 Q. And if they said more about the threat level what did  
5 they tend to say to you, do you recall?  
6 A. Anything that had happened recently in relation to  
7 occurrences in the country in relation to the current  
8 ISIS and anything of that nature, sir . Anything that  
9 was relevant to us in the railway, sir .  
10 Q. So I suppose if there had been an attack very recently,  
11 that's something that would be referred to in the  
12 briefing ?  
13 A. That would be, sir.  
14 Q. Before the attack on the arena on 22 May, were you aware  
15 or did it occur to you that the City Room was an area of  
16 vulnerability because the public had ready access and  
17 therefore an attacker had ready access?  
18 A. Absolutely, sir .  
19 Q. And also before the attack, were you aware or did it  
20 occur to you that egress from a concert was a time of  
21 particular vulnerability because many members of the  
22 public would be present in the City Room? So those were  
23 thoughts that you had in your head?  
24 A. Yes, sir .  
25 Q. Was it to your mind in May of 2017 important that there

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1 should be within the City Room, on egress from  
 2 a concert, members of BTP present?  
 3 A. That was always the case, sir.  
 4 Q. You said it was always the case; we'll need to look at  
 5 that.  
 6 Just to focus on my precise question: was it to your  
 7 mind important that there should be people from BTP  
 8 present?  
 9 A. Very much so, yes.  
 10 Q. Why was it important that there should be members of BTP  
 11 present in the City Room on egress?  
 12 A. It was important, sir, to control the flow of people  
 13 leaving the arena into the City Room and down on to the  
 14 station to ensure everybody was out safely and without  
 15 fuss and there was no choke points and blockages in and  
 16 around the City Room, sir.  
 17 Q. So obviously, in this country, we have had terrible  
 18 experience or experiences of what can happen when  
 19 a crowd gets together with crushes and so on, and that  
 20 was one thing that you were concerned about. But we've  
 21 agreed that within the City Room, a terrorist would have  
 22 ready access and that there would be many people present  
 23 during egress. Was it also important to have a BTP  
 24 presence in the City Room during egress --  
 25 A. Yes, sir.

5

1 Q. -- to deal with that issue?  
 2 A. Yes, sir.  
 3 Q. Just to take that a little further, do you mean by  
 4 that -- and I don't wish to put words in your mouth --  
 5 that it was important to have a BTP presence in the  
 6 City Room at that time for that purpose to spot anyone  
 7 who might be suspicious?  
 8 A. It was important, yes.  
 9 Q. Next I want to ask you, please, about your own approach  
 10 to policing the City Room. You were, I think,  
 11 interviewed by a journalist for a BBC documentary,  
 12 is that correct?  
 13 A. That's correct, yes.  
 14 Q. And that documentary was a well-known documentary called  
 15 "Night of the Bomb" which was broadcast exactly a year  
 16 after the attack. I'm certain you'll be aware that you  
 17 were not the only BTP officer to give an interview, were  
 18 you?  
 19 A. That's correct, yes.  
 20 Q. I ask this question in no way critically, but why was it  
 21 that you gave an interview to the BBC?  
 22 A. If I remember correctly, sir, it was requested of me and  
 23 I thought it may be important to give information that  
 24 may perhaps give some comfort or some closure or, at  
 25 that time, some unanswered questions to the families,

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1 sir.  
 2 Q. Were you encouraged by more senior officers within BTP  
 3 to participate in the programme?  
 4 A. I don't recall being concerned by them, sir; I did it of  
 5 my own fruition at their request.  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: At the BBC's request, that is?  
 7 A. No, sir. I believe the BBC approached the force. It  
 8 wasn't a compulsory matter --  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: But the request was passed on to you by  
 10 BTP?  
 11 A. That's correct, sir.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. Sorry, Mr Greaney.  
 13 MR GREANEY: No, that's helpful and clear.  
 14 It goes BBC to BTP, BTP to you, but there was  
 15 absolutely no compulsion, as you put it, to take part,  
 16 it was entirely voluntary?  
 17 A. Yes, no compulsion whatsoever.  
 18 Q. But you wanted to provide some comfort to the families,  
 19 to provide them with information that you felt might be  
 20 important?  
 21 A. Very much so, sir.  
 22 Q. Do you remember that, during the course of what you said  
 23 to the journalist, you were clear that when you  
 24 personally policed events at the arena, you would tend  
 25 to be in the City Room?

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1 A. That's correct, yes.  
 2 Q. And you went on to make clear that not only would you be  
 3 in the City Room, but you would go to the mezzanine  
 4 level within the City Room?  
 5 A. Yes, there was a vantage point on there.  
 6 Q. Indeed. I'm going to ask that we put on the screen  
 7 exactly what you said.  
 8 This is {INQ024284T/1}. I hope you have had  
 9 a chance to see this at some stage in getting ready for  
 10 your evidence. Mr Lopez, could we go to {INQ024284T/4},  
 11 please.  
 12 If you would enlarge, please, the top half of the  
 13 screen.  
 14 It's your first entry that we can see there, and you  
 15 say:  
 16 "Yes, I've gone a lot of concerts there and what  
 17 I tend to do, I get into a routine. So if it's the  
 18 younger elements -- I'll check the rider, see what the  
 19 demographic of the audience is, see what the attendance  
 20 is, and then what I tend to do is, with the younger  
 21 ones, I would actually go into the City Rooms."  
 22 A. Correct.  
 23 Q. That's a description of the Ariana Grande concert  
 24 because, as we know, there was a younger demographic for  
 25 that particular concert.

8

1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. "When you go into the City Rooms", you said:  
 3 "Before the 22nd, there's a set of stairs up to  
 4 there and it gives you a viewing point of the general  
 5 flow of the area. You're up above the kids and that.  
 6 And so that's what I would tend to have done on the  
 7 night and then, as I say, on the reverse as well, when  
 8 the egress is coming out, you just can ensure you've got  
 9 a steady flow of people leaving the arena."  
 10 A. Yes, sir.  
 11 Q. So does it follow from that that your general approach,  
 12 certainly when you were dealing with a concert such as  
 13 the Ariana Grande concert, was that during egress you  
 14 would be on the mezzanine level keeping a lookout for  
 15 what was happening?  
 16 A. Generally, yes, other than that if I'd been rostered at  
 17 a particular patrol at the station or at another  
 18 location, I would generally head to that area.  
 19 Q. Let me see if I have entirely understood that: if you  
 20 were told, for example, to go to the war memorial, or to  
 21 go to some other place, you'd go there, but if you were  
 22 in the City Room at egress where you would have  
 23 positioned yourself was on the mezzanine?  
 24 A. Correct, yes.  
 25 Q. I'm going to ask that we put on the screen a photograph

1 that we saw on Thursday of the mezzanine area just so  
 2 that you can identify for us precisely where you would  
 3 position yourself if it was always in the same place.  
 4 Mr Lopez, this is {INQ035307/2}.  
 5 So we're looking there at what certainly one witness  
 6 has described as "the grey doors". Do you recognise  
 7 those in the middle?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. They lead to the concourse above the platforms at  
 10 Victoria Railway Station and then there's a staircase on  
 11 the left—hand side, which has been are been called by  
 12 some the JD Williams staircase, and then on the  
 13 right—hand side, a smaller staircase leading to what had  
 14 previously been the location of McDonald's.  
 15 A. Yes, sir.  
 16 Q. So on the occasions that you've told us about, when you  
 17 would be on the mezzanine during egress, does this  
 18 photograph help us identify where exactly you would be?  
 19 A. It doesn't show exactly where it is, sir. If you look  
 20 to the left—hand picture, where the person with the  
 21 beige jacket is, I would follow that path and take  
 22 a sharp left and, just to the left—hand side of there,  
 23 there was like a small semi—circle protrusion where the  
 24 actual mezzanine came quite forward and that's the point  
 25 I would use.

1 Q. In fact, much earlier in the inquiry, when I opened the  
 2 case, we looked at a photograph of that and I don't have  
 3 the reference to hand, but in due course we'll find it.  
 4 But you would be to the left—hand side of this  
 5 photograph as we look at the photograph?  
 6 A. That is correct, sir.  
 7 Q. Would it be your practice at all to walk more generally  
 8 on that mezzanine during egress or would you go straight  
 9 to that place and position yourself?  
 10 A. I would go straight to that place for the simple fact  
 11 that it gives you a clear view of entry — every entry  
 12 and exit point within that City Room area. So it would  
 13 give you where people come out of the doors, where the  
 14 people coming off the concourse, other than the  
 15 underneath where they come off the station, and also  
 16 at the side of the old booking office is the walkway to  
 17 the disabled car park, so you would get a full view of  
 18 that area in its entirety, sir.  
 19 Q. As we look to the right of the photograph there is the  
 20 old McDonald's. Were you aware in May 2017 that there  
 21 was a CCTV black spot in that area?  
 22 A. No, not at all, sir.  
 23 Q. You weren't? No one had ever told you that?  
 24 A. I was not aware of that. I'd never been told.  
 25 Q. Was that an area in which, bearing in mind the terrorist

1 threat that you have told us you were aware of, in which  
 2 you will have shown any interest during egress?  
 3 A. Before the —  
 4 Q. Before the attack.  
 5 A. No, sir, not at all.  
 6 Q. So let's just be clear about this. Let's say that  
 7 egress was at 10.30, as was expected in relation to this  
 8 particular concert. If your duty required you to deploy  
 9 into the City Room, how long before 10.30 would you have  
 10 gone there?  
 11 A. I would probably have been up there about 10 o'clock,  
 12 sir.  
 13 Q. So let's say that you've been within the station itself,  
 14 would you have gone to the City Room via the staircase  
 15 and the walkway?  
 16 A. Yes, sir.  
 17 Q. And on entering the City Room, what would have been your  
 18 practice? I am just talking in general terms at the  
 19 moment.  
 20 A. I probably would just have done a circuit of the  
 21 City Room and then got myself in position ready for the  
 22 egress.  
 23 Q. And we know that "getting yourself in position" meant  
 24 going to the location you've just identified. What did  
 25 a circuit of the City Room involved?

1 A. I would probably just go along the front where the exit  
2 doors were and then just come past the merchandise stall  
3 and then just put myself into position, sir.  
4 Q. So that doesn't sound as if it would involve a look on  
5 the mezzanine in the area of McDonald's?  
6 A. No, sir, it wouldn't be a search, it would just be like  
7 a general high-visibility patrol showing that there is  
8 a police presence within the City Room to all the  
9 security staff in the arena, the merchandise people and  
10 any of the waiting parents.  
11 Q. So had anyone within BTP or, indeed, any other  
12 organisation ever suggested to you that it would be  
13 a good idea during egress to look in the area of  
14 McDonald's?  
15 A. No, sir.  
16 Q. I said that we'd show the view that you had or the area  
17 that you were in. Could we put on the screen, please,  
18 {INQ033848/1}.  
19 This is not the night of 22 May. Are we showing  
20 there the view that you would have had from the position  
21 you placed yourself in?  
22 A. Exactly, yes.  
23 Q. As you're going to explain in a moment, you were,  
24 I think, not in Victoria Station at the time of the  
25 explosion, were you?

13

1 A. No, sir, I wasn't.  
2 Q. But if you had been there, would you have been in the  
3 City Room on egress?  
4 A. Yes, sir.  
5 Q. And you would have been on the mezzanine albeit not  
6 in the position of McDonald's?  
7 A. Correct, yes.  
8 Q. And you would have been there from about 10 o'clock?  
9 A. About that, sir, yes.  
10 Q. Would you have been in uniform?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. And would you have had a radio?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. As I'm certain you will know, Salman Abedi, over the  
15 whole of that period, from 10 until 10.31, was not far  
16 away from where you describe that you would have been,  
17 was he?  
18 A. Correct, sir.  
19 Q. Would that area that he was in have been visible from  
20 where you were?  
21 A. I don't think so, sir.  
22 Q. Would it have been visible during the circuit that you  
23 describe you would have done?  
24 A. I doubt it very much, sir. I'm on a lower level.  
25 Q. So let's go straight to the question. If you had been

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1 in that room that night, do you think you would have  
2 seen Salman Abedi?  
3 A. I'm not able to say, sir. I may, I may not have done,  
4 sir.  
5 Q. I'm certain you'll know the basic facts nonetheless. Do  
6 you agree that Salman Abedi did not fit the demographic  
7 of either fans or parents of fans?  
8 A. Absolutely, yes.  
9 Q. And you will know too that he had a large backpack on  
10 and that he spent a considerable period of time in the  
11 City Room.  
12 A. Yes, sir.  
13 Q. I don't know, did you hear the evidence that we received  
14 on Thursday that he had spent some time praying?  
15 A. I did hear that, sir.  
16 Q. And that although you don't know it, it seems to be the  
17 case on the evidence we've received that he was within  
18 a CCTV black spot. Obviously, who knows what he would  
19 have done if a uniformed officer had been on the  
20 mezzanine between 10 o'clock and 10.31, but if he'd  
21 remained in that area and you'd seen him, do you think  
22 that you would have realised that he was out of place?  
23 A. I would hope so, sir, yes.  
24 Q. I appreciate it's a very difficult question for you to  
25 answer and probably an upsetting one as well. But just

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1 try to place yourself in that position in the City Room,  
2 an Ariana Grande concert, principally young women  
3 attending, and you had seen Salman Abedi there for  
4 a period of time. Do you think you would have realised  
5 that he was out of place?  
6 A. If it was for a period of time, I would agree with you  
7 entirely.  
8 Q. And I want to emphasise, you weren't there, but if those  
9 cards had fallen into place and you'd seen that he was  
10 out of place, what would you have done?  
11 A. Knowing the way I police, sir, knowing the way I'm  
12 headstrong, I would have first and foremost thought of  
13 the safety of the people within that area and possibly  
14 I would have done my utmost to challenge him and take  
15 him away from that area.  
16 Q. There are a lot of ifs and buts in this, everyone will  
17 understand.  
18 A. There will always be, sir.  
19 Q. Let's be clear about what those ifs and buts are. If  
20 you'd been in the station that night, you would have  
21 been in the City Room and if you were in the City Room,  
22 you'd have been on the mezzanine?  
23 A. Correct.  
24 Q. If at any stage you'd seen Salman Abedi and you had  
25 realised he was there for any period of time, you'd have

16

1 approached him?  
 2 A. There's a good chance of that, yes.  
 3 Q. I'm going to next, I hope fairly briefly, look at how  
 4 events in fact unfolded for you that night I want to be  
 5 clear: I'm not asking these questions in any way to be  
 6 critical of you, I just want to understand what happened  
 7 and what didn't happen given the difference you might  
 8 have made, with the emphasis on "might".  
 9 You came on duty at 3 pm that day, the 22nd, is that  
 10 correct?  
 11 A. Correct, sir.  
 12 Q. And I'm sure you're aware that your police notebook  
 13 records that you attended a briefing delivered by  
 14 Sergeant Wilson.  
 15 Do you recall that briefing?  
 16 A. I don't recall the briefing at that time, sir, no.  
 17 Q. Are you aware of the evidence that we've received from  
 18 Sergeant Wilson?  
 19 A. I am very much so.  
 20 Q. Did you watch his evidence?  
 21 A. Yes, sir.  
 22 Q. Which is entirely understandable. And you'll recall  
 23 therefore that he told us that the briefing had  
 24 a counter-terrorism element. Although you don't recall  
 25 the briefing, do you have any reason to doubt what he

17

1 says about that?  
 2 A. I wouldn't doubt it. If the sergeant said that, sir,  
 3 then that's what occurred.  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Was he one of the ones who normally did  
 5 give you a CT briefing?  
 6 A. It just depended, sir. The station was split into two  
 7 locations and various teams, so although you did have an  
 8 assigned supervisor which would look after the  
 9 day-to-day running of the shift, it would be sometimes  
 10 far and few between when you'd actually be rostered with  
 11 that sergeant, the sergeants were on a totally different  
 12 rota to the rest of the police station. So it was hit  
 13 and miss, sir, at best.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 15 MR GREANEY: He may have seemed to those who watched his  
 16 evidence to have been a professional officer; was that  
 17 how he seemed to you to be?  
 18 A. Absolutely, sir.  
 19 Q. In any event, we have, as you will have seen, an email  
 20 recording his instructions of 22 May. Could we have on  
 21 that on screen, please? {INQ025538/1}.  
 22 Could we enlarge the top half of that page, please?  
 23 Mr Corke, I have not struggled to hear what you've said,  
 24 but would you mind keeping your voice up? I'm told that  
 25 the stenographers are struggling for some reason. I'm

18

1 not sure why that is.  
 2 Have you seen this email before?  
 3 A. Yes, sir.  
 4 Q. You'll have seen it during the course of preparing to  
 5 give evidence, I'm certain. But do you remember seeing  
 6 it on 22 May?  
 7 A. Yes, sir.  
 8 Q. We looked at this on Thursday. It's timed at 2.41 on  
 9 22 May and you are one of those to whom this email was  
 10 sent?  
 11 A. Correct, sir.  
 12 Q. And in fact, of the "Dear Jess, Mark, Jon, Lewis and  
 13 Steve", you are the Steve?  
 14 A. Yes, sir.  
 15 Q. "Please note that you are down to assist with the  
 16 concert tonight. I have included the latest arena info.  
 17 You will be deployed for the in and out."  
 18 Did you understand that to mean the ingress and  
 19 egress?  
 20 A. That's correct, yes.  
 21 Q. "I would like one officer on the concourse close to the  
 22 barriers, one patrolling the City Rooms, and one  
 23 patrolling the [X] and [Y]. Please can rest breaks be  
 24 staggered between 1930 and 2100 hours, so we have  
 25 someone at Victoria."

19

1 A. Yes, sir.  
 2 Q. So that really accords with your understanding that,  
 3 generally speaking, in fact perhaps invariably, you  
 4 would expect there to have been a BTP patrol within the  
 5 City Room during egress?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. So that was a general instruction given to you and the  
 8 others, and then there was a specific section that was  
 9 directed to you; is that correct?  
 10 A. Correct.  
 11 Q. So:  
 12 "Steve Corke: Emma Power..."  
 13 Was she another police officer?  
 14 A. She was a police constable, yes.  
 15 Q. "... has arrested one male for [and the log reference is  
 16 given]. This is the burglary at ... which is your job,  
 17 so please will you assist with taking this handover?"  
 18 A. Yes, sir.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney, may I just interrupt for  
 20 a moment. I wanted to make a note and I found I haven't  
 21 brought a biro with me. Could anyone lend me a biro?  
 22 (Pause)  
 23 MR GREANEY: Can I just draw these strands together,  
 24 Mr Corke — and I say Mr because I think you have since  
 25 retired as a police officer in the ordinary course of

20

1 events.  
 2 A. I have, sir, indeed.  
 3 Q. You retired in December 2017?  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. And I'm going to identify what it is, but you now have  
 6 different employment but still in what might be  
 7 described as the criminal justice system?  
 8 A. Correct, sir.  
 9 Q. To draw the strands together, you were down to assist  
 10 with the concert?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. And the policing of the concert was to involve, in  
 13 particular, the in and out, ingress and egress?  
 14 A. Yes, sir.  
 15 Q. But first, it was your job to assist with the handover  
 16 that we've seen in this email?  
 17 A. Correct.  
 18 Q. Which related to a burglary?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. And I don't think there's any sensitivity about this,  
 21 the burglary was one that had occurred not at Victoria  
 22 Railway Station, but Piccadilly Railway Station?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. Do you agree with Sergeant Wilson that the anticipation  
 25 was always that you would be back for egress? And

21

1 perhaps you can also understand that it was thought  
 2 important that you should be back because of the  
 3 particular value that you could bring to bear because of  
 4 your experience?  
 5 A. I reckon so, sir, yes.  
 6 Q. And you can probably understand that, can't you?  
 7 A. Yes, sir.  
 8 Q. Do you recall that egress was anticipated to be at  
 9 10.30 pm?  
 10 A. Yes, sir.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You knew that at the time, did you?  
 12 A. Yes, sir. I'd read the rider previously so we believed  
 13 it was around 10.30 the egress would commence.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 15 MR GREANEY: We'll just look at what you said to the  
 16 journalist about this. {INQ024284T/5}.  
 17 You are very clear and indeed frank that you are  
 18 aware it was 10.30 at the time, but we will see what you  
 19 were saying a little nearer to the time. You see about  
 20 the middle of that page, you're talking about the  
 21 burglary:  
 22 "He was a burglar I had been after for quite a while  
 23 so I dealt with him, dealt with the paperwork, and we  
 24 decided, myself and Martin..."  
 25 That was another officer you were with that night?

22

1 A. Correct, yes.  
 2 Q. "... who I was partnered with that night that we'd go on  
 3 a patrol and ensure that we were back to  
 4 Victoria Station on post for the egress it was  
 5 anticipated at 10.30 pm. That was the last song."  
 6 And you were then asked some further questions about  
 7 your duties that day, and at the bottom of the page you  
 8 were asked:  
 9 "What time did you go out on patrol?"  
 10 Do you see that?  
 11 A. Yes, sir.  
 12 Q. And you were being asked about what time did you go on  
 13 patrol after you dealt with the burglar. You said:  
 14 "It would have probably been about 8.30 pm, towards  
 15 9 pm. We just did a couple of vulnerable points and, as  
 16 I say, our aim was to head over towards Victoria. But  
 17 just prior to 10.30 pm, which was the original concert  
 18 finishing time."  
 19 A. That's correct, yes.  
 20 Q. So what we've understood so far is that although you  
 21 were dealing with this other job, you knew that the  
 22 expectation was that you'd be back at the station for  
 23 egress?  
 24 A. Yes, sir.  
 25 Q. And you knew that egress was at 10.30 pm?

23

1 A. Yes, sir.  
 2 Q. In terms of the burglary, you went, I think, not to  
 3 Piccadilly Railway Station but to a GMP police station  
 4 to interview the suspect.  
 5 A. Central Park Custody, yes.  
 6 Q. And we have, as we saw with Sergeant Wilson, a log entry  
 7 that relates to this. It's {INQ035161/1}.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Have you seen this as well?  
 9 A. I have, yes.  
 10 MR GREANEY: In fact you refer to this in one of your  
 11 statements. So we can see in the middle of the page  
 12 "1342". That was your collar number when you were a BTP  
 13 constable?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. "1342 reports. Suspect in this case. Not told his  
 16 name. Was interviewed on disc between 1724 and  
 17 1739 hours."  
 18 And a reference is given:  
 19 "It was a no-comment interview."  
 20 Which means that he refused to answer your  
 21 questions?  
 22 A. Correct, sir.  
 23 Q. "ERG consulted."  
 24 We know now what that is:  
 25 "Although ID statement has been completed, it had

24

1 not been linked to the case file . CPS to make decision  
 2 on burglary. They would require ID statement, CCTV.  
 3 Detained person gave mother's address of... It was  
 4 agreed that he should be reported and a file prepared  
 5 accordingly. This action was completed."  
 6 The time of that is 20.27, we see just above;  
 7 is that right?  
 8 A. That is when I would be entering further information on  
 9 to the NICHE system. That's when I commenced putting on  
 10 certain processes which took time.  
 11 Q. So is 20.27 the time at which you'd have started to  
 12 input that information or when you would have stopped?  
 13 A. That's when I would have started to do it. If  
 14 I remember correctly, you have to open the screen and  
 15 bring the person into the system as an entity to the  
 16 investigation .  
 17 Q. So that's 20.27, and it's no wish of mine to put words  
 18 in your mouth, but when you spoke to the journalist you  
 19 said it would have been about 8.30 towards 9 pm that you  
 20 went out on patrol?  
 21 A. That was just a guesstimate, I do apologise. As I say,  
 22 there was gaps and when I spoke to the force I needed  
 23 this information to know when I was on the computer. It  
 24 was just a guess to the BBC reporter.  
 25 Q. I'm certain you don't need to apologise, least of all to

25

1 me, but you will appreciate that what I am concerned to  
 2 explore is why you weren't at the arena at the time of  
 3 the explosion in the position you would have been in.  
 4 So looking at this NICHE report that we have on the  
 5 screen, just try to help us, when do you think you  
 6 finished dealing with this job of the burglar?  
 7 A. If I remember correctly, this system was quite  
 8 a laborious system and in certain parts we had to rely  
 9 on ringing our headquarters in Birmingham, where you  
 10 could be on hold for quite a while. This was  
 11 an important section to this that was hammered into us  
 12 that this had to be completed before you finished your  
 13 duty. So I could have been on the phone for at least  
 14 perhaps an hour. It wasn't uncommon. Once that process  
 15 had taken place, then that gave me the opportunity to  
 16 put further information on and finish that phase of the  
 17 investigation , sir .  
 18 Q. Let's try and look at this from a different direction .  
 19 You explained to the journalist that, having completed  
 20 the work on the burglary, you went on patrol.  
 21 A. That's correct, yes.  
 22 Q. And is it correct that you went on patrol?  
 23 A. What had happened, I think it was around about --  
 24 Q. Let's take it in stages.  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Is it correct that you went on patrol?  
 2 A. Yes, sir .  
 3 Q. What does patrol involve for a BTP officer?  
 4 A. To patrol anywhere that's been directed, sir .  
 5 Q. We've seen the email that you received from  
 6 Sergeant Corke (sic); where had you been directed to  
 7 patrol?  
 8 A. Sergeant Wilson, sir .  
 9 Q. Sergeant Wilson.  
 10 A. To go to the arena for egress.  
 11 Q. We know that you decided to go on patrol. What on this  
 12 particular night did that involve doing?  
 13 A. The intention on that night was I was aware that the  
 14 time was getting on and I could not make it over by foot  
 15 to the arena or by getting a tram. PC Martin, who was  
 16 on response that night, I scrounged a lift off him to  
 17 get me over to the arena for egress. At that time, the  
 18 road, Ancoats, which would have been more the more  
 19 accessible road to the arena was under roadworks so we  
 20 decided to come the other way, round Deansgate, and  
 21 whilst making our way to the arena, we chose just to pop  
 22 into a vulnerable point on that location, so it wasn't  
 23 a patrol as in a directed patrol, I was just merely  
 24 scrounging a lift and on that way round we decided to  
 25 look at this location, sir .

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1 Q. Can I be very clear . Obviously you had no idea what was  
 2 going to happen that night and that we will all  
 3 understand. I have no wish to be critical , certainly  
 4 overly critical of you. But you knew that the  
 5 expectation of you was that you'd be back ready for  
 6 egress, which was due to take place at 10.30?  
 7 A. Yes, sir .  
 8 Q. May I therefore ask you a very direct question and seek  
 9 a direct answer: why were you not back at the arena by  
 10 10.30, please?  
 11 A. Because the route we had chosen -- we chose to visit  
 12 a vulnerable point on the way to the arena, sir , and  
 13 I just mistimed it by a couple of minutes.  
 14 Q. So I suppose that had -- this is just another of the ifs  
 15 and buts, isn't it ?  
 16 A. Exactly, sir .  
 17 Q. That on that night, and I genuinely mean that we mustn't  
 18 be overcritical , you just misjudged the timings?  
 19 A. Just misjudged the timings, yes, sir .  
 20 Q. Mr Corke, I'm next going to ask you about what happened  
 21 when you did arrive at the arena. Can I be very clear  
 22 that I am not going to be asking you about any names and  
 23 I'm not going to be asking you about any injuries. But  
 24 nonetheless I do have some general questions for you  
 25 about the response. So if anyone doesn't wish to hear

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1 this, I'm going to give them an opportunity to leave the  
 2 room they're in. Does that make sense?  
 3 A. I understand, sir.  
 4 Q. At about 22.32 hours, did you hear a call for assistance  
 5 over your radio?  
 6 A. Correct, yes.  
 7 Q. Where were you at that stage?  
 8 A. On Deansgate, sir.  
 9 Q. Did you think to yourself, thinking back, my goodness,  
 10 I should be there?  
 11 A. Not at the time, sir, I didn't. Afterwards, in  
 12 reflection, I did, yes.  
 13 Q. Was that call one that was made by PC Jessica Bullough?  
 14 A. Yes, sir.  
 15 Q. Do you remember that she said that there had been an  
 16 explosion?  
 17 A. Yes, sir.  
 18 Q. Deansgate is quite a long road. Were you not very far  
 19 away at all from the arena?  
 20 A. You could see it, it's a straight road, so you could see  
 21 it right at the far end.  
 22 Q. So did you arrive within minutes?  
 23 A. Absolutely, sir, yes.  
 24 Q. And you ran straight inside with a first aid bag?  
 25 A. Correct, sir.

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1 Q. Which entrance did you use?  
 2 A. The war memorial entrance. I abandoned the vehicle on  
 3 the road there.  
 4 Q. Did you go straight to the City Room?  
 5 A. I went straight up the stairs, along the upper level and  
 6 I was heading towards the City Room, but I stopped short  
 7 as there were a number of casualties just outside of the  
 8 door of the City Room.  
 9 Q. Whatever people may make about your misjudgement of  
 10 time, I'm sure I will be excused saying that you did all  
 11 of that without any concern for your own safety?  
 12 A. None whatsoever, sir.  
 13 Q. Doing the best that you can, what time do you think you  
 14 arrived in the City Room?  
 15 A. At the speed I drove down Deansgate, I would say perhaps  
 16 within a minute and a half, tops.  
 17 Q. And you'll remember that I didn't want to adduce any  
 18 evidence from you about names or about injuries.  
 19 A. Yes, sir.  
 20 Q. So I think you'll just be able to agree with these  
 21 questions that I put to you. Within the City Room, was  
 22 there a scene of devastation?  
 23 A. Utter devastation, sir.  
 24 Q. You provided such assistance as you could to a number of  
 25 people?

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1 A. I did, yes.  
 2 Q. You were involved in using what you could find as  
 3 makeshift stretchers, weren't you?  
 4 A. We had to improvise, yes.  
 5 Q. You used display boards?  
 6 A. Correct.  
 7 Q. And trestle tables?  
 8 A. Yes, sir.  
 9 Q. And had to use the crash barriers to give rigidity to  
 10 the display boards you used?  
 11 A. Yes, correct, sir.  
 12 Q. As you explained to the BBC journalist it was obvious to  
 13 you very quickly indeed on your arrival that a bomb had  
 14 been detonated?  
 15 A. Absolutely, sir, yes.  
 16 Q. And it was obvious to you that that device was  
 17 a shrapnel bomb?  
 18 A. Yes, sir.  
 19 Q. And was it obvious to you also when you arrived in that  
 20 room, minutes after the detonation, that there was no  
 21 live attacker within that room?  
 22 A. Correct, sir, yes.  
 23 MR GREANEY: Mr Corke, thank you very much indeed, those are  
 24 my questions, but there will be others.  
 25 I'll ask, first of all, please, counsel on behalf of

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1 the families to pose their questions. I'm not entirely  
 2 certain who is going first. I will ask Mr Gozem, first.  
 3 Questions from MR GOZEM  
 4 MR GOZEM: Mr Corke, can you hear me and see me?  
 5 A. Yes, sir.  
 6 Q. Thank you very much.  
 7 I'm going to have to go back to the beginning,  
 8 I hope you'll forgive me. Is this right: from the email  
 9 that you received and from the briefing that you  
 10 underwent with Sergeant Wilson, you would have known who  
 11 the other officers rostered for this concert were?  
 12 A. That's correct, sir, yes.  
 13 Q. Does it follow that you would have known that, as  
 14 opposed to you, they were all very inexperienced?  
 15 A. That's correct, sir, yes.  
 16 Q. Is Sergeant Wilson right when he says that he had  
 17 a conversation with you at 9 o'clock as he was about to  
 18 go off duty when you told him, "I'll be there"?  
 19 A. Correct, sir, yes.  
 20 Q. So what were you doing at 9 o'clock when you had that  
 21 conversation with him?  
 22 A. I believe, sir, I was on the phone awaiting collection  
 23 of a call to do some inputting on to the computer  
 24 system.  
 25 Q. How urgent was it that that was done that night as

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1 opposed to the following day?  
 2 A. It had to be done by completion of duty, sir; that was  
 3 the instructions at that time. If you didn't comply  
 4 with that, sir, you would be in trouble with supervision  
 5 and management.  
 6 Q. Did you regard that as worse than failing to get to the  
 7 concert?  
 8 A. I wouldn't use the word "failing", sir. I was aware  
 9 that I had to get back to the concert and I thought that  
 10 I could commit to both within the timescale, but  
 11 unfortunately, as previously discussed, I mistimed it by  
 12 a couple of minutes.  
 13 Q. Well, let's look at that. 10.30 was the end of show  
 14 time, wasn't it?  
 15 A. Yes, sir.  
 16 Q. That's different from the commencement of egress, isn't  
 17 it?  
 18 A. It depends on your definition of that. You tend to get  
 19 a little trickle just before completion and egress once  
 20 the last song's finished and a large number of people  
 21 exiting the arena, sir.  
 22 Q. Yes, but I think you had said -- and we can look at it  
 23 if you want to, but I'm looking at paragraph 10 of the  
 24 statement that you made to, effectively to the inquiry,  
 25 in which you said:

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1 "Once the audience had entered the arena, officers  
 2 started taking their refreshment breaks. Some had their  
 3 meal at Victoria Station, others went to the police  
 4 station, Peninsula House."  
 5 Then this:  
 6 "By 9 pm all were generally back on duty and  
 7 starting to get into position for egress. Two officers  
 8 usually took up position in the City Rooms and two on  
 9 the concourse."  
 10 So it sounds very much from that as though your  
 11 general practice and experience was that from around  
 12 9 pm officers were preparing for egress at not 10.29.  
 13 A. No, sir, people got there certainly after 9 o'clock. It  
 14 was not set in stone in relation to being there by  
 15 a certain time, but it tended to be around about  
 16 9 o'clock, sir.  
 17 Q. Yes. Well, did you think that arriving at 10.30 or  
 18 10.29 was going to be acceptable?  
 19 A. I was in no other position to get there at that time.  
 20 It would have taken me -- given where we dropped off,  
 21 I would probably have just got there just as the bomb  
 22 went off.  
 23 Q. Did you regard getting there at 10.29 as being  
 24 acceptable?  
 25 A. There was no other way I could have got there earlier,

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1 sir. I was only delayed by a couple of minutes doing  
 2 a drive-by to the vulnerable location, so I would have  
 3 only got there, irrespective of whatever, sir, at  
 4 probably detonation time.  
 5 Q. I won't ask you the same question again. You thought it  
 6 was acceptable, did you?  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You just have asked the question again,  
 8 Mr Gozem, thank you.  
 9 MR GOZEM: All right, I'll move on, sir. I am sorry.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No need to apologise.  
 11 MR GOZEM: I just want to understand this: what we do know  
 12 is that the interview that you had conducted with the  
 13 suspect who'd been arrested finished at 5.40 that  
 14 evening.  
 15 A. Yes, sir.  
 16 Q. You then had to travel from where you'd conducted it  
 17 back to your office in Piccadilly to update the case  
 18 file.  
 19 A. No, sir. What happened after that was that I would have  
 20 to remain in the police station until I had spoken to  
 21 a member of the Evidence Review Gateway, which again you  
 22 would be on hold for hours, possibly, and then I would  
 23 give them what evidence I had and I would not be  
 24 permitted to leave that police station until a decision  
 25 had been made by a member of the Evidence Review Gateway

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1 team, which would be passed to the custody sergeant, and  
 2 then a decision would be made of where the prisoner  
 3 would be processed and what course of action would take  
 4 place. So I could not tell you what time I left the  
 5 police station, but I would anticipate I was on hold for  
 6 a long, long while.  
 7 Q. So from 5.40 until you were on NICHE at, what, 8.27, all  
 8 of that time was travel, perhaps a break, and just  
 9 waiting --  
 10 A. No, sir. I did not leave the police station until  
 11 a decision had been made and I had discussed it with the  
 12 custody sergeant. I cannot give you a time on what time  
 13 I left the Central Park Custody, sir.  
 14 Q. All right. We know that by 8.27 you were on NICHE and  
 15 by 9 o'clock you were saying, "I'll be there", and we  
 16 know that you didn't make it and you've explained why.  
 17 A. Correct, sir.  
 18 Q. I just turn to ask you these questions, please. One of  
 19 the things that you have said is that you were  
 20 absolutely aware that the City Room was particularly  
 21 vulnerable at egress to terrorist attack.  
 22 A. It was open to that, sir, at ingress, egress. It was  
 23 a public space and there were no restrictions on members  
 24 of the public going in there.  
 25 Q. Yes. Did it ever occur to you to share your expertise,

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1 your views, with those inexperienced officers who were  
 2 at the arena?  
 3 A. On the night in question, sir, it just did not come into  
 4 my mind that somebody would stoop so low to do what they  
 5 did in that location. It was never in the back of my  
 6 mind, sir. We all received various degrees of CT  
 7 briefings and such, but not on that night in question,  
 8 sir, no.  
 9 Q. So it never occurred to you that it might happen that  
 10 night; is that what you're saying?  
 11 A. Correct, yes.  
 12 Q. But of course, you understand now that the whole key to  
 13 a terrorist attack is that it might happen on any night  
 14 and it was highly likely.  
 15 A. Absolutely, sir, yes.  
 16 Q. All right. You've said it didn't occur to you to pass  
 17 on your knowledge, learning and experience to the other  
 18 officers; you didn't speak to them at all about your  
 19 continuing absence?  
 20 A. You'd broken up, I couldn't hear you, I'm sorry.  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did you speak to them at all about the  
 22 fact that you weren't there?  
 23 A. I don't even recall seeing them, sir, until I got the  
 24 documentation and the first I saw them was  
 25 post-detonation, sir.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 2 MR GOZEM: You've explained to us what your habit was when  
 3 patrolling the City Room at around egress time, to do  
 4 a circuit and then to get into position; yes?  
 5 A. Correct, sir, yes.  
 6 Q. Could you explain to us, please, why it is you didn't  
 7 look for -- well, you didn't conduct a search?  
 8 A. There was no reason for me to conduct a search, sir.  
 9 There was nothing indicated that there was any threat on  
 10 that evening, sir. I did a high visibility to let the  
 11 parents see me, the staff, the ShowSec staff, the  
 12 merchandising staff, to let them know there was a police  
 13 presence within the City Rooms.  
 14 Q. Let's be clear. I'm not talking about that night  
 15 because obviously you weren't there. I'm talking about  
 16 your general approach when you are on patrol there. You  
 17 said it was not your habit to do a search. Why was it  
 18 not your habit to do a search during a time when  
 19 a terrorist attack was highly likely?  
 20 A. It was just never considered or directed, sir, at that  
 21 time.  
 22 Q. Isn't it common sense that a terrorist may well choose  
 23 a hiding place?  
 24 A. Exactly, sir, yes.  
 25 Q. Well, if the answer is "exactly", isn't it sensible then

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1 to look in the hiding places to see if there is  
 2 a potential terrorist there?  
 3 A. Not if you don't believe that there is one going to be  
 4 there, sir, no.  
 5 Q. Well, if an attack is highly likely, are you entitled to  
 6 believe there isn't going to be one there?  
 7 A. You're entitled to believe that, sir, yes.  
 8 Q. Really? Because your duty was to look after, to ensure  
 9 the security of the children who were coming out of the  
 10 concert, wasn't it?  
 11 A. It was, sir, yes.  
 12 Q. But notwithstanding that, you were entitled to believe  
 13 that there wasn't going to be a terrorist hiding?  
 14 A. Yes, sir.  
 15 Q. Who told you that or is that just your own view?  
 16 A. It was my belief at the time, sir.  
 17 Q. You'd undergone counter-terrorism training?  
 18 A. Yes, sir.  
 19 Q. And was the state of that training such that it left you  
 20 with that state of mind?  
 21 A. No, sir.  
 22 Q. What state of mind did it leave you in?  
 23 A. To be vigilant at times when it's identified that there  
 24 is a specific threat to a specific location, sir.  
 25 On that night in question --

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1 Q. Does that -- sorry, I interrupted you; do finish.  
 2 A. On that night in question, sir, and previous to that on  
 3 concerts before, there was nothing in my mind, as I have  
 4 said before, that somebody would stoop so low to commit  
 5 an act of that nature. That was never in the back of my  
 6 mind, sir.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can we just cut through this a bit  
 8 perhaps? I think you have made your point, Mr Gozem, if  
 9 I may say so.  
 10 Was there ever any instruction given to you by  
 11 senior officers that included in the duties you had at  
 12 the City Room was to carry out a detailed search there  
 13 to look for anyone who might be a terrorist?  
 14 A. There was no specific directions at all, sir.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. And would you actually have had  
 16 the staff or the ability to carry out that sort of  
 17 detailed search?  
 18 A. You wouldn't, sir. At that time there was five  
 19 officers, of which it's been alluded to that four were,  
 20 although competent officers, inexperienced. So the main  
 21 thrust of that would be ensuring that the people leave  
 22 the arena in a safe fashion, getting on to the trains  
 23 and leaving the area.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Gozem, we'll obviously have to  
 25 consider whether that's sensible, but I hope that covers

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1 that particular area.  
 2 MR GOZEM: Thank you, sir, it certainly does. I don't think  
 3 I have any further questions. Thank you very much.  
 4 MR GREANEY: I understand Mr Cooper has some questions he  
 5 wishes to ask.  
 6 Questions from MR COOPER  
 7 MR COOPER: Can I begin, please, Mr Corke, on behalf of  
 8 those we represent, by commending you for the work you  
 9 did post—detonation. We have seen the interview and we  
 10 have seen the transcripts and I would just like you to  
 11 know that on behalf of those we represent (overspeaking)  
 12 answer just a few questions.  
 13 Mr Gomez (sic), it will be predicated on that  
 14 interview that Mr Corke gave to the journalist. That's  
 15 {INQ024284T/17}, please. It's the same document.  
 16 So you can just get yourself in the zone, Mr Corke,  
 17 I'm asking you about a trauma kit.  
 18 A. Yes, sir.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm really sorry, I missed that.  
 20 MR COOPER: Trauma kits.  
 21 You deal on {INQ024284T/17} with the trauma kits  
 22 that the Fire Service had that didn't arrive, as it  
 23 were, as far as you're concerned.  
 24 A. Correct, sir, yes.  
 25 Q. We look at what you say there in the middle:

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1 "I never saw the Fire Service. I believe they were  
 2 held out of there. We had a debrief in relation to the  
 3 equipment that we had and they had specialist teams as  
 4 well, you know. I didn't see a fire engine all night.  
 5 That's not to say that they were — they were just  
 6 outside."  
 7 Then the question is:  
 8 "Would it have been helpful?"  
 9 And we'll scroll down, please:  
 10 "They've got trauma equipment, they've got  
 11 everything, you know, I mean, and one of the things we  
 12 said was that the bandages we have are first aid  
 13 bandages. You need what I call field dressings, army  
 14 dressings, and there's a new one now that it's — you  
 15 put the field dressing on and the gel seals it. We said  
 16 that it would be beneficial, in the patrol vehicles ..."  
 17 And you go on to describe:  
 18 "... to have what they call gurneys boards,  
 19 collapsible stretchers. That would have been... that  
 20 would have aided us completely."  
 21 And scroll if we can, slightly, to {INQ024284T/18},  
 22 please. Then us on:  
 23 "The trauma kits which the firearms guys have."  
 24 And you go on to deal with that.  
 25 This is the kit that effectively would have assisted

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1 you when you were going about your work?  
 2 A. Absolutely, sir.  
 3 Q. And that you could have got or indeed could have been  
 4 deployed by the Fire Service had they been there?  
 5 A. Correct, sir, yes.  
 6 Q. And indeed, could have been deployed by firearms  
 7 officers had they been there?  
 8 A. Correct, sir, yes.  
 9 Q. What is the significance in your view of you not having  
 10 those trauma kits when you needed them?  
 11 A. It's almost like a finger in the dam, sir. The first  
 12 aid kit that was supplied to us was for minor injuries.  
 13 It was not adequate for a situation like that, sir.  
 14 Q. Can I ask you, please, to look at {INQ024284T/18} of 19  
 15 of that document again, where you deal with the medics.  
 16 In short, in your interview, I think put it shortly to  
 17 you, you said when you went in, you expected the medics  
 18 to follow you in.  
 19 A. Absolutely, sir, 100%.  
 20 Q. Why did you expect the medics to follow you?  
 21 A. I'm a Manchester lad, sir, and I'm proud of the city and  
 22 it's got some of the finest hospitals in the country  
 23 with some of the finest departments and everything.  
 24 When I went in, into that area, I thoroughly expected to  
 25 be swamped and flooded by these people, and I wasn't,

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1 sir.  
 2 Q. The next question I want to ask you is a question that  
 3 I'm asking you and not expecting any detailed answer as  
 4 to descriptions or names or anything like that  
 5 whatsoever.  
 6 But in your interview with the journalist, you made  
 7 the observation that had Ariana Grande not sung an extra  
 8 song at the end of her concert, the harm caused to  
 9 people might have been worse.  
 10 A. Absolutely, sir.  
 11 Q. Without going into the detail of harm, in principle why  
 12 do you say that? What was it about Ariana Grande  
 13 singing that extra song that maybe saved injury or  
 14 lives?  
 15 A. There would have been more people coming out at the time  
 16 of the bomb, sir, I believe. I may be wrong.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think that's quite an adequate answer.  
 18 MR COOPER: I did raise the matter with Mr Greaney a minute  
 19 ago.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's not that. I think we well  
 21 understand if more people come out, more people may well  
 22 be injured.  
 23 MR COOPER: Lastly this, please: when you were delayed, and  
 24 you have been asked questions about that, did you  
 25 contact any other BTP officer to let them know that you

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1 were delayed and wouldn't make it back on time for  
 2 egress so that they were aware that they might be  
 3 a resource down?  
 4 A. I don't recall making anybody aware, sir. I would have  
 5 assumed that the night turn sergeant was aware that  
 6 I was completing paperwork and would make my way there  
 7 as soon as possible. But I did not --- I don't recall  
 8 making contact with a supervisor.  
 9 Q. I'm so conscious that it's all easy to us to stand  
 10 in the clinical environment of an inquiry and ask these  
 11 questions, but perhaps that wonderful word, hindsight,  
 12 which is a cruel word in many respects, with hindsight  
 13 perhaps should you have contacted someone to tell them  
 14 that you were going to be delayed?  
 15 A. With hindsight, maybe so, but I would assume that the  
 16 day turn sergeant would have let the night turn sergeant  
 17 know exactly where his resources were. I didn't think  
 18 that fell upon my shoulders.  
 19 MR COOPER: I'm grateful, thank you.  
 20 MR GREANEY: Sir, I don't understand anyone has questions  
 21 save for Mr Gibbs.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Gibbs, do you mind if I ask some  
 23 questions first? It gives you the benefit of perhaps  
 24 clearing up any messes that I create.  
 25 MR GIBBS: Thank you.

1 Questions from THE CHAIRMAN  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 3 On a particular night when you're at a concert  
 4 at the arena, who among you officers there would make  
 5 and how would you make the decision as to who went  
 6 where?  
 7 A. If you had a supervisor, sir, on the ground, the  
 8 supervisor would direct. If I'd have been there, taking  
 9 away the dealings with the burglary suspect, being the  
 10 senior constable, I would have directed a dual patrol  
 11 with the two PCSOs because they couldn't go on single.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I don't think you need to tell us what,  
 13 but you would be the person as the senior person?  
 14 A. I would take it on my shoulders, sir, unless otherwise  
 15 directed or there was a supervisor on the ground.  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: In your absence would you have expected  
 17 whoever was the most senior to direct who went where?  
 18 A. I would have thought so, yes.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And when, ie how long before people  
 20 should get in position?  
 21 A. I would expect so, sir, yes.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: This is again just for clarification  
 23 because we've heard it. Sergeant Wilson said that when  
 24 he left you, you were saying that you were going to  
 25 finish up what you were doing, then you were going to

1 take a refreshment break, and then you were going to the  
 2 arena. Did you take a refreshment break that night?  
 3 A. I took the refreshment break while I was completing the  
 4 computer program because I would never have got there if  
 5 I had taken my allotted ---  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So that didn't delay your attendance in  
 7 any way?  
 8 A. Absolutely none whatsoever.  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's just important that we know that  
 10 because it has been mentioned.  
 11 In addition to you dealing with the safe evacuation  
 12 of people from the concert as well as keeping a lookout  
 13 for any suspicious characters, that was also being done  
 14 by people from ShowSec.  
 15 A. I believe so, yes.  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You were aware that there are security  
 17 officers on duty at the arena?  
 18 A. Yes, sir, but we have very little interaction with the  
 19 on-ground patrol officers.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's what I was wondering about. Is  
 21 there any coordination between you and what you do and  
 22 ShowSec?  
 23 A. Not to my knowledge, sir, there wasn't.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Do you get any information from ShowSec  
 25 on a night when you are there about what's going on?

1 A. We get the rider in relation to the concerts. There is  
 2 a little more --- there was a little more interaction  
 3 when we had the larger attended concerts, the boxing and  
 4 the darts. There was more interaction there in relation  
 5 to potential public order and safety issues.  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did they, so far as you were  
 7 concerned --- it may happen at a different level, I don't  
 8 know --- did they ever express particular concerns about  
 9 particular areas in the City Room or particular  
 10 activities in the City Room?  
 11 A. That would have been dealt with perhaps by the ops  
 12 planning team. It was above my pay grade.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: When you were looking for suspicious  
 14 people, one of the things you might be looking for is  
 15 whether they were carrying something, a rucksack on  
 16 their back?  
 17 A. Possibly so, sir.  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So far as your terrorist training,  
 19 presumably person-borne IEDs are things that you are  
 20 made aware of?  
 21 A. Yes, sir.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So a large --- would it draw your  
 23 attention or not?  
 24 A. Perhaps. It's quite a transient community at  
 25 Manchester Victoria station, students, people travelling

1 with backpacks, rucksacks, holdalls, suitcases and such.  
 2 It may have done, sir, it may have done.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. We also know, or we have heard,  
 4 that there would be quite a lot of bootleggers around on  
 5 the evening of a concert. Were you aware of that?  
 6 A. I believe there were, sir, yes. I never had personal  
 7 interaction. My only interaction with bootleggers was  
 8 those that were on the railway station and blocking the  
 9 exits from the railway station. Any other bootleggers  
 10 in relation to the merchandising I never dealt with and  
 11 I never had directions to deal with.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We have heard, particularly on this  
 13 night but on other nights as well, there would actually  
 14 be a security team, I don't know whether that's the  
 15 right description, but people look for bootleggers, to  
 16 get them out of the place so they are not competing with  
 17 the authorised sellers. Were you aware of their  
 18 existence?  
 19 A. I was aware. I wasn't aware of the size of the team  
 20 that they had amongst them. I know Trading Standards on  
 21 occasion did deploy, but I wasn't aware, sir.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did you ever coordinate with them of  
 23 them?  
 24 A. No, sir. In all honesty, sir, it was the first -- when  
 25 I heard the evidence the other day, the extent of their

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1 operation that the way they operated within the  
 2 City Rooms.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: The reality is, and tell me if it's not  
 4 because I'm just trying to get an impression, that what  
 5 you were doing in the City Room was to try and make sure  
 6 that everybody got out of there safely?  
 7 A. Absolutely, yes.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That means there wasn't such a big crowd  
 9 coming out that they'd crush each other, anything like  
 10 that?  
 11 A. Absolutely, yes.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Wherever you were, in any place, because  
 13 of the threat level, terrorist threat level, you'd  
 14 always be keeping an eye out to a suspicious-looking  
 15 person?  
 16 A. You'd be keeping an eye out for everything, sir, all  
 17 sorts.  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: But you wouldn't be positively looking  
 19 to see whether there were suspicious-looking people  
 20 around, would you, or would you?  
 21 A. I would be, sir, on... On concerts that like that, sir,  
 22 my mind, as I've said to the learned gentleman  
 23 previously, young children, I would have been perhaps  
 24 more focused on paedophiles, so my mind would have been  
 25 focused on people that are taking an unusual interest in

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1 young children.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So from your vantage point when you see  
 3 people come out, you'll be looking for people who may be  
 4 paedophiles, taking pictures of children, taking an  
 5 unusual interest in children?  
 6 A. Correct, sir.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No doubt if you thought someone was  
 8 maybe a bomber, you'd do something about it, but you  
 9 wouldn't be looking for one or expecting one, would you?  
 10 A. I wouldn't be expecting one, sir. It was never in the  
 11 back of my mind.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. Mr Gibbs.  
 13 Questions from MR GIBBS  
 14 MR GIBBS: Mr Corke, very little to clear up from me.  
 15 Could you just tell us a bit more about how the custody  
 16 process worked that you were dealing with at the GMP  
 17 location with this person who'd been arrested? Why is  
 18 it that you interview the suspect at a GMP location?  
 19 A. The British Transport Police don't currently have in  
 20 this area a custody facility to detain people, so  
 21 essentially when an arrest is made you get in touch with  
 22 the senior officer and you are allocated a particular  
 23 police station for where the suspect is to be taken,  
 24 sir.  
 25 Q. And there will be presumably there a GMP custody

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1 sergeant in whose care the suspect will be?  
 2 A. There is a full custody team there, sir: sergeants and  
 3 jailers and an inspector.  
 4 Q. And at the end of the process of interviewing and  
 5 whatever paperwork needs to be done at the police  
 6 station, who makes the decision about bail, for  
 7 instance?  
 8 A. The decision in relation to the way the case goes  
 9 forward is made by the Evidence Review Gateway team,  
 10 which is British Transport Police.  
 11 Q. So notwithstanding you're in a GMP facility there's  
 12 a decision made about what happens next?  
 13 A. That would be down to the custody sergeant, sir.  
 14 Q. Right. What is this Evidence Review Gateway?  
 15 A. It's a team of people who are trained to view what  
 16 evidence there is on the NICHE system. They will then  
 17 come up with a decision as to the way forward and  
 18 obviously the bail will be down to the custody sergeant.  
 19 There are factors there. But certainly, the way the  
 20 inquiry goes forward would be decided upon by the  
 21 Evidence Review Gateway as opposed to a prosecution,  
 22 a summons, no further action, whatever, sir.  
 23 Q. Right. For our purposes, thinking about the timing on  
 24 the night, we see the 20.27 moment when you are opening  
 25 something on the NICHE computer.

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1 A. Yes, sir .  
 2 Q. And the Evidence Review Gateway process, is that after  
 3 you open that or before it?  
 4 A. That's after that, sir .  
 5 Q. Do you remember now what evidence — I'm not asking for  
 6 the detail of it — what evidence you had and whether  
 7 you had all the evidence you needed?  
 8 A. No, I think there was identification statements missing,  
 9 sir , that hadn't been uploaded on to the system, so the  
 10 ERG decided until that time — and to prepare a file  
 11 when the statements come in.  
 12 Q. And without guessing, and I really don't want that, can  
 13 you say now when it was that you would have left  
 14 Piccadilly where you're doing this and set out towards  
 15 ultimately Victoria?  
 16 A. I would say around about 10 o'clock, sir . It did take  
 17 me an awful long, long time to get all that done on the  
 18 night, sir .  
 19 Q. And you've described that you went somewhere on the way.  
 20 A. Yes, sir .  
 21 Q. How long did you spend at that place along the way?  
 22 A. A drive-by, sir , drive-by. We only chose to go there  
 23 because it was on the way as an alternative road was dug  
 24 up and roadworks. We just chose that way for  
 25 expediency, sir .

1 Q. Again, I don't need the details, but if we're assessing  
 2 whether that was an important thing to do or not  
 3 an important thing to do, what type of vulnerability, as  
 4 you've described it, was it that you were looking to  
 5 police there?  
 6 A. Very high—value thefts, sir .  
 7 Q. On the night or on previous days?  
 8 A. Previous days and months, sir .  
 9 Q. You were asked about your counter—terrorism training but  
 10 not in any detail. Can I just ask you for a small  
 11 amount of detail. Do you remember when and in what form  
 12 you received your counter—terrorism training?  
 13 A. I couldn't say when, sir , but it was the initial  
 14 behavioural detection training and then a further one  
 15 prior to the night of the 22nd, sir .  
 16 Q. Does the name Ickenham and/or Hydra training mean  
 17 anything to you?  
 18 A. Yes, sir .  
 19 Q. Do you remember when you had last done that?  
 20 A. I'm sorry, I can't tell you. I know it was at the new  
 21 Hydra suite in Liverpool where we did all the new—style  
 22 training.  
 23 Q. I'm going to suggest a date and the documents are  
 24 available to the inquiry. I'm going to suggest a date  
 25 of 8 September 2016.

1 Do you remember any Operation Sherman training?  
 2 A. Not off the top of my head, no.  
 3 Q. Did you ever attend desktop training with Network Rail?  
 4 A. I did, sir , but on a scenario that wasn't terrorism  
 5 related; it was more to do with train crashes and that  
 6 nature of stuff, sir .  
 7 Q. Did it relate to a particular railway station?  
 8 A. Manchester Victoria, sir .  
 9 Q. A derailment or something?  
 10 A. A train had derailed almost under the arena, going  
 11 across the tracks, and it was a multi—agency approach on  
 12 how to deal with that, but it wasn't terrorism related  
 13 at all .  
 14 Q. Then just turning to the arena and your policing there,  
 15 because obviously you've done it lots of times. We see  
 16 that five officers including yourself have been deployed  
 17 to Victoria, including the arena, that night. Was that  
 18 an unusual number for a concert like this?  
 19 A. No, sir , because the capacity was only 14,500, and from  
 20 previous experience, concerts of that nature, of that  
 21 demographic, 4,000 to 5,000 coming out of the three  
 22 exits, quite comfortably we could have dealt with that  
 23 — that nature of the concert, sir .  
 24 MR GIBBS: Those are my questions, sir .  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

1 Further questions from MR GREANEY  
 2 MR GREANEY: I just want to ask you a little bit more about  
 3 one issue and then you'll be finished .  
 4 Your recollection when you were spoken to by the  
 5 journalist was you went out on patrol between 8.30  
 6 towards 9 pm as you've put it.  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. And we have understood that you were just doing your  
 9 best to remember at that time.  
 10 A. Yes, that's obviously incorrect, sir . It was just an  
 11 assumption, a guess at the time. I was only on the  
 12 computer at that time, sir —  
 13 Q. That we will entirely understand.  
 14 What we've also understood is that you were with  
 15 PC Matthew Martin at that time.[  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. He was also interviewed by the journalist and gave an  
 18 account of the time you went out. I'm going to read to  
 19 you a short passage from his interview and see to what  
 20 extent it accords with your recollection now.  
 21 What he said, and this is page 10 of his 56—page  
 22 interview, which is INQ036 — that's the wrong  
 23 reference. We'll find it in due course. It's  
 24 {INQ024290T/10} in any event.  
 25 He said:

1 "From about 10 pm onwards, I paired up with Stephen,  
2 who was on my shift."  
3 And that's obviously a reference to you?  
4 A. Yes, sir.  
5 Q. "We went out in a car and sometimes we visit city centre  
6 stations, so we looked at Oxford Road, just saw a few  
7 trains out. This was from about 10 pm. And after we  
8 went to Oxford Road we went down to Deansgate, which is  
9 just round the corner. Again, we just looked at a few  
10 of the last trains leaving Deansgate, just to gain  
11 reassurance for the public. As we got back in the car,  
12 he was going to drop me off over at our office at  
13 Victoria, so it must have been about 10.30 pm and we  
14 were just leaving Deansgate, going down Deansgate  
15 itself, and I just remember a call for urgent assistance  
16 going over the radio, the airway radio."  
17 Have you followed that, or would you like me to read  
18 that again?  
19 A. No, I've followed that quite comfortably, sir.  
20 Q. Obviously he's described where you went to, which we can  
21 accept therefore isn't sensitive. He seemed to recall  
22 that you were driving the car.  
23 A. That's correct, yes.  
24 Q. He seems to recall that this was from about 10 pm;  
25 is that right?

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1 A. I suppose so, sir, yes.  
2 Q. Well, just --  
3 A. Yes, I would agree with that, sir.  
4 Q. So does it appear to be the case, therefore, doing the  
5 best that you can now, a number of years later, that  
6 you will have been leaving Central Park at about  
7 10 o'clock?  
8 A. No, sir, I'd have been leaving Manchester Piccadilly.  
9 PC Martin was stationed there and I was scrounging  
10 a lift back, but I said I'd drive because he'd been  
11 driving all evening.  
12 Q. So you'd been leaving Piccadilly about 10 o'clock?  
13 A. That's correct, sir, yes.  
14 Q. And you decided, for the reasons you have given us, to  
15 visit what we now know was Oxford Road?  
16 A. I don't recall visiting those stations, sir, I do  
17 apologise. My only recollection of that was just the  
18 vulnerable location, but I genuinely don't remember  
19 visiting those locations.  
20 Q. Okay. I'm sure we can check that if it becomes  
21 important.  
22 If it is right that you left Piccadilly at about  
23 10 o'clock, how long would it have taken you to drive to  
24 Victoria Railway Station if you'd gone straight there?  
25 A. About 20 minutes, sir, at that time of night, because

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1 we'd have to come right round the edge of the city.  
2 Q. Twenty minutes to drive from Piccadilly to Victoria at  
3 10 pm?  
4 A. Fifteen/20 minutes, sir.  
5 MR GREANEY: Thank you very much, those are my questions.  
6 Sir, do you have any questions?  
7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No. Thank you very much.  
8 We're almost on time, which is fairly unique.  
9 MR GREANEY: We normally are when I ask questions, sir!  
10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can we start at 11.30? Does that give  
11 everyone enough time?  
12 MR GREANEY: I'm sure it does, sir.  
13 (11.05 am)  
14 (A short break)  
15 (11.30 am)  
16 MR DE LA POER: Sir, next we're going to hear from  
17 PCSO Lewis Brown, as he was on the night, now  
18 PC Lewis Brown. I wonder if he may be sworn.  
19 PC LEWIS BROWN (affirmed)  
20 Questions from MR DE LA POER  
21 MR DE LA POER: Please can you state your full name?  
22 A. Lewis Thomas Brown.  
23 Q. And am I right in what I just said, namely that you are  
24 a police constable with Greater Manchester Police?  
25 A. That's correct, yes.

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1 Q. PC Brown, we're going to review the documents that  
2 we have from you in the first instance, as we have with  
3 other witnesses. Firstly, can you confirm that you made  
4 a statement on 3 July 2017?  
5 A. That's correct, yes.  
6 Q. And for our references that's {INQ003646/1}.  
7 Have you subsequently made a statement at the  
8 request of the chairman dated 6 June of this year?  
9 A. Yes, sir.  
10 Q. In that statement, do you review a sequence of events  
11 which shows your movements on the night?  
12 A. That's correct.  
13 Q. For our reference, again, {INQ033300/1}.  
14 Although you are a police constable with the Greater  
15 Manchester Police now, is it right that as at  
16 22 May 2017, you were a police community support officer  
17 with the British Transport Police?  
18 A. Yes, that's correct.  
19 Q. We heard something of the training of PCSOs from  
20 Mr Morrey on Thursday of last week. He explained that  
21 there was a period of about 7 weeks' training; does that  
22 accord with your experience?  
23 A. Yes, pretty much exactly 7 weeks.  
24 Q. Following which there is a period of tutoring?  
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. As at 22 May 2017, is it right that you were on week 6  
 2 of your tutoring?  
 3 A. I believe it was about week 6, yes.  
 4 Q. Was your tutor Mr Morrey?  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. Briefly, to review your training, as at 22 May 2017, had  
 7 you received any training in relation to  
 8 counter—terrorism that you can recall?  
 9 A. Yes, I believe there was a day in which, during my  
 10 seven—week training, we did talks through suspicious  
 11 behaviour and suspicious objects and whatnot. I think  
 12 that was about 1 day I can recall, of actual training in  
 13 my 7 weeks.  
 14 Q. So some training to the extent you have just described?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. You mentioned suspicious persons; is that suspicious  
 17 persons in the context of potential terrorist behaviour?  
 18 A. Yes, potentially, yes.  
 19 Q. Had you patrolled the arena before 22 May 2017?  
 20 A. I believe I had one shift where I was tasked to patrol  
 21 the arena prior to the 22nd.  
 22 Q. So this was only the second time that you'd been there?  
 23 A. It was, I believe, the second time, yes.  
 24 Q. In the light of that evidence, can I just make this  
 25 clear. I'm going to ask you some questions, but

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1 everybody will be acutely aware as I do so, and I hope  
 2 that I will remain so, that obviously you were at a very  
 3 early stage of your training and this was only the  
 4 second time you'd been there. I wish to make it clear  
 5 that although you sit there in the uniform of a police  
 6 constable, that was your position back in May of 2017?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Had anybody explained to you by 22 May 2017 what the  
 9 purpose of you being at the arena was?  
 10 A. Yes. I believe it was to provide reassurance to members  
 11 of the public, patrol the arena itself, including the  
 12 busy entrance points and exit points of the arena. For  
 13 arena events it would be to cover the ingress and egress  
 14 of people.  
 15 Q. So we're just very clear, because obviously a lot of  
 16 information has come to light and it's difficult to  
 17 strip out hindsight, that was your understanding as at  
 18 22 May 2017?  
 19 A. Yes, that's my understanding.  
 20 Q. What you've not mentioned expressly there in the  
 21 description is whether or not your understanding  
 22 included whether you had — your role included  
 23 counter—terrorism activity, namely looking out for  
 24 suspicious people. Did you understand it had such  
 25 a role or not?

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1 A. No, I don't believe there was such an emphasis put on  
 2 the counter—terrorism element. I believe it was just  
 3 more of a public safety thing, watching people coming in  
 4 and out of the arena itself, and if any issues come to  
 5 light as a result of that.  
 6 Q. So that we're clear about your answer, obviously you had  
 7 a number of sources of information to you, or potential  
 8 sources of information, prior to 22 May and on 22 May.  
 9 Do you have any recollection in any briefing that you  
 10 had, whether in your previous deployment or on 22 May,  
 11 of any officers specifically mentioning  
 12 a counter—terrorism role?  
 13 A. No recollection of that, no.  
 14 Q. That said, people who might have briefed you — you were  
 15 also assigned with PCSO Morrey. Do you have any  
 16 recollection of him mentioning that as being a specific  
 17 part of your role at the arena?  
 18 A. No, I don't believe so, no.  
 19 Q. In May 2017, the threat level, the national threat  
 20 level, was severe; did you know that at the time?  
 21 A. Yes, I was aware of that at the time, yes.  
 22 Q. And where did you learn that from?  
 23 A. That was — throughout my training I think there was  
 24 a mention of a current threat level, it was quite  
 25 a well—known fact that we were on a severe level at that

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1 time.  
 2 Q. Looking back, can you remember what you were told that  
 3 meant?  
 4 A. I believe it means highly likely, a terrorist attack is  
 5 highly likely.  
 6 Q. You phrased that in the present tense, "I believe"; was  
 7 that your understanding at the time or were you not able  
 8 to say?  
 9 A. I couldn't tell you.  
 10 Q. At any briefing that you attended — and it would appear  
 11 that there are the potential for two — at the arena, do  
 12 you recall anyone mentioning the terrorism threat level?  
 13 A. No, no mention of that.  
 14 Q. On 22 May, do you recall whether or not you received  
 15 a briefing of some sort for your deployment?  
 16 A. There was no physical briefing. I know an email was  
 17 sent, however I cannot recall reading the email.  
 18 Q. Let's just break that down. Have I understood correctly  
 19 that you have a firm recollection that you did not go to  
 20 a physical briefing?  
 21 A. Yes, a firm recollection of that.  
 22 Q. You mention the email. Maybe we can bring that up.  
 23 {INQ025538/1}. Do you agree that's addressed to, among  
 24 others, you?  
 25 A. Yes, sir.

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1 Q. We can see the time of it, 2.40. Your shift started at  
 2 3 o'clock?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. Would it be normal for you to check your emails when you  
 5 came on duty to see if there were any messages for you?  
 6 A. Typically I would say so, yes.  
 7 Q. Bearing in mind you didn't attend a physical briefings ,  
 8 if not this email, how would you have known where to go  
 9 on the 22nd?  
 10 A. For myself personally, and I was following my tutor's  
 11 guidance at the time, so I know at the time that's where  
 12 I got some of the information from as in where I was  
 13 meant to be at that time.  
 14 Q. So two possible sources of information if I've  
 15 understood you correctly: either this email, which you  
 16 don't sitting there have a recollection of having read,  
 17 or out of the mouth of your tutor, Mr Morrey?  
 18 A. That's correct, yes.  
 19 Q. There's another document which we haven't yet looked at,  
 20 which was attached to this email, described as the  
 21 rider. I wonder if we can look at that now,  
 22 {INQ012112/1}.  
 23 Again, I accept that you don't have a recollection  
 24 of seeing this email. I wonder if we can just have  
 25 a look at the attachment to this email. I'll just point

1 some things out for you and then ask you the questions  
 2 about it.  
 3 Can you see that indicated on this rider  
 4 information, just beneath the box which says "I&S", the  
 5 doors are indicated as opening at 1800 hours?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. And we can see that in relation to the main act, the  
 8 penultimate entry, that is scheduled to finish at  
 9 2230 hours?  
 10 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 11 Q. And finally, as we haven't looked at this with anyone  
 12 else, we'll have a look at the very bottom, "Audience  
 13 related". We can see the number is "14,300 approx".  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. And do we also see, and you can perhaps help us  
 16 interpret this if it is not immediately obvious: "14+",  
 17 is that a reference to the age?  
 18 A. That is.  
 19 Q. And "M/F", male female?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. With an indicated ratio of 20 to 80?  
 22 A. Correct.  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: What I don't think we've actually heard,  
 24 and if you can't help us say so, it says:  
 25 "Curfew: 2300 hours."

1 Do you know what was meant by curfew? It may not  
 2 have related to you particularly .  
 3 A. Not entirely. If I could hazard a guess it would be --  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Don't worry about hazarding a guess;  
 5 we'll find out from someone who knows.  
 6 MR DE LA POER: The final matter is "D". Do you know what  
 7 that D means? It's very important you don't guess.  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. That doesn't mean anything to you sitting there?  
 10 This document, as I say, was attached to the email  
 11 that was addressed to you, among others. Do you know  
 12 whether you had sight of this document before you went  
 13 to the arena?  
 14 A. I can't recall seeing it .  
 15 Q. So again, you might have, but sitting there you don't  
 16 know?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. Can I turn now to your arrival time. In your first  
 19 statement -- we can have a look at it although you may  
 20 feel able to take it from me -- what you said was the  
 21 purpose of arriving when you did was:  
 22 "To watch numbers and people going into the  
 23 concert."  
 24 Does that accord with your recollection of what you  
 25 put in your statement or would you like to refresh your

1 memory from it?  
 2 A. No, that does.  
 3 Q. Just explain to us what you meant by "to watch numbers  
 4 and people going into the concert"?  
 5 A. It would be to generally watch the crowds going into the  
 6 arena itself, to watch the concert, monitoring the  
 7 amount of people going in, the different entrances,  
 8 exits, where there were more people or less people going  
 9 in.  
 10 Q. So watching them going into the concert itself, is that  
 11 a reference then to the City Room?  
 12 A. Amongst other points, yes, the City Rooms would be one.  
 13 Q. Hunts Bank steps being another potential entrance?  
 14 A. As well as the Trinity Way tunnel.  
 15 Q. And the Trinity Way tunnel?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. Those are the three principal ways into the concert  
 18 venue itself?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. So what you're not describing there is standing on the  
 21 Victoria Railway Station concourse? Have I understood  
 22 that correctly?  
 23 A. That's correct, yes.  
 24 Q. In your first statement you give your arrival time at  
 25 around 1700 hours, again I quote:

1 "For gates open at 1930."  
 2 That's what you say in your statement, would you  
 3 like to remind yourself of that?  
 4 A. No.  
 5 Q. You'll take that from me?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. Obviously you were doing the best you could 6 or so  
 8 weeks after the — the date of your statement was  
 9 3 July 2017. We can see that from that rider  
 10 information that in fact the gates were due to open or  
 11 the doors were due to open at 1800; do you agree?  
 12 A. Yes. I agree, yes.  
 13 Q. So perhaps an error on your part when you said 1930?  
 14 A. Perhaps an error, yes.  
 15 Q. There is a pocket book entry for you at {INQ003645/1}.  
 16 Can we just crop in, please, to the handwritten  
 17 part. We don't need to trouble ourselves with the  
 18 redacted material. That's your handwriting; is that  
 19 right?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. We can see the entry for 22 May 2017, Monday. It's not  
 22 well copied. Do you know what that next —  
 23 A. Yes:  
 24 "Monday. In the company of Papa Mike 613."  
 25 That's the call sign for Jon Morrey.

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1 Q. Yes.  
 2 A. "1800 hours at Manchester Victoria at the Ariana Grande  
 3 concert on 17 to 1 o'clock."  
 4 Q. So 17 to 1 o'clock, is that the — what is that  
 5 a reference to?  
 6 A. I believe I was referring to the shift I was on.  
 7 I could be incorrect. That may be my arrival time at  
 8 the arena itself.  
 9 Q. Well, the time recorded against that entry is  
 10 1800 hours.  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Is that a reference to your arrival time or is it 1700  
 13 according to this record? We'll have a look in a moment  
 14 at what time you actually arrived.  
 15 A. I would say that my arrival time is at 1800 hours, which  
 16 is when documented I arrived.  
 17 Q. We can see the next reference 2230 hours:  
 18 "Terror incident."  
 19 Help us to understand this and the completion of  
 20 this pocket notebook. Again, I absolutely have full in  
 21 mind that you were a tutee of only 6 weeks' practical  
 22 experience. Will you have filled in that record for  
 23 1800 hours at or around that time —  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. — or might it have been completed after you completed

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1 the 2230?  
 2 A. I believe it would have been at that time I would have  
 3 put 1800 hours.  
 4 Q. Is that just your normal practice back at that time or  
 5 do you have a specific recollection of completing that  
 6 before you completed the next —  
 7 A. I don't have a specific recollection.  
 8 Q. All right. We're just going to have a look now and you,  
 9 I know, have already seen this. The first time you're  
 10 identified on CCTV by the Operation Manteline team is at  
 11 18.29.10 and, Mr Lopez, that's at INQ013678/8 —  
 12 MR GIBBS: I think it's {INQ031678/8} is the reference,  
 13 I think.  
 14 MR DE LA POER: I think that's what I intended to say. If  
 15 I didn't say it — thank you very much, Mr Gibbs.  
 16 There we are. So what you say in your second  
 17 statement at paragraph 5 is that, once you'd reviewed  
 18 this, is that — this is — you describe it as you  
 19 entering the station from the Long Millgate/Todd Street  
 20 entrance; is that right?  
 21 A. That's correct, yes.  
 22 Q. The Operation Manteline team have, as I understand it,  
 23 sought to identify you whenever they can. Plainly an  
 24 identification isn't possible from this particular image  
 25 but you understand that they have tracked your movements

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1 back and looked at this all very carefully. But bearing  
 2 in mind that that appears to be the first time that  
 3 they've identified you, do you think it was at about  
 4 6.30 that you arrived at the station with your tutor or  
 5 do you think that it was earlier than that?  
 6 A. No, it could have been 6.30, yes.  
 7 Q. If it was 6.30 and doors were due to open at 6, that  
 8 would make you late, would it, for what you have told us  
 9 your purpose was, which was to view the concertgoers  
 10 going in?  
 11 A. Yes, that'd be correct, yes.  
 12 Q. You have mentioned already the notion of ingress. Is  
 13 your understanding that that is a period of time  
 14 covering before the doors opened through to a period  
 15 after everyone might reasonably have been expected to go  
 16 in after the doors have opened?  
 17 A. Yes, that'd be my understanding.  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It goes from before the time the doors  
 19 open?  
 20 A. People kind of trickle in before the doors would open.  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And wait around for the doors to open?  
 22 A. Yes. If I remember rightly, yes.  
 23 MR DE LA POER: We can perhaps have a look at that. I don't  
 24 have a note of this.  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm just interested to know what he

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1 meant by ingress.  
 2 MR DE LA POER: Certainly, sir. I hope I'm right in this  
 3 recollection. Mr Lopez, can you go back to  
 4 {INQ031678/2}, please?  
 5 Yes, I am. So we know the doors were due to open at  
 6 1800 hours, but we can see that by 18.01, a very  
 7 substantial body of people have already built up in the  
 8 City Room.  
 9 A. Mm.  
 10 Q. Does that accord with your experience or expectation for  
 11 that night, that people congregated before the doors  
 12 opened?  
 13 A. Yes. If I can clarify on that: the doors would open and  
 14 then obviously there would be a wait time until the  
 15 doors do open before they start allowing people in.  
 16 That generally would be at a fixed time in contrast to  
 17 egress.  
 18 Q. Yes. It's important that we just try to hold in mind  
 19 what your understanding — necessarily limited as it was  
 20 back at that time. But bearing in mind that rider has  
 21 the doors opening at 1800 hours, was your understanding  
 22 at that time that if you were there to monitor the  
 23 crowds of people going in, that would require you to be  
 24 there at 6 o'clock or earlier than 6 o'clock?  
 25 A. Ideally, earlier, because people would be congregating.

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1 Q. So it's not just literally to watch them walk through  
 2 the doors, it's also to monitor the period beforehand  
 3 when there may be a lot of people about?  
 4 A. That'd be correct.  
 5 Q. We can move through this. If we can go back to  
 6 {INQ031678/8}, I'm not planning to look at every single  
 7 one of these. You've given a statement that accounts  
 8 for your movements in detail. If we through move to  
 9 {INQ031678/9}, please, Mr Lopez; we can see there  
 10 you are with PCSO Morrey.  
 11 We'll see at the next slide, {INQ031678/10}, that  
 12 you take up station. That's the fish-eye lens  
 13 overlooking the raised footbridge.  
 14 Then over the page {INQ031678/11}, please, we can  
 15 see there that we have moved to what PC Bullough and  
 16 PCSO Renshaw are doing at that time. They're there  
 17 in the City Room.  
 18 I would just like to break off that narrative and  
 19 move forward to {INQ031678/61}, please. See if you can  
 20 give us any help with this. Just to remind you, and  
 21 perhaps you can confirm if I've summarised this  
 22 correctly, there comes a time when you deal with  
 23 a female down on the station concourse; is that right?  
 24 A. Yes, that's right, yes.  
 25 Q. That resulted in you escorting that female up to the

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1 doors of the arena in the City Room?  
 2 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 3 Q. From there I think you have an interaction with somebody  
 4 identified as Meghan Balmer? Do you recall dealing with  
 5 that in your statement?  
 6 A. Yes, I do.  
 7 Q. Do you need to — I'm not asking you to agree with  
 8 something that you're not certain about. Would you like  
 9 to have a look at your statement?  
 10 A. No, that's fine.  
 11 Q. And I think you interact with another member of ShowSec  
 12 staff at that time as well?  
 13 A. That's right.  
 14 Q. That's how it comes to be that you are, at 8.10, away  
 15 from your tutor in the City Room?  
 16 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 17 Q. So if we move forward to {INQ031678/62}. We can see  
 18 there in the yellow box that you are speaking to a man  
 19 that we now know is Mohammed Agha.  
 20 A. Mm.  
 21 Q. Firstly, did you know Mohammed Agha before that shift?  
 22 A. I didn't know him, no.  
 23 Q. Do you have a recollection of why you spoke to him at  
 24 8.10 that night?  
 25 A. No recollection at all.

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1 Q. In terms of your interaction with ShowSec staff, and I'm  
 2 anxious that again you put yourself back into the  
 3 position you were in on 22 May, did you understand there  
 4 was any formal arrangement between your organisation,  
 5 BTP as it was, and ShowSec in terms of coordinating  
 6 activity on show nights?  
 7 A. No, there was no coordination between the different  
 8 parties. We would have our own way of policing it and  
 9 ShowSec would deal with their security side of things.  
 10 Our interactions were really to introduce ourselves and  
 11 make ourselves known to them.  
 12 Q. Was that something that you were told that you needed to  
 13 do or was that something that just instinctively thought  
 14 was a good idea?  
 15 A. We weren't told to do that, it was more of an  
 16 instinctive thing, a good idea to have a chat with  
 17 people who were actually working.  
 18 Q. This interaction that we see with Mohammed Agha and the  
 19 earlier one with Ms Balmer, another member of ShowSec  
 20 staff, do we take from your answer that was therefore  
 21 just you using your intuitive as opposed to something  
 22 you had been trained to do or part of any plan?  
 23 A. I'd say that was correct, yes.  
 24 Q. Next, please, {INQ031678/82}. No doubt an image that  
 25 you're very familiar with, PC Brown. A simple question:

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1 do you have any recollection of seeing Salman Abedi as  
 2 he walked past that entrance to Victoria Station?  
 3 A. No recollection.  
 4 Q. Had any part of the training you had received led you to  
 5 believe at that time that there was anything significant  
 6 about what we can see there in the image in terms of his  
 7 movements, his dress, what he was carrying?  
 8 A. No, not in that environment. I'd say what he was  
 9 carrying was fairly typical for where he was on the  
 10 station, so there was nothing particular that would be  
 11 deemed suspicious at that time.  
 12 Q. Thank you, Mr Lopez, we can take that down.  
 13 I'm going to move forward now to breaks. In your  
 14 first statement, again as we know, taken on 3 July 2017,  
 15 you indicate that you and PCSO Morrey took your break  
 16 between 21.15 and 22.15 hours.  
 17 A. Mm.  
 18 Q. What you also say in that first statement, and again  
 19 we can have a look at it, it's on {INQ003646/1}, but  
 20 I'll read it out and you can tell me whether you need to  
 21 refresh your memory:  
 22 "Mark and Jess..."  
 23 Is that PCSO Mark Renshaw and PC Jessica Bullough?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. "Mark and Jess went for their break and when they came

1 down from their break, that's when we went up for our  
 2 break."  
 3 Do you recall that being in your first statement?  
 4 A. I do recall that, yes.  
 5 Q. So we're going to have a look at a sequence now which  
 6 I know you've had an opportunity to refresh your memory  
 7 from and consider. Can we go to {INQ031678/96}, please,  
 8 of that same document?  
 9 The top image shows, as we have looked at and I'm  
 10 sure you followed if you were watching the inquiry last  
 11 week, that at 20.55.43, PC Bullough, again as I've  
 12 observed before, without her hat on, without any  
 13 headgear on, is walking in the direction of -- I think  
 14 it's platform 3, is that right?  
 15 A. That's right.  
 16 Q. Is that the direction one would go if one wanted to go  
 17 to the area in which you could take refreshments?  
 18 A. That's correct, yes.  
 19 Q. So she's recorded walking in that direction and then  
 20 3 minutes later, at the bottom we can see 20.58.41, you  
 21 and PCSO Morrey, in an identical spot on the concourse,  
 22 are walking in the same direction.  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. Having had a chance to think about it now, was that you  
 25 and PCSO Morrey going for your break?

1 A. Yes, I would say that's what we were doing. We were  
 2 going for a break.  
 3 Q. Bearing in mind that PC Bullough and PCSO Renshaw are  
 4 not captured again until 21.35 hours, as I know that  
 5 you have seen, do you think you were incorrect in your  
 6 original statement when you said that you waited for  
 7 them to come back on duty effectively or back on patrol  
 8 before you took your break?  
 9 A. I would say I'm incorrect in that, yes.  
 10 Q. So having had the chance to remember your recollection  
 11 from this, does it follow that your tutor, PCSO Morrey  
 12 and you, went for your break at 9.58 at a time when  
 13 PC Bullough and PCSO Renshaw were still on their break?  
 14 A. I'd say that's correct.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Do you mean 8.58?  
 16 MR DE LA POER: Did I say something different?  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You said 9.58.  
 18 MR DE LA POER: Then I'm entirely wrong about. That  
 19 thank you for the correction, sir. You are quite right,  
 20 sir.  
 21 20.58.41. Do I need to ask that question again or  
 22 have you followed what I said?  
 23 A. No, I'm following.  
 24 Q. So we can -- we don't need to look at it. We know from  
 25 the images that PC Bullough and PCSO Renshaw are next

1 captured at 21.35.  
 2 In the room that you took your break, again having  
 3 had the opportunity to refresh your memory from this,  
 4 would it have been just you and PCSO Morrey, or were  
 5 PC Bullough and PCSO Renshaw present also?  
 6 A. They were possibly present, however I don't remember.  
 7 Q. You just don't have a recollection?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. So in fairness to you, what you have just told us is  
 10 your reconstruction based upon what you can see and the  
 11 inferences you draw from your knowledge as opposed to  
 12 a specific recollection of the events we're talking  
 13 about?  
 14 A. That'd be correct, yes.  
 15 Q. We'll hear from PC Bullough in due course. If it is  
 16 right that you went on your break at the time that we  
 17 saw, and if it is right that PC Bullough and  
 18 PCSO Renshaw did not return to the station concourse  
 19 until 21.35, does it follow from that that there were no  
 20 BTP officers patrolling the railway station for a period  
 21 of about 40 minutes, between 9 o'clock, just before, and  
 22 9.35?  
 23 A. That would be correct, yes.  
 24 Q. Mr Lopez, {INQ031678/140}, please.  
 25 Again, image you'll be familiar with. You're now

1 walking back from the direction of platform 3; is that  
 2 right?  
 3 A. That is right , yes.  
 4 Q. Back from the direction where you can access that  
 5 refreshment room?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. So is this you and your tutor returning from the break  
 8 almost exactly 90 minutes after you were seen leaving  
 9 for it ?  
 10 A. Yes, that's correct .  
 11 Q. So again, appreciating that you were doing the best that  
 12 you could on 3 July 2017, when you said 9.15 to 10.15,  
 13 is it in fact much closer to 9.00 to 10.30?  
 14 A. That would be correct.  
 15 Q. Again, acknowledging that you were a tutee, only 6 weeks  
 16 in and under the direct supervision of your tutor,  
 17 what was your understanding on the 10-hour shift that  
 18 you were on about how long you could take a break for?  
 19 A. I believe my understanding at the time, it would have  
 20 been about a 40-minute break, I believe, to an hour.  
 21 Q. Do you have any recollection of raising with the person  
 22 who was tutoring you the fact that you were in excess of  
 23 double that first figure you gave us?  
 24 A. No, I didn't raise that with him, no, that I can recall .  
 25 Q. Was taking a break potentially, on what you have just

1 told us, 50% greater than the maximum length you were  
 2 permitted, something that was common in your experience  
 3 back on 22 May?  
 4 A. I don't believe it was common. I think typically you'd  
 5 have a break that's about 40 minutes to an hour,  
 6 roughly, per shift , if feasible .  
 7 Q. But on this occasion, as I think you have agreed with  
 8 me, we are looking at a break which is 1.5 times longer  
 9 than the maximum period than you understood to be  
 10 permissible. Can you help us with how common that was?  
 11 A. I couldn't help you with that, no. Personally  
 12 I wouldn't have breaks that long typically .  
 13 Q. I acknowledge you were there under the supervision of  
 14 somebody else as a tutee. I'm trying to understand  
 15 a little more about the culture that you were being  
 16 educated in. Was there any perception that was voiced  
 17 to you about a deployment at Manchester Victoria and the  
 18 arena as being an easy option?  
 19 A. No, there was nothing voiced as an easy option.  
 20 Q. Was anything voiced to you about the fact that no  
 21 supervision from a sergeant was expected on the ground  
 22 that night?  
 23 A. No, nothing was voiced about that.  
 24 Q. Had a sergeant turned up that night, helping us with the  
 25 culture, putting yourself in that position , and

1 discovered that you'd had a break with PCSO Morrey for  
 2 an hour and a half, what would have been your  
 3 expectation about the consequences, if any, for that?  
 4 A. I believe the sergeant would have wanted to know why  
 5 we were on break for that amount of time, if there were  
 6 any good reasons. If so, then he'd probably have words  
 7 with us about that.  
 8 Q. So when you say "if so", in other words if there was no  
 9 good reason?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. And is there any good reason that you are aware of as to  
 12 why you took a break for that long on that night?  
 13 A. No, I don't believe there's any good reason. We were  
 14 just on break too long.  
 15 Q. Accepting that you have no recollection of that email  
 16 but trying to understand what you thought your role was  
 17 on that night, do you recall whether there was any  
 18 discussion between you and your tutor or the other two  
 19 officers who were there about the need to ensure that  
 20 breaks did not take place after 9 o'clock?  
 21 A. Was that?  
 22 Q. Any discussion.  
 23 A. Physical discussion?  
 24 Q. Yes.  
 25 A. No.

1 Q. Because you seem -- you have now seen what  
 2 Sergeant Wilson said about staggering breaks. You'll  
 3 agree that didn't happen, didn't it?  
 4 A. That's correct, yes.  
 5 Q. And he also indicated that he wanted the breaks  
 6 staggered between two particular times, 7.30 and  
 7 9 o'clock. And we can see that your break didn't -- it  
 8 started at 9 but went on substantially in excess of that  
 9 window that he had indicated.  
 10 A. Mm.  
 11 Q. So just trying to understand whether you can recall  
 12 a discussion between any of the four of you about the  
 13 need to observe that instruction .  
 14 A. No, I can't recall any conversation between us about  
 15 that.  
 16 Q. Egress. We have seen from that rider that the last act  
 17 was scheduled to finish , or the main act, rather, at  
 18 10.30. What was your understanding on 22 May about the  
 19 need to be present at that time or earlier ?  
 20 A. I believe we knew most people would come out at 10.30.  
 21 That would be the vast majority, and just prior to that  
 22 there would be kind of a trickle of people leaving, just  
 23 to get out on time. So I believe by the time -- we  
 24 should probably have been there a little earlier .  
 25 Q. A little before?

1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. And what, to the best of your recollection, does  
 3 "a little before" mean in actual minutes?  
 4 A. At the time, to be honest, I wouldn't have known the  
 5 best exact time to have been in position.  
 6 Q. Is that because nobody had told you?  
 7 A. No --- yes, no one had told me.  
 8 Q. Disagree if I put words in your mouth here, but you had  
 9 a sense that you needed to be there some minutes before  
 10 but not how many because nobody had told you?  
 11 A. That's correct, yes.  
 12 Q. We can see that you and your tutor emerge at 22.27.23.  
 13 That's fewer than 3 minutes before the event was due to  
 14 end.  
 15 A. Mm.  
 16 Q. Is that an inappropriately late taking of your break,  
 17 setting aside how long it was?  
 18 A. I'd say so, yes.  
 19 Q. We have seen from Sergeant Wilson's email that he  
 20 specified certain locations for people to be placed, and  
 21 again, let me stress that I recognise that you were  
 22 effectively paired at the hip with your tutor, so I'm  
 23 not suggesting that you would deploy separately from him  
 24 or that you would make any decisions about deployment.  
 25 But do you recollect any discussion on the night about

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1 where the four of you should stand at the point of  
 2 egress whenever that started?  
 3 A. No, there was no discussion between us.  
 4 Q. Having seen this sequence of events, you will confirm,  
 5 no doubt, that at that 10.30 time mentioned in the  
 6 rider, all four of you are standing at the war memorial  
 7 exit?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. Was that in accordance with what you understood on the  
 10 night you should be doing or your positioning? In other  
 11 words --- I have phrased that very clumsily --- was it  
 12 your understanding that, at the time of egress, that the  
 13 four of you should be congregated in one place on the  
 14 station concourse or do you understand that there needed  
 15 to be different arrangements?  
 16 A. I understood that we probably shouldn't all be in the  
 17 same location, yes.  
 18 Q. You knew that on the 22nd?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. How did you know that?  
 21 A. It's going back some time, I'm trying to recall exactly  
 22 what my thought process was. I believed it was not best  
 23 practice for us all to be stood in the same location.  
 24 Q. When we discussed ingress, you talked about the need to  
 25 watch people going into the venue at one of the three

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1 entrances which give you direct access, so not the  
 2 station concourse. Do you remember, we looked at the  
 3 City Room, we looked at Hunts Bank and we looked at the  
 4 Trinity Way link tunnel?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Was it your understanding that the station concourse was  
 7 at least one of the appropriate places to stand at  
 8 egress?  
 9 A. It wasn't specified. However, it was quite a useful  
 10 place to stand because you could see the footbridge  
 11 coming down as well as you'd be close to Hunts Bank as  
 12 well, so it was quite a useful location to be stood,  
 13 although not specifically specified as to where we  
 14 should be.  
 15 Q. I think that we saw in Sergeant Wilson's email that he  
 16 does mention the barriers. And you would agree that  
 17 that does give a ---  
 18 A. Yes, sorry.  
 19 Q. --- good view of the barriers?  
 20 A. It does, yes.  
 21 Q. That's one person, or if it's PCSO Morrey, two people ---  
 22 A. Mm.  
 23 Q. --- you included. Was there any discussion that you can  
 24 recall, at around 10.27 and later, between the four of  
 25 you about the need to stop being together and separate?

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1 A. No, we didn't discuss that, no.  
 2 Q. So to the best of your recollection, at the point of  
 3 detonation, was there any agreement between the four of  
 4 you that imminently the four of you would separate and  
 5 take up positions?  
 6 A. No, there wasn't, no.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can we have that particular photograph  
 8 on, the one taken about 10.30?  
 9 MR DE LA POER: Yes, I think it's {INQ031678/141}. I hope  
 10 I recollect correctly.  
 11 Is that the one you had in mind, sir?  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes, thank you.  
 13 MR DE LA POER: That's at 29 minutes past. I think we have  
 14 one that's which is just your later. {INQ031678/142},  
 15 I think, will move us on very slightly.  
 16 You'll recall the evidence of Detective Chief  
 17 Inspector Pickering, that that camera may be out in its  
 18 real time by a margin of 12 seconds as a maximum either  
 19 way. So this image may be pre-blast, it may be post ---  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 21 MR DE LA POER: --- but it is within seconds either side of  
 22 it.  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Do you have any recollection of  
 24 what was being said at that particular time?  
 25 A. No, no specific recollection.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's understandable. Thank you.  
 2 MR DE LA POER: What you don't have, doing the best you can,  
 3 is a sense that imminently the four of you were going to  
 4 separate and deploy in order to watch egress?  
 5 A. No, I don't believe we were discussing about doing so.  
 6 I believe that's something we would have done, but  
 7 obviously I just don't recall discussing it.  
 8 Q. Do you recall what you were doing? What you were  
 9 talking about?  
 10 A. I don't recall what we were talking about, no.  
 11 Q. Might you just have been gossiping?  
 12 A. Possibly, yes, we could have been.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. That is simply one of a number of  
 14 things you can do, you could have been doing?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 MR DE LA POER: You could have been talking about  
 17 operational matters?  
 18 A. Possibly we could have been.  
 19 Q. Can you help us, PC Brown, and do say if you can't, and  
 20 again I acknowledge publicly how junior you were in your  
 21 services as a PCSO at the time, whether PC Corke, with  
 22 his experience, may have made a difference or would it  
 23 just be speculation?  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think that's speculation.  
 25 MR DE LA POER: Certainly, sir, I'll retract the question

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1 then.  
 2 Can I then turn to your actions after the bomb and  
 3 I'm going to deal with this very briefly. Immediately  
 4 that you heard the sound, did you, together with your  
 5 colleagues, go immediately up into the City Room?  
 6 A. Yes, pretty much immediately after the sound, yes.  
 7 Q. And when you arrived in the City Room, did you do your  
 8 very best to help those who were in distress or injured?  
 9 A. Yes, I did my best.  
 10 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much indeed, PC Brown.  
 11 I have no further questions for you.  
 12 I did have an indication on behalf of SMG, but  
 13 I don't think ... No. Then I will turn if I may,  
 14 please, to Mr Gozem, who will be joining us over the  
 15 video link.  
 16 Questions from MR GOZEM  
 17 MR GOZEM: PC Brown, can you see me and hear me?  
 18 A. Yes, I can see and hear you.  
 19 Q. Thank you very much.  
 20 We all understand, and it has been stressed many  
 21 times, that you were under supervision that night. But  
 22 there were four officers there. Just tell us, please,  
 23 what was the hierarchy? Who was the lead officer? Who  
 24 took charge? Who was the one who gave instructions and  
 25 was clearly the boss?

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1 A. I don't think there was a boss there. The most senior  
 2 officer would have been Jess. However, I wouldn't have  
 3 said she would necessarily be our boss. I would say  
 4 that would be the sergeant who would be dictating where  
 5 we would go and anything like that.  
 6 Q. Yes, but many decisions were taken on the night, weren't  
 7 they, about breaks and so forth? Did she say anything  
 8 about breaks?  
 9 A. No, she didn't, sir, that I recall, no.  
 10 Q. Did she say anything about who should patrol where?  
 11 A. No, I don't believe so.  
 12 Q. You know that there was no one in the City Room for  
 13 quite a considerable period of time before the  
 14 explosion, don't you?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. Can you explain to us how that came to happen? You must  
 17 have appreciated that somebody was supposed to be there.  
 18 Did it come up in conversation?  
 19 A. No, it didn't come up. I can't really explain to you  
 20 why there wasn't anyone there for that period of time.  
 21 MR GOZEM: I have no other questions, thank you.  
 22 Questions from THE CHAIRMAN  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 24 I am going to do what I stopped you from doing.  
 25 Have you been on duty at the arena, or had you been

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1 this time, with PC Corke?  
 2 A. Sorry, sir, have I previously?  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes.  
 4 A. No, no.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Have you been on duty with him anywhere  
 6 as a group?  
 7 A. No, not that I recall, no.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 9 Mr Cooper.  
 10 Questions from MR COOPER  
 11 MR COOPER: Thank you. Two questions on the subject of kit.  
 12 Can I take you, please, to your statement  
 13 {INQ003646/2}. I would like you, please, to just look  
 14 at the paragraph which starts, "It took a few steps up  
 15 into here", towards the bottom, and just refresh your  
 16 memory on that:  
 17 "It took a few steps up into there. I kind of  
 18 looked around in shock and realised that I didn't know  
 19 what to do at that point and I didn't have any first aid  
 20 apart from my basic small first aid kit."  
 21 I have asked your colleague about that. You go on  
 22 to say this:  
 23 "I knew that wouldn't do much good here, so I ran  
 24 back towards the main part of the station and  
 25 Network Rail were handing out first aid kits. I took

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1 one off a member of rail staff and then ran back up to  
 2 the box office."  
 3 What were these kits that Network Rail were handing  
 4 out?  
 5 A. I believe, and I've since heard, I think it was probably  
 6 Northern Rail who were in the station. They had kind of  
 7 first aid boxes which were full of smaller boxes that  
 8 contained first aid within them.  
 9 Q. What sort of stuff? Normal plasters and that sort of  
 10 thing?  
 11 A. No, they had kind of like more extensive stuff like  
 12 bandages and whatnot, which were more useful for  
 13 assisting with injuries.  
 14 Q. A sort of general household bandage sort of thing that  
 15 one would normally get in a domestic context, that sort  
 16 of thing?  
 17 A. Yes, I wouldn't say it was specialised, it was kind of  
 18 just basic first aid.  
 19 Q. Thank you. One further question based upon  
 20 {INQ003646/3}, please, of that document. It's about  
 21 stretchers. If you look, for instance, at the paragraph  
 22 which begins:  
 23 "It's all very hazy."  
 24 In the middle of the page:  
 25 "It's all very hazy..."

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1 (Pause)  
 2 I'm asking you about stretchers. You say this:  
 3 "Then we were making stretchers from the side of the  
 4 clothes stall: merchandisers use metal frames with  
 5 cardboard attached to show what they're selling after  
 6 concerts and we were using those and the barriers to  
 7 make stretchers."  
 8 We have read about this on a number of occasions and  
 9 I'll be asking a number of questions on it in due  
 10 course, but how were you actually making these  
 11 stretchers? You're someone who was putting them  
 12 together. What were you doing, what was the process?  
 13 A. We were just basically taking apart the metal barriers  
 14 and placing what we could to make some kind of support  
 15 on them, which was not ideal to carry on person on.  
 16 However, that was just the materials that were within  
 17 the arena itself to get people on to.  
 18 Q. You were effectively improvising with the material that  
 19 you had?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. And we'll see it a little later, it was metal barriers  
 22 and pieces of cardboard hoarding?  
 23 A. That's correct, sir, yes.  
 24 Q. This is no criticism of you, you were clearly using your  
 25 initiative at the time, but it was totally inadequate,

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1 wasn't it, for carrying people?  
 2 A. Yes, it was not ideal at all, a bit unsafe.  
 3 Q. It wasn't just not ideal, it was totally inadequate,  
 4 wasn't it, for carrying people in this position?  
 5 A. Correct, yes.  
 6 MR COOPER: Thank you.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I presume you're doing this in quite  
 8 a lot of smoke and darkness?  
 9 A. Smoke and darkness, yes. Things were slippery, yes.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 11 MR COOPER: Thank you, sir.  
 12 MR DE LA POER: Finally, please, Mr Gibbs on behalf of  
 13 British Transport Police.  
 14 Questions from MR GIBBS  
 15 MR GIBBS: I have three short things.  
 16 The first is, can I just go back to the start time,  
 17 the time that you came on duty. If we look at your  
 18 notebook, which is {INQ003645/1}. We were enlarging  
 19 just that bottom part. It's at 1800, we see:  
 20 "At Man Vic for Ariana."  
 21 Does that look like your shift?  
 22 A. Yes, it was one of the shifts I had, yes.  
 23 Q. Because I think when you were asked about it first,  
 24 probably without your notebook, you thought you'd come  
 25 on at 3?

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1 A. I did, that's correct.  
 2 Q. But looking at this, do you think it's more likely you  
 3 came on at 5 or can't you really say?  
 4 A. I can't really say. It's possible I came on at 5.  
 5 Q. As to the time at which you got to Victoria, do you  
 6 remember how you got to Victoria?  
 7 A. I believe it was most likely by a tram.  
 8 Q. When you say most likely is that how you'd usually get  
 9 there?  
 10 A. That's typically how we would get to Victoria Station.  
 11 Q. So you'd come on duty at where, Piccadilly?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. And if you were deployed to Victoria, you'd take the  
 14 tram across to Victoria?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. As to when you were actually at Victoria that night --  
 17 it may be that we can track it down in this way: would  
 18 you normally, when you were with Mr Morrey, either you  
 19 or he, radio up to say that you had arrived at Victoria?  
 20 A. Yes, that would be standard practice to basically say  
 21 you're at that location, yes.  
 22 MR GIBBS: In case it matters, we will try to find that.  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 24 MR GIBBS: Secondly --  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Just before you leave this. Would

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1 you have had a briefing at 1700 hours or would you not  
 2 have had one or did it just depend and can you remember?  
 3 You have said no briefing at the moment, haven't you?  
 4 A. Yes, I know there was no briefing.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You know there was no briefing?  
 6 A. No, I'm certain about that.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 8 MR GIBBS: You know it or you're pretty certain or you can't  
 9 remember one? Which is it?  
 10 A. I know there wasn't a briefing.  
 11 Q. And what about the email, do you recall reading that  
 12 when you came on?  
 13 A. I don't recall reading the email.  
 14 Q. Would you normally read your emails when you came on?  
 15 A. Typically I would usually read my emails, yes.  
 16 Q. My second thing is refreshment breaks. You have told us  
 17 what you make now of the time that you appear to have  
 18 taken. Can we just understand the nature of the breaks.  
 19 If you were deployed to Victoria, where would you  
 20 normally have taken a break?  
 21 A. We would usually go into the refreshment part, which is  
 22 on the station where rail staff would allow us to take  
 23 breaks.  
 24 Q. In their office?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Was that where you had to take your break or could you  
 2 take it elsewhere?  
 3 A. No, we had the choice to either take it at the  
 4 Peninsula Building or, ideally, take it on the station  
 5 because that keeps us there.  
 6 Q. If you were in the Northern Rail room, could you be  
 7 contacted?  
 8 A. Yes. Northern Rail staff were aware that that's where  
 9 we would be and they had a tannoy system to use to reach  
 10 us which we could hear from the room.  
 11 Q. Did you have a radio?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. And in the room where you take the break, how many  
 14 paces, how many minutes or seconds were you from the  
 15 concourse?  
 16 A. Thirty seconds and you'd be on to the concourse.  
 17 Q. Did you bring food in with you or go out and buy it?  
 18 A. I can't remember on that occasion.  
 19 Q. But normally?  
 20 A. Either — I generally brought food in with me, but you  
 21 had the option to buy food if you so wished to.  
 22 Q. And then thirdly, you were shown some of the CCTV  
 23 stills. We've looked at it in great detail with another  
 24 witness, so I'm not going to take you through all your  
 25 movements on the night. But have you been shown your

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1 movements on the night as captured on the CCTV stills?  
 2 A. Yes, I have.  
 3 Q. I'm going to add to some of the stills that  
 4 Mr de la Poer showed you. Could I ask we therefore  
 5 bring up {INQ031678/45}?  
 6 I'm just starting slightly before — we've looked at  
 7 20.10. I'm starting slightly earlier. Do we see you,  
 8 at 19.58, walking up the stairs with a lady and then  
 9 coming across the footbridge with her? Do you remember  
 10 that at all?  
 11 A. I don't recall that, no.  
 12 Q. {INQ031678/46}. Go across the City Room with her, and  
 13 {INQ031678/47}, speak to a member of the ShowSec staff.  
 14 Do you remember what that was about?  
 15 A. I don't remember.  
 16 Q. {INQ031678/48}. You then speak to another member of the  
 17 ShowSec security team. Do you remember what that was  
 18 about?  
 19 A. No, I don't remember.  
 20 Q. {INQ031678/51}. You then come across with her. Is it  
 21 her or is it another member — anyway with a member of  
 22 the public to the bottom of the stairs. Do you remember  
 23 that?  
 24 A. I don't remember.  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It appears to say, "The unknown member

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1 of the public". So one assumes it will be the same one.  
 2 MR GIBBS: Yes, thank you.  
 3 {INQ031678/55}. And back across the City Room with  
 4 the lady.  
 5 {INQ031678/56}. And then you're pointing down the  
 6 stairs.  
 7 {INQ031678/57}. Back into the City Room.  
 8 {INQ031678/61}. And then we pick it up where my  
 9 learned friend began it.  
 10 You left at that point through the — no, firstly  
 11 you spoke to Mr Agha, as we now know, at {INQ031678/62}.  
 12 And you don't remember that conversation?  
 13 A. I don't remember that conversation.  
 14 Q. And then out at {INQ031678/63} and back to your tutor on  
 15 the concourse at {INQ031678/66}.  
 16 As to actually bringing to mind any specific memory  
 17 of any of that, can you do that?  
 18 A. I couldn't. I wouldn't be able to remember, no.  
 19 MR GIBBS: Thank you.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Gibbs.  
 21 MR DE LA POER: Sir, careful and efficient as ever, Mr Suter  
 22 has just informed me of this, that the statement which  
 23 was displayed on screen is known to contain particularly  
 24 sensitive information and what he has done, that is to  
 25 say Mr Suter, is he's asked for the feed to be cut so

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1 that that is not broadcast. That means that we will be  
 2 on a longer than 10 minutes delay. Once that technical  
 3 issue has been resolved, we will continue to broadcast  
 4 but just on a longer delay.  
 5 Having spoken to him about it, what we propose to  
 6 do, bearing in mind I have a couple more questions for  
 7 this officer, is simply to ask those questions to  
 8 complete his evidence, to break for lunch if that is  
 9 convenient for you, sir, and then over lunch the feed  
 10 will catch up on the live broadcast. I think that is  
 11 probably the most elegant solution to what is an  
 12 unfortunate difficulty.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes.  
 14 Further questions from MR DE LA POER  
 15 MR DE LA POER: Unless anybody disagrees with that, I'll  
 16 just ask the brief questions I have arising out of what  
 17 Mr Gibbs just asked.  
 18 Mr Gibbs drew your attention to the fact that the  
 19 room in which you took your breaks was only a very short  
 20 distance from the concourse and that there was a means  
 21 of summoning you to that concourse if required.  
 22 Picking up on that, during your break did you have any  
 23 facilities available to you to do police work, by which  
 24 I include community support work as well?  
 25 A. No, we didn't have facilities to do so.

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1 Q. So when you are in that room, tell me if there's  
 2 anything to add to the list, presumably you were eating?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. Drinking?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. And chatting?  
 7 A. Yes, correct.  
 8 Q. In a sociable way?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. And that's all you were doing, if I have understood it  
 11 correctly, whilst you were in that room?  
 12 A. Yes, and potentially going to use the toilet.  
 13 Q. And, for the smokers, potentially going for a cigarette  
 14 break?  
 15 A. Yes, potentially, yes.  
 16 Q. Your purpose on the night -- and I'm going back to one  
 17 of your early answers, so I hope my recollection serves  
 18 me here -- included providing a high visibility  
 19 presence; is that right?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. It's probably a question that doesn't need asking, but  
 22 I'm going to ask it anyway. Whilst you were on your  
 23 break, is it right that you simply could not fulfil that  
 24 purpose?  
 25 A. That's correct, yes.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I just have one thing to clear up maybe  
 2 a slight detail. You were being asked whether you'd  
 3 brought food in with you or whether you'd bought it. To  
 4 buy food, would you have to go out to get that or could  
 5 you get it at the place where you were eating or would  
 6 you need to go to somewhere else on the station to get  
 7 food or go outside?  
 8 A. You'd have to go somewhere else on the station or go  
 9 elsewhere.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much for your evidence.  
 11 I'm grateful.  
 12 MR DE LA POER: Unless, sir, you have any more questions,  
 13 I wonder whether PC Brown could be released?  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Absolutely, thank you.  
 15 1.30, which will keep us up to time?  
 16 MR DE LA POER: It will. Can I give this indication so that  
 17 everybody is prepared? Because the next witness, who  
 18 will be Neal Hatfield, has attended specifically to give  
 19 evidence today, and it is important we finish his  
 20 evidence, what we propose is we take him out of the  
 21 published order and that we return to PC Bullough with  
 22 the balance of the day once we have dealt with his  
 23 evidence so that everybody knows, going into lunchtime,  
 24 that we will deal with Neal Hatfield immediately after  
 25 the break and then PC Bullough after that because of

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1 Mr Hatfield's particular need to be completed today.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. While not in any way preventing  
 3 people from asking all the questions that need to be  
 4 asked -- and we have kept well up to time now -- I would  
 5 expect that we will finish both these other witnesses  
 6 this afternoon, please. I see no reason why not.  
 7 Thank you.  
 8 (12.33 pm)  
 9 (Lunch adjournment)  
 10 (1.30 pm)  
 11 MR DE LA POER: Sir, the first witness this afternoon is  
 12 Neal Hatfield, and I'll ask for him to be sworn, please.  
 13 MR NEAL HATFIELD (affirmed)  
 14 Questions from MR DE LA POER  
 15 MR DE LA POER: Can you state your full name, please?  
 16 A. Neal Hatfield.  
 17 Q. Mr Hatfield, we're going to begin by me identifying some  
 18 documents with you.  
 19 A. Okay.  
 20 Q. The first is, can you confirm that you were the subject  
 21 of a lengthy interview by the Greater Manchester Police  
 22 as a significant witness in their investigation on  
 23 24 May 2017?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. Our reference for that is {INQ032445/1}.

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1 Turning then to the statements that you have given  
 2 at various points, can you confirm, please, that you  
 3 made a statement on 5 June 2017?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. That is {INQ006542/1}.  
 6 You gave a subsequent statement providing further  
 7 detail on 16 April 2019?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. That is our {INQ022775/1}. And finally, and very  
 10 recently, you provided a statement at the request of the  
 11 chairman on 6 October this year?  
 12 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 13 Q. And that is {INQ036797/1}.  
 14 Can we be clear that in that final most recent  
 15 statement you were given the opportunity to see some  
 16 stills in which you picked yourself out and which you  
 17 give your evidence today in the light of?  
 18 A. That's correct, yes.  
 19 Q. But one thing that you have yet to see is any CCTV  
 20 moving images; is that right?  
 21 A. That's correct.  
 22 Q. We're going to do that later in our evidence today, but  
 23 in case I forget to say it then, it will be very  
 24 important for you to take your time over that when we  
 25 come to it and if you want to look at it again,

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1 you will.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You must not be rushed into any answers.  
 3 A. I understand that, thank you.  
 4 MR DE LA POER: Mr Hatfield, you have four children, is that  
 5 right?  
 6 A. Well, there's five altogether, but there was four there  
 7 on the evening, four girls.  
 8 Q. At the time were their age ranges from 17 down to 7?  
 9 A. That's correct, yes.  
 10 Q. Those four of your daughters were attending the  
 11 Ariana Grande concert?  
 12 A. Yes, that's right.  
 13 Q. At an early stage that evening, had you seen them into  
 14 the arena?  
 15 A. We dropped them off, but I waited for them to go through  
 16 the doors. I went on to the mezzanine, the McDonald's  
 17 mezzanine, and was scanning the room, sort of, you know,  
 18 being protective over them.  
 19 Q. So this is before the concert starts, you're in the  
 20 City Room and you see your four children in through  
 21 those doors that the inquiry have seen on to the arena  
 22 concourse?  
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 24 Q. You have described yourself as being protective?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. What do you mean by that?  
 2 A. In dad mode, basically. It's your children, isn't it,  
 3 so you want to protect them and I was actively scanning  
 4 the room making sure -- I didn't want them to get  
 5 abducted. It's dad mode, isn't it, basically?  
 6 Q. You said abducted. Just articulate for us a little  
 7 further. What particular threat were you concerned  
 8 about?  
 9 A. Paedophiles. Because the room was wide open. You've  
 10 got an entrance one side, an entrance the other side.  
 11 I'd never been there before and there was a lot of  
 12 people moving around. I was basically just worried that  
 13 somebody might come and take one of my children.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I just want to make sure of this, and  
 15 I'm not suggesting anything different we all know about  
 16 the dreadful appalling things that happen and obviously,  
 17 as far as you can, I don't want you to be influenced by  
 18 that. I'm not saying you are being, but just assure me  
 19 that it's not hindsight.  
 20 A. No, this is evidence, this is facts. I need to tell you  
 21 the facts that are in my mind. I'm not looking after  
 22 the explosion, nothing, anything of that. I'm telling  
 23 you the facts.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm not suggesting you are. I just want  
 25 to make sure that we do understand each other.

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1 A. We're on the same -- yes.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 3 MR DE LA POER: That was your state of mind early in the  
 4 evening?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Just tell us, and I'm not looking for the detail of it,  
 7 but what sort of day had you had before that?  
 8 A. I'd got up really early. I'd jogged to work, I'd done  
 9 a full day's work or nearly a full day, I left a bit  
 10 earlier, 3 o'clock something like that, I got home, so  
 11 I was already quite tired and we drove all the way to  
 12 Manchester. A car nearly hit us on the way there, which  
 13 got me in a sort of anxious mood. And then we basically  
 14 dropped them at the arena, we had been for something to  
 15 eat first, and so it was a very, very long day already.  
 16 And I was sort of in that state of mind, sort of  
 17 anxious, yeah.  
 18 Q. So once you'd dropped your four daughters off -- I think  
 19 you were there with your partner, is that right?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. And did you and she go and entertain yourselves while  
 22 the concert was going on?  
 23 A. We walked all the way to the other end of Deansgate and  
 24 we went to the cinema.  
 25 Q. Was your plan to return before the main act ended so

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1 that you could be there to receive them out again?  
 2 A. Yes. We planned it that way and it's a good half an  
 3 hour's walk but we made sure (inaudible: distorted) and  
 4 we could get there in time.  
 5 Q. Did it come to be the case that, at about 10.20, you  
 6 were back in the City Room?  
 7 A. Yes. I didn't know that at the time, in giving my  
 8 statement, but I have since learned that, yes.  
 9 Q. What we're going to do, bearing in mind you have seen  
 10 them already, is we're just going to have a look at the  
 11 sequence of events that's been created by Greater  
 12 Manchester Police for you and which you viewed on  
 13 6 October.  
 14 Can I say, before we come to this, that we are  
 15 inevitably going to be looking at images of the  
 16 City Room after 10 pm. I make clear that we are not at  
 17 this stage going to be viewing any moving images and  
 18 there will be no images after 10.31, but I'll just make  
 19 that clear now as I ask Mr Lopez to bring up this INQ so  
 20 people can make the arrangements they need to if they  
 21 need to step way. {INQ036731/1}.  
 22 I anticipate this will take about 15 minutes.  
 23 Can we go to {INQ036731/2}.  
 24 We have the time there and you accept that you are  
 25 correctly identified, together with your partner, at

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1 22.21.18, on the raised footbridge on the way to the  
 2 City Room?  
 3 A. Yes, that's me.  
 4 Q. Next page, please. {INQ036731/3}. Again, a correct  
 5 identification of you by the Greater Manchester Police  
 6 team. I think that another person who you spoke about  
 7 in an earlier statement is marked there in yellow?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. Next still, please. {INQ036731/4}. Do we see you and  
 10 your partner walking in the direction of what we're  
 11 describing as the McDonald's staircase of the mezzanine?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. Next still, please. {INQ036731/5}.  
 14 We're going to stop here for a moment and you're  
 15 going to give us your account now that we've got the  
 16 various people in the positions that take up your  
 17 narrative. Let's identify where everybody who is  
 18 significant is. Are you marked in the red box?  
 19 A. Yes. That's me.  
 20 Q. And are you standing at the far end of the mezzanine  
 21 against the railings?  
 22 A. I'm in the middle of the mezzanine on the railings.  
 23 Q. We can see that a person is marked in yellow and  
 24 a person is marked in green. Are they the two security  
 25 guards that you referred to in an earlier statement

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1 before you had seen this?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. So before we come to their movements, we have seen from  
 4 the sequence just then that you have ascended that  
 5 staircase and taken up the position that you did.  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. As you went up that staircase, did you come to notice  
 8 anybody on the mezzanine?  
 9 A. Yes. Straightaway. It was before I even got to the  
 10 stairs, when I turned round -- you saw the earlier still  
 11 of me walking towards the stairs. That's when I saw  
 12 a young man. He sort of had his back to me but he was  
 13 at a 45-degree angle, and he was in the process of  
 14 laying down. He had a backpack that was off his back,  
 15 it wasn't on his back, it was on the floor next to him,  
 16 sort of behind him. He was dressed all in black. White  
 17 trainers.  
 18 Q. Pause there for a moment. We're going to -- Mr Lopez,  
 19 take that down, please. We're going to look at some  
 20 plans that you have created to help us better understand  
 21 this. {INQ036821/2}.  
 22 You've described yourself about to ascend that  
 23 staircase?  
 24 A. Yes, that's just what I've explained to you.  
 25 Q. You're at position 1. At position 2, is that the

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1 individual you have just described for us?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. You said that the rucksack wasn't on his back.  
 4 A. No.  
 5 Q. So that I can understand that, by that are you saying  
 6 that the shoulder straps were not around his shoulders?  
 7 A. Not at all. He was totally disconnected from his bag.  
 8 It was laid on the floor behind him.  
 9 Q. What distance was the closest part of his body to the  
 10 closest part of that bag?  
 11 A. I was getting closer as I was walking up the steps,  
 12 because he was leaning back, but he had his hands on the  
 13 floor -- or his elbows, I can't remember which -- and he  
 14 was in the process of leaning back and even putting his  
 15 feet up. And it was almost as if he was trying to  
 16 protect the bag and not touch it. But he did, as he  
 17 leaned further back and he put his feet up, it's almost  
 18 as if he sort of slipped a little bit and when he did  
 19 press on the bag, I noticed straightaway that whatever  
 20 was in the bag was solid. If it had been a normal  
 21 rucksack, it would have flexed under his weight and it  
 22 didn't. It was rock solid, and that's what alarmed me,  
 23 alarm bells in my head just went straightaway.  
 24 Q. Did it coalesce to anything? What did you think?  
 25 A. I thought suicide bomber, straightaway. With very

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1 little doubt in my mind. Honestly, my heart was racing  
 2 as soon as I saw him.  
 3 Q. I'd like you to think very carefully about that first  
 4 thought that struck you and identify for us as best you  
 5 can what were the features about what you were seeing  
 6 that caused you to think suicide bomber.  
 7 A. He was dressed all in black. He looked like  
 8 a terrorist. I don't know how to explain it, like  
 9 a Bond villain. He just had this -- I just had this  
 10 really bad feeling about him. And the bag -- it was the  
 11 bag, it was massive and it as solid, like I say, I was  
 12 thinking, there's not clothes in that bag, it just  
 13 didn't make sense, I got that -- in the first instance  
 14 I saw him, it was just ...  
 15 Q. Can I press you on that last answer a little bit  
 16 further? Can you identify the features specifically of  
 17 what you were looking at that made you think suicide  
 18 bomber?  
 19 A. The way he was dressed, the way he was acting, his body  
 20 language.  
 21 Q. Stop there. What about the way he was acting and his  
 22 body language did you notice?  
 23 A. It was like he was trying to protect the bag. He was  
 24 pretending to be casual, pretending to, "Oh, I'm  
 25 laid-back", but it was a trick to me. It wasn't...

1 I could see through what he was doing. It was almost as  
 2 if he was trying to trick people who were watching him.  
 3 He didn't know I was watching him. I was stood at the  
 4 top of the stairs and I said to my partner, "Look at  
 5 him", and she sort of -- she was on the phone to the  
 6 kids and she sort of shrugged it off and I said, "No,  
 7 look at him", because I felt so strongly about it. And  
 8 yeah, and the bag, it just ... I thought it was a bomb.  
 9 Straightaway. I don't know why, I just knew it in my  
 10 mind. It was so... It just looked like a bomb.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You said you were stood at the top of  
 12 the stairs?  
 13 A. Yeah.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: The last time I saw you you were at the  
 15 bottom of the stairs, I think. So had you moved up the  
 16 stairs?  
 17 A. I was walking up the stairs to get on to the mezzanine  
 18 and because he had his back to me, I took a moment to  
 19 study him at the top of the stairs. Then I moved on to  
 20 the mezzanine itself and he was on my mind straightaway.  
 21 He was on my mind and I was thinking, I need to tell  
 22 somebody about him, I need to find security. I went to  
 23 put my hand down to get my phone and I had forgotten it  
 24 because I was in a rush to leave. I was going to ring  
 25 999.

1 MR DE LA POER: Pause for a moment. We're going to examine  
 2 some of the things you have just told us there. You  
 3 described him as having his back to you.  
 4 A. Yes, it's sort of a 45-degree angle, so you could sort  
 5 of see his side.  
 6 Q. If we have a look at that in position 2 on your image  
 7 there. By reference to the shape of that number, which  
 8 way was he facing?  
 9 A. He was facing to the left, his feet were up on the wall.  
 10 On that left wall there (indicating) his feet were up on  
 11 that wall. It's like a metal fascia that goes round and  
 12 his feet were up on the metal fascia.  
 13 Q. Would that put his back towards where McDonald's used to  
 14 be?  
 15 A. He was in this position. If I'm looking at the steps,  
 16 he was at 45 degrees. I could just see the side of his  
 17 head and the back of him. And the bag was at like  
 18 a 90-degree angle underneath him.  
 19 Q. Was it resting on the floor?  
 20 A. On the floor, flat on the floor. I don't know which way  
 21 up it was, I just remember it being a 90-degree angle,  
 22 he was at a sort of 45-degree angle.  
 23 Q. So we've moved through your movements from here, when  
 24 you progress up. You then move, I think you have told  
 25 us, as we saw in that red box, on to a position halfway

1 along the mezzanine?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. If we go to the next slide {INQ036821/3}, I think  
 4 we will have that indicated. Are you still number 1?  
 5 A. That's me, central on the railing.  
 6 Q. We'll come back to 3 and 4 in due course. Number 2  
 7 there, the man in the same position?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. So you have walked up those stairs, turned to your right  
 10 and ended up in the position indicated here. And you've  
 11 had the thoughts that you've told us about. You've also  
 12 told us your partner had a phone on her because you said  
 13 she was on the phone?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Did it occur to you to use her phone?  
 16 A. She was on the phone to the kids, so I was thinking she  
 17 needs to stay on the phone to the kids because we needed  
 18 to know where they were and it was like... So I had him  
 19 on my mind, I had her on my mind, and I was thinking  
 20 security at that point. But it didn't occur to me to  
 21 take the phone off her at all. I was thinking more if  
 22 she's in contact with the kids, it's probably better  
 23 that she's talking to the children. Yes?  
 24 Q. For how long were you in this state of thinking about  
 25 the person before something else of significance

1 happened?  
 2 A. It was constantly on my mind. I went to the railings  
 3 and I was looking for security. And what I was trying  
 4 to do in my mind, I was trying to convince myself that  
 5 it wasn't a bomber, I was trying to think of other  
 6 things it could be, and the second thing I thought was,  
 7 is it weapons, is it guns, knives, anything like that.  
 8 And I even said to myself, well, is he homeless, but  
 9 I dismissed that straightaway because it was a really  
 10 warm night. Do you know it was a warm night that night?  
 11 Q. We have evidence of that.  
 12 A. It was a really warm night and he was dressed in a big  
 13 jacket from what I remember at that time. I've seen  
 14 pictures since, but in my mind it was a big black  
 15 jacket. I walked down Deansgate and I was trying to  
 16 dismiss the fact that I thought he was a suicide bomber.  
 17 And so all that's going through my mind and I'm looking  
 18 for security, stood on the railings, and that's when  
 19 I did see the two security --  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I have put down that you were trying to  
 21 convince yourself he wasn't --  
 22 A. I was trying to convince myself he wasn't. That's how  
 23 I felt. And I was thinking, am I being stupid, do you  
 24 know what I mean? And my wife had said to me, after  
 25 I said, look at him, she'd said to me something like,

1 "Don't paint him with that brush", or, "You're being  
 2 paranoid", or something like that and then I was  
 3 thinking, am I being paranoid, but obviously I wasn't.  
 4 MR DE LA POER: You have mentioned security guards.  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Did there come a time when your attention was drawn to  
 7 two security guards?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. About how long, in your recollection, had you been on  
 10 that mezzanine before you noticed those security guards?  
 11 A. I think it was maybe 2/3 minutes, something like that.  
 12 Q. You have marked security guards on here at 3 and 4 and  
 13 marked them by name. On the night did you know what  
 14 those two individuals were called?  
 15 A. No, I didn't know their names. I even thought when  
 16 I saw them, I thought it said something like "security"  
 17 on their T-shirts, I didn't know it was ShowSec or  
 18 anything like that. Obviously I know now, but not  
 19 at the time.  
 20 Q. So you noticed the security guards. What did you notice  
 21 about them?  
 22 A. Well, one of them was sort of tall and skinny, mousy  
 23 brown hair, maybe blond. The other guy was shorter,  
 24 stockier, brown hair. Obviously we know who they are  
 25 now. Kyle Lawler, I don't know where he came from, but

1 all of a sudden he was in front of me and he was heading  
 2 towards the other security guard.  
 3 Q. Let's have a look and see what you said in your  
 4 statement of 16 April 2019. That statement was given  
 5 before you had watched or seen any stills of events,  
 6 is that right?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. What you said is this, and I'm looking at {INQ022775/7}  
 9 if anybody wants to:  
 10 "All this occurred during the time it took for the  
 11 song to play. I look down and saw a young slim white  
 12 male who was wearing a yellow top that I thought had  
 13 words similar to 'Security' written on and I assumed he  
 14 was one of the security staff. He was on the foyer  
 15 floor and from my vantage point I could see that he was  
 16 looking back towards the steps where this man was and  
 17 seemed to be gesturing with his arms to another  
 18 similarly dressed younger stockier male."  
 19 That was the account you gave before you'd seen any  
 20 footage --  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. -- or any stills? Just describe for us the interaction  
 23 you saw between --  
 24 A. They came together, I think -- yeah, they came together  
 25 and Kyle Lawler, it was -- to me it seemed like he was

1 in control of the situation, what they was talking  
 2 about. I don't know what they were talking about  
 3 because I couldn't hear what they were talking about.  
 4 It was almost as if he was gesturing over to the guy I'd  
 5 seen up in that direction. He was sort of like doing it  
 6 secretly to the other guy.  
 7 Q. I was going to ask you about that. Let's rule out --  
 8 were there any big arm gestures?  
 9 A. I don't think so, no. It was more like, "Him, him", and  
 10 sort of pointing with his head. And then Mr Agha was  
 11 shrugging his shoulders. In my mind I thought it was  
 12 sort of saying, "I don't know what to do", do you what  
 13 I mean? He kept shrugging his shoulders in my  
 14 recollection of it.  
 15 Q. Were the two of them standing near each other?  
 16 A. They were pretty close to each other, but Mr Agha, he  
 17 seemed to be -- it was almost as if he was on a bungee  
 18 cord to the stairs. I don't know what it is, it's like  
 19 a doorway and it was almost as if he kept moving back  
 20 towards that doorway.  
 21 Q. Whilst this interaction was taking place between the two  
 22 of them where was the man that you'd seen with the  
 23 rucksack?  
 24 A. At that point, I turned to my right and he was right  
 25 next to me. Well, he was probably from me to that chair

1 (indicating), that distance away from me.  
 2 Q. If we go to the next --  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Would you like to estimate that for me?  
 4 A. Maybe a little bit closer. Do you know where the top of  
 5 the steps are? He was sat with his feet on the top  
 6 step, that's where he was, he'd moved to that position,  
 7 and if you look where I am, number 1, if you could  
 8 estimate that distance, 10, 15 feet maybe.  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. That sounds reasonable to me.  
 10 MR DE LA POER: Let's have a look at the next slide, please,  
 11 Mr Lopez {INQ36821/4}.  
 12 You have there indicated the man we know to be  
 13 Salman Abedi at point 2 at the top of the steps?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. And your recollection when he was there is that those  
 16 two security guards were, is this fair to say, in the  
 17 vicinity of the bottom of the steps?  
 18 A. Yes. They could have been closer to where I was, but  
 19 it's just what I've done to show they were looking over  
 20 at him. I know there's a lift there as well, isn't  
 21 there? So that was obscuring my view. I have that in  
 22 my mind. That was like a blind spot to me so I couldn't  
 23 see Mr Agha when he was there but all I remember is him  
 24 moving back those doors.  
 25 Q. I would just like to get a little more detail if we can

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1 about your perception of the body language of those two  
 2 security staff that you're talking about.  
 3 A. As far as I was concerned they knew he was there, they  
 4 was talking about him, and they were going to do  
 5 something about it. It sort of gave me a bit of relief  
 6 but I was still watching them. I was watching him as  
 7 well. At this point I had looked him in the eyes and  
 8 I could see he was emotionally distressed. He seemed  
 9 scared.  
 10 Q. Pause there for a moment. I think I know who you're  
 11 talking about, but who do you say seemed scared?  
 12 A. Salman Abedi -- well, the guy who I was looking at. He  
 13 seemed frightened. His eyes were sort of glazed over  
 14 and he seemed frightened, nervous, agitated. He didn't  
 15 seem right. And that really -- oh, my heartbeat was  
 16 getting faster and faster because I was thinking, this  
 17 guy's moving into position to do something now. And  
 18 I didn't want him to know that I was watching him  
 19 because I thought, if he does something, out of the  
 20 ordinary, I can maybe do something about it. But  
 21 I was thinking, these security guards know he's there  
 22 and they've got to do something and I was waiting for  
 23 them to go and get someone.  
 24 Q. What, if anything, did you see them do when they broke  
 25 apart, those security guards?

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1 A. Kyle Lawler went out of the doors and that's what  
 2 I thought, I thought he was going to get the police. In  
 3 my mind, I saw him come back in again and out again and  
 4 I don't know whether he did it twice or three times or  
 5 I don't know whether that's me playing this thing on a  
 6 loop in my mind and my memories may be...  
 7 Q. But you have a recollection of him leaving the room and  
 8 coming back?  
 9 A. He definitely went out of the room, definitely went out.  
 10 And my recollection is he came back again and then he  
 11 went out again but I don't know if that's true because  
 12 it's sort of sketchy in my mind.  
 13 Q. How did that make you feel about the situation that you  
 14 were watching?  
 15 A. I felt better about it but I still thought to myself --  
 16 I thought, if that is a bomb, I thought we were all  
 17 dead, I really did. I thought -- I was concerned,  
 18 really concerned, because he was there on the steps and  
 19 he was close to me, really close to me. And it was  
 20 like -- it was just making me extremely nervous.  
 21 Q. Mr Lopez, I would like to go back, please, to the set of  
 22 stills that we were looking at originally  
 23 {INQ0363715/4}. Let's work through these in the light  
 24 of your overview. We're back at the start of the  
 25 sequence, you and your wife about to ascend the stairs?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. We go to the next one, please {INQ036371/4}.  
 3 A. Can I just say at that point, I did not notice Mr Agha  
 4 at that point. I just thought I'd tell you.  
 5 Q. You weren't aware of --  
 6 A. I don't remember seeing him. The first time I saw him  
 7 is when they came together, because, like I say, the  
 8 lift was like a blind spot to me. So even though I'm  
 9 stood on the railings, I'd have to lean over the  
 10 railings to see him, so I didn't know he was there at  
 11 that point.  
 12 Q. Next slide, Mr Lopez {INQ036371/3}.  
 13 We've seen this already. Identified for us is  
 14 Mr Lawler in green, Mr Agha in yellow, and you up on the  
 15 mezzanine in red, 22.23.44.  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's between those two slides that you  
 17 first see Salman Abedi, between walking towards the  
 18 steps and then being on the balcony where we can see you  
 19 now?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 22 MR DE LA POER: Next slide, please, Mr Lopez {INQ036371/6}.  
 23 We can see the two of them, that is to say Mr Lawler  
 24 and Mr Agha, coming together.  
 25 A. Yes. That must have been the point that I'd seen them

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1 interact. I think so anyway.  
 2 Q. Next slide, please, {INQ036371/7}, 1 minute on from the  
 3 previous slide. Again, it appears that both are -- or  
 4 each are facing each other and you're in the position  
 5 that you were in.  
 6 If we look at the distance from them to the bottom  
 7 of the stairs in that, and we've seen where you showed  
 8 it on the plan, is it possible that they were further  
 9 away from the stairs than you have drawn them on the  
 10 plan?  
 11 A. Yes, it's possible. I have just tried to do it as best  
 12 I can.  
 13 Q. Thank you, Mr Hatfield.  
 14 If we go to the next one, please {INQ036371/8}.  
 15 We can see the two of them are close together or so it  
 16 appears from this perspective. You're still in the  
 17 position you were in. It's a couple of seconds on from  
 18 the previous slide.  
 19 Next, please, {INQ036371/9}. Again, a couple of  
 20 seconds on, still in close proximity to each other.  
 21 Next slide, please, Mr Lopez, {INQ036371/10}.  
 22 Again, a couple of seconds on from where we were before,  
 23 the two of them. You have described for us the two  
 24 having a conversation and the indications which weren't  
 25 extravagant, my word not yours. Was all of that taking

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1 place during what we are looking at here or was that at  
 2 some other time?  
 3 A. I think that was the point. It must have been, yeah.  
 4 The timing (overspeaking) that has got to be the time  
 5 because I came in at 21 minutes past, walked up the  
 6 stairs, seen him, stood on the railings, that must be  
 7 the time as far as I'm concerned.  
 8 Q. If we go to the next slide {INQ036371/11}, please.  
 9 We can see there Mr Lawler has got his back to the  
 10 camera. What it looks like --  
 11 A. Yes, he's walking out the doors, isn't he, by the looks  
 12 of things?  
 13 Q. And we can see the final slide that I would like you to  
 14 look at is over the page {INQ036371/12}, 3 seconds on.  
 15 Mr Lawler on the way to the doors.  
 16 So when you were shown this sequence, you weren't  
 17 shown in the course of it Mr Lawler coming in and out?  
 18 A. No.  
 19 Q. That's not apparent from this sequence?  
 20 A. No.  
 21 Q. But you have a recollection of --  
 22 A. Yes. I seem to remember they had their interaction.  
 23 Mr Agha was shrugging his shoulders and sort of doing  
 24 this, (indicating), and then Kyle Lawler turned around,  
 25 went out the doors.

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1 Q. What I would like to do now -- and I repeat what I said  
 2 at the start -- is just to watch a short sequence of  
 3 CCTV that we have, which covers this period. We're  
 4 going to watch it through in silence to start with and  
 5 then go through it. In the event that you want to watch  
 6 it again before I ask you questions about it, you must  
 7 please --  
 8 A. I will do.  
 9 Q. -- tell us that.  
 10 Mr Lopez, {INQ032060/1}. We're going to start at  
 11 counter time 00:30, which I know, Mr Lopez, takes  
 12 a little bit of teeing up.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: While that's being teed up, let me ask  
 14 you this: you have described seeing Salman Abedi sitting  
 15 back with the rucksack separated from him, behind him.  
 16 Then you see him at the top of the stairs.  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: By this time what's happened to the  
 19 rucksack?  
 20 A. It's on his back. It's on his back and that was  
 21 worrying me as well.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes, I'm sure. He's got up, he has put  
 23 the rucksack on, and then he has come towards the top of  
 24 the stairs in between?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 2 MR DE LA POER: And would I be right in understanding your  
 3 evidence that you didn't see him do that?  
 4 A. No, it was like he wasn't there, then I turned to the  
 5 side and he was there (indicating).  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I understand.  
 7 MR DE LA POER: Mr Lopez has things teed up and I wonder  
 8 with the cursor if we could just indicate where people  
 9 are.  
 10 Mr Agha is in the yellow. To the right we can see  
 11 Mr Lawler and he's accompanied by somebody else,  
 12 Robert Atkinson.  
 13 A. I don't remember seeing him, I just remember seeing the  
 14 two that we're talking about.  
 15 Q. We're going to watch this through, please, as far as  
 16 2 minutes 39 on the counter time, Mr Lopez, and if you  
 17 can stop it at that point then we'll see where we are  
 18 together.  
 19 (Video played to the inquiry)  
 20 Q. Would you like to see that again?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Am I able to tell a time from this or  
 23 not?  
 24 MR DE LA POER: This sequence begins at 22.21.53, if I have  
 25 got my maths right.

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1 As you will see labelled at the top, sir, the  
 2 sequence starts at 22.21.52. That's the internal camera  
 3 time, so we will need to make an adjustment and we are  
 4 30 seconds into it, so there will be a slight adjustment  
 5 on the figure that I have given you.  
 6 If we play it and pause it where necessary. The  
 7 first thing to note -- stop there -- is the two of them  
 8 have come together at this stage for the first time.  
 9 A. Right, okay.  
 10 Q. You will have seen from the footage that, immediately  
 11 after this, the man we know who is Kyle Lawler walks in  
 12 the direction of the camera and is in the vicinity of  
 13 the bottom of the other set of stairs to the mezzanine.  
 14 A. Yes, the other mezzanine.  
 15 Q. Do you remember seeing him do that?  
 16 A. No, no. Like I say, the lift was a blind spot to me, so  
 17 it was difficult to see what was going on in that area.  
 18 Q. The interaction that you've described between the two  
 19 men -- we know from watching the footage that they come  
 20 together again, do you think that it might have been  
 21 that second interaction that you were witnessing or do  
 22 you think you witnessed this interaction?  
 23 A. I think it might have been the second one. I'm not sure  
 24 because I don't remember seeing three of them there.  
 25 When I saw them, it was two of them. But I could have

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1 seen them, but I don't remember it that way. I think  
 2 I remember the second interaction.  
 3 Q. Let's play on to cover the part that you don't  
 4 recollect, namely Mr Lawler walking in this direction.  
 5 A. No.  
 6 (Pause)  
 7 Q. Then we'll see Mr Lawler walk over to the far doors,  
 8 whereas Mr Agha has --  
 9 A. He's looking in that direction there as well. You can  
 10 see.  
 11 Q. We can see him over by those doors at the far end of the  
 12 room. Then Mr Agha is now walking in his direction, and  
 13 they're about to come together.  
 14 A. Yes, I think this is where I saw them. I think it's at  
 15 this point.  
 16 Q. Again, your best recollection is that it wasn't that  
 17 first interaction, it was this --  
 18 A. I think it was the second. Is there another one after  
 19 this?  
 20 Q. Let's just watch on. You told us you had a recollection  
 21 that Mr Lawler left the City Room and then came back.  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. You weren't sure whether that happened more than once.  
 24 He goes over to the far doors there. Mr Agha just  
 25 stepping away from those doors. There they come

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1 together.  
 2 A. I might have been there, I don't know. I don't want to  
 3 say it if I don't know it.  
 4 Q. That's very, very important.  
 5 A. It's just like my recollection. They came together,  
 6 they had a conversation, I thought they were talking  
 7 about him, and then he walked out of the doors.  
 8 Q. Pause it there, Mr Lopez.  
 9 What we've seen is they come together three times  
 10 in that sequence.  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. You have said, because you do not recall Mr Lawler  
 13 coming down this end, that you may not have seen that  
 14 first interaction?  
 15 A. No, I don't think I did.  
 16 Q. Following that, Mr Lawler walks in the direction of the  
 17 doors and then comes back to Mr Agha. When you gave  
 18 your evidence before you had seen this, you described  
 19 having a recollection of Mr Lawler leaving the City Room  
 20 and then coming back in.  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Putting those together, are you able to help us with  
 23 which of the interactions --  
 24 A. It's either the second or the third because I remember  
 25 him leaving the City Room, so it's either the second or

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1 the third, but I don't want to say it if I don't know  
 2 it.  
 3 Q. Here we know that Mr Lawler is now leaving, he's not to  
 4 return to the City Room again.  
 5 Sir, I can give you the time of this. This  
 6 particular still is within a second or so of 22.25.20.  
 7 Throughout this period, and perhaps you can help,  
 8 Mr Lopez, just to identify precisely where you are. If  
 9 you could go up to the approximate area of the  
 10 mezzanine.  
 11 If Mr Lopez were to move his cursor --  
 12 A. If it moves it further up and left. There (indicating).  
 13 Go back again to your right. There. That's the -- go  
 14 left, go left. A bit more. That's me there, I think.  
 15 I can't tell for sure, but that's where I was stood.  
 16 I think that's my head.  
 17 Q. At the point that Mr Lawler leaves the City Room --  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It would be helpful if someone  
 19 identified on a still where that was just so we've got  
 20 it --  
 21 MR DE LA POER: Forgive me, sir.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: -- because this is the video.  
 23 MR DE LA POER: But I can take you -- I can do it from  
 24 a still.  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's fine as long as we can.

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1 MR DE LA POER: We can have a look at it now. You'd like to  
2 see a still of this with the ---  
3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I just need someone to note where the  
4 witness is identifying he is.  
5 A. It's marked in the red box here, sir.  
6 MR DE LA POER: We're going to have a look at that now.  
7 {INQ036731/12}.  
8 A. That's the one.  
9 Q. How long after the man you now know to be Kyle Lawler  
10 leaving the City Room was it in your recollection that  
11 events proceeded? In other words, that you next had  
12 that individual in mind?  
13 A. I think about 5 minutes later, maybe. It was not  
14 a massive amount of time. I can't tell you exactly.  
15 I'm not going to say it's an exact 5 minutes, it just  
16 felt sort of 5 minutes. He was sat on the steps. I was  
17 eyeballing him but I was trying not to let him know  
18 I was eyeballing him. But we kept seeing each other's  
19 eyes, looking into each other's eyes briefly.  
20 Q. What was your perception of what his mood was like?  
21 A. He looked scared, anxious, he even looked sort of sad in  
22 a way, eyes seemed glazed. I'm not sure if he had  
23 glasses on at this point. I'm sure he had glasses on at  
24 one point I was looking at him but I can't be positive  
25 on that either. But yeah, he was looking really, really

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1 anxious and nervous.  
2 Q. What, if anything, were you expecting to happen  
3 in relation to him?  
4 A. I thought he was going to get up and do exactly what he  
5 did. I thought he was going to get up, walk into the  
6 middle of the room and do what he did. That's what  
7 I was thinking at that time and I kept looking to the  
8 doors thinking the police were going to come in. That  
9 was what I thought, and I was thinking how are they  
10 going to deal with him if they go up to them. It was  
11 all in my mind, all these horrible thoughts.  
12 Q. Let's just break that down --- and I am conscious as  
13 I ask this question that it could be misinterpreted, bu  
14 I mean no criticism of you whatsoever, Mr Hatfield.  
15 A. Not a problem.  
16 Q. What, if anything, did you do about your concern about  
17 that individual at that time?  
18 A. Nothing. Nothing. I just wanted to watch him.  
19 I thought: if he makes a move, I can do something maybe,  
20 and that's the only thing I could think.  
21 Q. You have mentioned the police ---  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. --- in a previous answer. What, if anything, did you  
24 have by way of expectation in terms of the police?  
25 A. I thought they'd be there, I thought they'd be on it.

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1 I really did. I thought the security knew he was there,  
2 he had gone to get the police. I thought they would be  
3 in there any minute. I kept looking, I was looking at  
4 the concourse doors, I was listening to Sarah behind me,  
5 I was looking at him and I was looking --- at that time  
6 my mind was sort of frantic, yeah? It was a horrible  
7 situation to be in. I felt hopeless.  
8 Q. I'm not going to go into any by way of detail here, so  
9 I'm going to try and deal with this by way of summary.  
10 Did you see Salman Abedi stand up?  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. Did you become aware that he had stood up and started  
13 walking?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. And did you see him walking across the City Room floor?  
16 A. Yes, and then I near enough knew it for sure because  
17 that bag was big, heavy. It must have weighed 30 kilos  
18 and he was trudging. He wasn't walking like you  
19 normally see backpackers walking, pretty heavy with  
20 clothes in. This thing was heavy and I mean heavy.  
21 You've seen the video of him walking across the  
22 overpass. Can you remember that video? Don't you think  
23 that he looked like he was trudging along? At that  
24 point he's leaning forward and that was how it looked to  
25 me.

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1 Q. Again, the chairman's already invited you to consider  
2 this. Obviously you've had the opportunity to see  
3 footage since you saw this.  
4 A. Mm.  
5 Q. Acknowledging to yourself the possibility that you've  
6 been influenced by that, what would be the best  
7 description you have from your recollection?  
8 A. From my recollection, I looked to my side, he was gone  
9 and I thought, oh my God, where is he, and then I looked  
10 down across the floor and I saw him. He had a phone to  
11 his head, and he had his hands like this (indicating)  
12 and his head down. And he was basically --- like I say,  
13 he was trudging along, it was very heavy, very heavy.  
14 Q. I'm not going to ask you any more questions about that  
15 other than save to acknowledge that you were immediately  
16 aware of the explosion when it happened, weren't you?  
17 A. Oh yeah, I knew straightaway. It was basically ---  
18 because he got into the crowd and he sort of almost  
19 disappeared from view, and I was like, where is he, and  
20 I almost had a little bit of relief, he's not doing  
21 anything, and then massive flash of light and it was  
22 like --- you know sheet lightning? It was like that and  
23 it filled the whole room and ---  
24 Q. That's all we need. Thank you.  
25 I'm only going to ask you about two matters

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1 afterwards --  
 2 A. Okay.  
 3 Q. -- all right? Again I'm not wishing to go into any  
 4 detail at all.  
 5 A. Okay.  
 6 Q. In the course of you leaving the area, did you encounter  
 7 a paramedic?  
 8 A. Yes. I went all the way across the walkway.  
 9 Q. The raised footbridge?  
 10 A. Yes. And went down the -- there's like two lots of  
 11 steps, I think, and I went down those steps. When I got  
 12 to the second lot of steps, I was shouting, "Ambulances!  
 13 We need ambulances!" and there were a lot of people  
 14 in the doorway. Some of them were taking pictures,  
 15 filming, I think, and I was shouting, "We need  
 16 ambulances!" I got outside, and one of my daughters was  
 17 pretty badly injured. I had her in my arms, I took her  
 18 outside and there was a paramedic there --  
 19 Q. I just want to focus on exactly where. Were you by now  
 20 outside the station?  
 21 A. Just outside the station doors to the right.  
 22 Q. Again, did you speak to that paramedic?  
 23 A. I did. I told him exactly what had happened, quickly,  
 24 and asked him to look at --  
 25 Q. And can you give us a brief description of that

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1 paramedic, please?  
 2 A. I can't remember what he looked like. I cannot  
 3 remember.  
 4 Q. He was a male?  
 5 A. Yes, a male. I do not know what he looked like,  
 6 I couldn't tell you. I just remember paramedic. He was  
 7 in a car as well, I think.  
 8 Q. So you have a recollection of being outside; is it  
 9 outside the station complex in the open air?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Speaking to a paramedic and telling them what you had  
 12 seen?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. And the other thing that I wanted to speak to you about,  
 15 please, although before I do I should just ask you this:  
 16 are you able to estimate how long after you'd left the  
 17 City Room that that was?  
 18 A. Um... I think we were out -- post--detonation I think  
 19 we were out of the City Room within 5 minutes and when  
 20 I saw the paramedic, that was a couple of minutes after  
 21 that.  
 22 Q. The other matter I wanted to ask you about is this.  
 23 You have spoken in your statement about encountering  
 24 police officers.  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Do you recall whether they were armed or not?  
 2 A. Right, well, it was all the way round the other side of  
 3 the building and I seem to remember they had the boot of  
 4 the car open, so I just took it as they were going to  
 5 get arms out of the boot, but I didn't know if they  
 6 were. I just sort of thought they were armed policemen.  
 7 Q. You described being all the way around the other side of  
 8 the building.  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Would you know where I meant by the Hunts Bank steps?  
 11 A. Is it the ones that come up from the car parks?  
 12 Q. There's an entrance to the arena via the NCP car park.  
 13 A. Yes. I think that's -- yes.  
 14 Q. That's the general area you're speaking about?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And again, in minutes, approximately how many minutes  
 17 after you had left the City Room was this?  
 18 A. That was another couple of minutes after talking to the  
 19 paramedic.  
 20 Q. Did you tell those officers what you had seen?  
 21 A. Yes, I said it was one man with a bomb.  
 22 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Hatfield.  
 23 I have no further questions for you.  
 24 We've had an indication from SMG, but I don't think  
 25 that they will have any questions unless they're going

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1 to give any an indication to the contrary. In which  
 2 case, I will enquire of Mr Laidlaw whether he has any  
 3 questions. No.  
 4 In which case, I think it's Mr Gozem on behalf of  
 5 the families.  
 6 Questions from MR GOZEM  
 7 MR GOZEM: Thank you. Can you hear me and see me,  
 8 Mr Hatfield?  
 9 A. I can, yes.  
 10 Q. I'm going to be very brief, I hope.  
 11 You took your children in and went into the  
 12 City Room with them, didn't you?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. Can you remember, did you see any police in the  
 15 City Room then?  
 16 A. No.  
 17 Q. Is that no you can't remember or no, you didn't?  
 18 A. No, I don't remember seeing any police in the whole of  
 19 the evening.  
 20 MR GOZEM: You've answered my next question, thank you very  
 21 much. I haven't got any other questions.  
 22 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much, Mr Gozem.  
 23 Do you have any questions, sir?  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No, I don't.  
 25 Thank you very much indeed, Mr Hatfield, for coming

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1 and giving evidence.  
 2 A. Thank you. I hope it's helped you.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It certainly has, thank you very much.  
 4 MR DE LA POER: Before Mr Hatfield leaves his seat, it's  
 5 been indicated that we have a short break to re-arrange  
 6 matters, please.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: How long?  
 8 MR DE LA POER: Ten minutes.  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll call it a quarter of an hour.  
 10 Back, please, at 2.45.  
 11 (2.28 pm)  
 12 (A short break)  
 13 (2.45 pm)  
 14 MR GREANEY: Sir, British Transport Police Officer Constable  
 15 Jessica Bullough is in the witness box. In a moment I'm  
 16 going to ask that she be sworn.  
 17 May I indicate that we are during the course of  
 18 PC Bullough's evidence going to be looking at a sequence  
 19 of events that deals with events up until about 20 past  
 20 or 25 past 10, so very shortly before the explosion, and  
 21 we'll also be looking at a small amount of moving  
 22 imagery as well, just so that people know.  
 23 PC JESSICA BULLOUGH (affirmed)  
 24 Questions from MR GREANEY  
 25 MR GREANEY: Tell us your full name, please.

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1 A. Jessica Olivia Bullough.  
 2 Q. I'm going to begin by asking you about your experience  
 3 as a police officer. Did you do a degree in policing at  
 4 university?  
 5 A. I did, that's correct.  
 6 Q. Did you then work as a special constable?  
 7 A. I did.  
 8 Q. Which means that you volunteered on an unpaid basis to  
 9 work as a police officer?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. And did you then join British Transport Police?  
 12 A. I did, yes.  
 13 Q. On 22 May 2017, had you been a BTP constable for  
 14 8 months?  
 15 A. That's correct, yes.  
 16 Q. So had you been through a probationary period?  
 17 A. I'd joined BTP as a police officer in the July of 2016,  
 18 and was operational at Manchester in the October of  
 19 2016.  
 20 Q. So the point is that in simple terms, at the time of the  
 21 attack, you were not an experienced officer?  
 22 A. No, I wasn't, no.  
 23 Q. We know, and I'm sure you know, that you ended up being  
 24 the most senior BTP officer on duty for a number of  
 25 hours before the attack.

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1 A. That's correct, yes.  
 2 Q. Were you made aware at any stage that night that that  
 3 was going to be the case?  
 4 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 5 Q. Looking back, how do you feel about the fact that you  
 6 were the most senior BTP officer on duty that night?  
 7 A. It was not something I really thought of much. However,  
 8 I was told to patrol Victoria, I was dedicated to the  
 9 arena and, yeah, it's not really something that I much  
 10 thought of, but it was -- I didn't have much experience,  
 11 I was fairly inexperienced, but I was there for  
 12 colleagues and members of the public, really, that  
 13 evening.  
 14 Q. This is an issue I'm going to come back to a little  
 15 later in my questions. We have received a copy of your  
 16 training record and I'm going to ask that it be placed  
 17 on the screen. {INQ015969/2}.  
 18 Can you see the top entry on that page? It  
 19 indicates that on 19 May 2017, so just 3 days before the  
 20 attack, you had received something called:  
 21 "Hydra exercise Ickenham. CT awareness. General  
 22 police duties. Internal."  
 23 And that seems to have been a training course that  
 24 you passed. Do you recall what you learned on that  
 25 course?

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1 A. Looking back, I don't remember it, no.  
 2 Q. Do you remember the course at all?  
 3 A. Not at all, no.  
 4 Q. We can see it appears to have contained something about  
 5 CT, so we understand, counter-terrorism awareness.  
 6 Do you have any recollection?  
 7 A. No recollection, no.  
 8 Q. Do you have any idea of the extent to which that  
 9 training equipped you for the issues you had to deal  
 10 with on the night of the 22nd?  
 11 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 12 Q. Let's go to that day, the 22nd. Did you come on duty at  
 13 3 pm that day?  
 14 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 15 Q. Were you due to work a shift lasting for 9 hours?  
 16 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.  
 17 Q. The records indicate that you received a briefing from  
 18 police Sergeant Wilson?  
 19 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 20 Q. Do you recall receiving that briefing?  
 21 A. I do recall seeing it, yes.  
 22 Q. Do you recall where you were when you received it?  
 23 A. I would have been in Manchester Peninsula, our office.  
 24 We didn't have phones then, so I would have seen it on  
 25 a computer.

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1 Q. Do you remember the time or approximate time at which  
2 you received the briefing?  
3 A. I can't remember, no.  
4 Q. Would it have been a short time after you came on duty  
5 or can't you say?  
6 A. I couldn't say.  
7 Q. Do you remember whether the briefing of Sergeant Wilson  
8 had any counter—terrorism component?  
9 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
10 Q. So do you mean that you remember and it didn't have such  
11 a component or you don't remember whether it did or  
12 didn't?  
13 A. I don't remember whether it did or didn't.  
14 Q. We know that you received a briefing, or one of the  
15 reasons we know why, is because you recorded critical  
16 aspects in your notebook, as we'll see. Could we have  
17 {INQ003648/1} on the screen, please.  
18 Could you enlarge, please, the bottom half of that  
19 page.  
20 We can see in the middle of what we're now looking  
21 at on the screen:  
22 "Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Victoria."  
23 Do you see that?  
24 A. Yes, I do.  
25 Q. "Expecting 14,500. Doors open at 6 pm. Starts at

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1 19.35 hours. Ends, 22.30."  
2 A. That's correct, yes.  
3 Q. So does it rather look at if that was all information  
4 that you received on a briefing?  
5 A. Yes, correct.  
6 Q. Then it contains the words:  
7 "Seeing fans in and out."  
8 Is that correct?  
9 A. Yes, it does.  
10 Q. So did you understand from the briefing that you had  
11 been given that a part of your job that night was to see  
12 fans in and out of the Ariana Grande concert?  
13 A. Yes, that's correct.  
14 Q. As you understood it at the time —  
15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are we about to remove this from the  
16 screen?  
17 MR GREANEY: I was about to, yes.  
18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Normally, and we have on other ones,  
19 actually excluded irrelevant material from the notebook.  
20 MR GREANEY: Yes.  
21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think it's preferable. I'm sure it  
22 hasn't caused any harm on this occasion, but if that can  
23 be done.  
24 MR GREANEY: Quite right, sir, we'll make sure that's done.  
25 I don't know whether that requires anything to be done

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1 with the feed.  
2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Don't worry hugely, just in future if we  
3 try and make sure that happens I will be grateful.  
4 MR GREANEY: If there is any problem with this entry, and it  
5 doesn't look as if there is, we'll ensure that it's  
6 sorted out. Thank you, sir.  
7 You understood that part of your job was getting  
8 fans in and out of the concert?  
9 A. Yes, I did.  
10 Q. Dealing with ingress and egress, is that right?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. To your mind at that time, so stripping away anything  
13 that you've learned in the years since then, what did  
14 seeing fans out of the concert actually mean?  
15 A. Providing a high visibility, making sure I'm there for  
16 members of the public coming in and going out, if  
17 they've got any questions, directions, if they've got  
18 any advice or issues, I'm there for them, and  
19 maintaining a patrol around the arena whilst they are  
20 going in and out.  
21 Q. Was all of that focussed, or at any rate significantly  
22 focused, on ensuring the safety and security of the  
23 fans?  
24 A. Yes, I would say so, yes.  
25 Q. To your mind at that stage, did seeing the fans in and

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1 out involve any counter—terrorism aspect?  
2 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
3 Q. Did it involve keeping your eyes open for suspicious  
4 characters?  
5 A. Yes, I would say so.  
6 Q. Did it involve checking the mezzanine area within the  
7 City Room?  
8 A. Are we referring to McDonald's?  
9 Q. Yes, we are.  
10 A. We, I would say so.  
11 Q. Did you know that there was a CCTV black spot in that  
12 area?  
13 A. No, I did not.  
14 Q. So in common with others, no one had ever told you that?  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. It may be interesting to know: when was it that you did  
17 become aware that there had been a CCTV black spot  
18 in that area?  
19 A. Just now.  
20 Q. Do you mean just now as I told you?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Did you know, moving on slightly, that the concert was  
23 going to end at or about 10.30?  
24 A. Yes, I remember it ending at 22.30.  
25 Q. We've seen that from your notebook. You were

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1 interviewed, weren't you, by a journalist from the BBC  
 2 for a documentary --  
 3 A. Yes, I was.  
 4 Q. -- in common with colleagues of yours? During that  
 5 interview, you told the journalist that you knew that  
 6 people would start to leave between 10 and 10.30.  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. So that deals with the briefing that you received and  
 9 what you understood it required of you.  
 10 Did you also receive that day an email from  
 11 Sergeant Wilson?  
 12 A. Yes, that was the briefing.  
 13 Q. So that was the briefing?  
 14 A. Yes, it was, yes.  
 15 Q. So did you receive any oral briefing from --  
 16 A. No, I didn't.  
 17 Q. You simply received the email?  
 18 A. Yes, just the email.  
 19 Q. We will look at the email -- I'm sorry, you probably did  
 20 say it and I missed it.  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think she was talking about where her  
 22 computer terminals were, so that indicated it, I think.  
 23 MR GREANEY: It indicated it to you, sir, but not to me.  
 24 I am sorry about that.  
 25 Could we have the email on the screen, please?

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1 {INQ025538/1}.  
 2 Did you see the email and then write up your  
 3 notebook with what you thought was important from the  
 4 email?  
 5 A. I couldn't remember.  
 6 Q. Could we have the top half of the screen, please?  
 7 "Dear Jess, Mark, Jon, Lewis, Steve."  
 8 And you're the Jess, are you not?  
 9 A. Yes, I am.  
 10 Q. And we've looked at this many times now, but it's  
 11 important I draw your attention to it:  
 12 "Please note that you are down to assist with the  
 13 concert tonight. I have included the latest arena info.  
 14 You will be deployed for the in and out."  
 15 As noted in your notebook:  
 16 "I would like one officer on the concourse close to  
 17 the barriers, one patrolling the City Rooms, and one  
 18 patrolling the [X and Y]. Please can [refreshment]  
 19 breaks be staggered between 19.30 and 21.00 so we have  
 20 someone at Victoria."  
 21 And I'm sure you'll have seen this email before.  
 22 A. Yes, I have.  
 23 Q. Having received this email, did you have any doubt that  
 24 BTP was required to have a presence in the City Room  
 25 during egress?

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1 A. No, I had no doubt, no.  
 2 Q. And so we just need to consider whether that was  
 3 important and, if so, why.  
 4 In May 2017, were you aware of the terrorism threat  
 5 level?  
 6 A. Yes, I was.  
 7 Q. Did it strike you that there was an obvious risk of an  
 8 attack during egress from a concert at the arena?  
 9 A. I couldn't remember, no.  
 10 Q. Let's look at it. You knew that there was a severe  
 11 threat level?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. So that a terrorist attack was highly likely, didn't  
 14 you?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. I am sure you'll have known that the public had ready  
 17 access to the City Room?  
 18 A. Yes, correct.  
 19 Q. And therefore an attacker or would-be attacker would  
 20 have that ready access?  
 21 A. Yes, correct.  
 22 Q. And I'm certain that you'll have known that during  
 23 egress from a concert the City Room would contain many  
 24 people?  
 25 A. Yes, correct.

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1 Q. So even if it didn't occur to you at the time, when you  
 2 look back now does it seem clear to you that there was  
 3 an obvious risk of an attack during egress?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. So far as refreshment breaks were concerned, we can see,  
 6 can't we, that breaks should have been taken between  
 7 7.30 and 9 o'clock?  
 8 A. Yes, correct.  
 9 Q. Was it your understanding that that was the time that  
 10 they should be taken so that there would be staff on  
 11 duty, both during ingress and during egress?  
 12 A. Yes, they should have been.  
 13 Q. You were working a 9-hour shift that day. How long  
 14 should your refreshment break have been?  
 15 A. I believe in between 50 minutes to an hour.  
 16 Q. And indeed that's what Sergeant Wilson told us earlier  
 17 in the case.  
 18 I need to ask you a direct question at this stage,  
 19 although it's one we're likely to come back to. We now  
 20 know, and you will know, that when Salman Abedi walked  
 21 into the crowd at 10.31, there was no BTP presence  
 22 in the City Room and there had not been a presence there  
 23 for a period of time.  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. Can we agree that that was contrary to the instruction

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1 that had been given to you and your colleagues --  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. -- by Sergeant Wilson? And the direct question is: how  
 4 did that situation come to occur?  
 5 A. This was my fifth arena date that I'd done since joining  
 6 BTP as a police officer, so I'd done four previously.  
 7 It was always my understanding that between members of  
 8 the public going into the arena and the egress was our  
 9 time for admin and refreshment breaks. We usually go  
 10 over to our office, which is Peninsula, across the road  
 11 from Manchester Victoria, or we stay in the  
 12 Manchester Victoria footprint, into the Northern office.  
 13 On this occasion, myself and Mark left Victoria for  
 14 refreshments, came back, and stayed on the footprint of  
 15 Victoria upstairs, but I couldn't say between those  
 16 times exactly what I was doing.  
 17 Q. I have listened carefully to your answer and I think  
 18 perhaps you have misunderstood my question, which is  
 19 probably my fault.  
 20 What I wanted your help with was this: as we've  
 21 agreed already, you would have expected there to be  
 22 a BTP presence in the City Room during egress from  
 23 a concert?  
 24 A. Yes, correct.  
 25 Q. And indeed it appears to be the case that the

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1 instruction of Sergeant Wilson was that there should be  
 2 such a presence in the City Room on egress?  
 3 A. Yes, correct.  
 4 Q. We know that there was no BTP presence in the City Room  
 5 at 10.31 when Salman Abedi detonated his bomb. And the  
 6 simple question is: can you help us with why there was  
 7 no BTP officer in that area at that time?  
 8 A. No, I can't, no, I'm sorry.  
 9 Q. In asking that question, I'm not overlooking how junior  
 10 you were in service and I hope no one else will overlook  
 11 that. So let me ask you this: is it your view, when you  
 12 look back at these events, that a more senior officer  
 13 should have been present in Victoria Railway Station  
 14 that night?  
 15 A. Yes, correct.  
 16 Q. Is it also your view that a clear strategy should have  
 17 been in place for the policing by BTP of events at the  
 18 arena?  
 19 A. Yes, it should have been.  
 20 Q. And should the clearest of instructions have been given  
 21 by a senior officer to the staff on the ground about who  
 22 was to do exactly what?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. And exactly when they were to take their breaks?  
 25 A. Yes, I would say so.

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1 Q. On the night of 22 May, obviously you had some  
 2 instructions, but do you consider that you had the  
 3 clarity of instruction that you required?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. You think you did?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. We'll return to that maybe.  
 8 Next I want to consider with you, please, your  
 9 movements on 22 May -- are you okay?  
 10 A. Yes, I'm fine, thank you.  
 11 Q. You'll tell me if you're not, won't you?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. We've got a sequence of events that helps us to follow  
 14 your movements and those of your BTP colleagues. You'll  
 15 have seen that, I think.  
 16 A. Yes, I have, yes.  
 17 Q. It's {INQ031678/4}.  
 18 The legend we've just seen warns that it shows  
 19 graphic images, can I assure everyone we will not be  
 20 looking at such images. This is a rather strange camera  
 21 view that shows you entering the station at 18.23 hours  
 22 together with PCSO Renshaw, from whom we'll hear  
 23 tomorrow. Did you spend most if not all of that evening  
 24 with PCSO Renshaw?  
 25 A. Yes, I did.

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1 Q. In one of your witness statements, it's in fact your  
 2 second witness statement, you indicate that you don't  
 3 agree with what you describe, I think, as single patrol.  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. By single patrol, did you mean an officer patrolling on  
 6 his own or her own?  
 7 A. Yes, I do, yes.  
 8 Q. Why didn't you agree with single patrol?  
 9 A. Even though I only had 8 months in service, even to the  
 10 service that I've got now, single patrolling is just not  
 11 a preference, and the main reason for that is the  
 12 safety. Every day we're dealing with incidents that  
 13 we're coming across, we know nothing about, we're  
 14 dealing with people we know nothing about, people are  
 15 dangerous, people are unpredictable, and I'd much rather  
 16 be in a situation, if it escalates, for there to be  
 17 a colleague. So that's just my only reason, the safety.  
 18 Q. Had you ever raised with any of your supervisors that  
 19 you were unhappy with the idea of single patrol?  
 20 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 21 Q. One of the problems, and tell me if I've misunderstood  
 22 this, is that the instruction from Sergeant Wilson  
 23 required four of you, or perhaps five, if  
 24 Constable Corke had been present, it required five of  
 25 you to patrol four different areas --

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1 A. Yes, correct.  
 2 Q. -- albeit two of them were close together, which  
 3 mathematically was going to require at least one single  
 4 patrol?  
 5 A. Yes, correct.  
 6 Q. And had you or anyone else drawn to Sergeant Wilson's  
 7 attention the fact that there might be a problem if  
 8 people weren't going to patrol singly?  
 9 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 10 Q. We'll go on to the next page, please, {INQ031678/5}.  
 11 We can see that you and Mr Renshaw are making your  
 12 way towards the staircase leading to the walkway.  
 13 {INQ031678/6}, please. You continue on that  
 14 journey.  
 15 Then {INQ031678/7}, please. Now at 18.25 hours,  
 16 you are in the City Room.  
 17 What was your purpose in going to the City Room at  
 18 this time, shortly before 6.30?  
 19 A. I think it was more of a reassurance to members of the  
 20 public. I know it was around the time the concert was  
 21 going in, so we could just provide a high visibility if  
 22 they needed us.  
 23 Q. This is very much what you were telling us was the  
 24 expectation earlier, that this was a period when people  
 25 would be going into the concert and you and your

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1 colleague were there as a visible presence?  
 2 A. Yes, correct.  
 3 Q. And also to keep your eyes open for suspicious  
 4 characters?  
 5 A. Yes, I would say so, yes.  
 6 Q. And ensure the safety and security of people going into  
 7 the concert --  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. -- as they were at that stage.  
 10 {INQ031678/11} next, please. This is 18.32 now.  
 11 You and Mr Renshaw walk out of the City Room on to the  
 12 walkway?  
 13 A. Yes, correct.  
 14 Q. If we go to {INQ031678/12}, please. You speak to  
 15 a member of the public.  
 16 Then at {INQ031678/13}, we're going to see that you  
 17 walk back into the City Room. Do you recall now why  
 18 you'd left a very short time before coming back in?  
 19 A. No, I can't remember.  
 20 Q. {INQ031678/15} next, please. This shows you in the  
 21 City Room at 18.36.  
 22 {INQ031678/16}, please. Again, a picture of you  
 23 there and now it's 18.38. As I believe you will know,  
 24 Salman Abedi had entered the City Room at 18.34 hours.  
 25 A. Yes, correct.

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1 Q. And you were in there at the time that he went in. Did  
 2 you notice him?  
 3 A. No, I didn't.  
 4 Q. {INQ031678/22} next, please, 18.48. You and your  
 5 colleague are walking up the stairs to the mezzanine and  
 6 the legend indicates it's the second time.  
 7 {INQ031678/23}, please. Now you're on the  
 8 mezzanine. Do you recall why you went to the mezzanine?  
 9 A. I think it gave us a better look around the arena and  
 10 the City Rooms itself. I just think it's a better look  
 11 up there than being on the ground floor with everyone  
 12 else. You've got a bit more of an advantage up there.  
 13 Q. It's a vantage point basically?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Have you gone to the area not far away from where  
 16 McDonald's used to be?  
 17 A. Yes, correct.  
 18 Q. Was that an area, I appreciate you hadn't policed many  
 19 concerts up to that point, that you tended to go to  
 20 during ingress?  
 21 A. I cannot recall.  
 22 Q. Certainly on this occasion you and your colleague went  
 23 to that area?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. {INQ031678/26} next, please.

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1 It's now 19.02 hours and it's 14 minutes after the  
 2 last image we saw. You are still on the mezzanine area.  
 3 A. Yes, correct.  
 4 Q. So you'd stayed there for quite some considerable period  
 5 of time?  
 6 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 7 Q. Can you remember why you stayed there for so long?  
 8 A. No, I don't recall.  
 9 Q. Bearing in mind the answer you gave me a short time ago,  
 10 do you think it's likely that you stayed there because  
 11 it enabled you, over a prolonged period of time, to keep  
 12 an eye on the crowd?  
 13 A. Yes, I'd believe so, yes.  
 14 Q. {INQ031678/32} next, please.  
 15 It is now 19.20 hours. It's about 55 minutes after  
 16 you first arrived in the City Room and now you're  
 17 leaving.  
 18 A. Yes, correct.  
 19 Q. So does it follow that you'd spent that period of almost  
 20 an hour in the City Room making sure that things ran  
 21 smoothly?  
 22 A. Yes, correct.  
 23 Q. And doing what you could during that period to ensure  
 24 the safety and security of fans?  
 25 A. Yes, correct.

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1 Q. We'll just complete this part of the chronology with  
2 {INQ031678/33}, please. You're on the walkway.  
3 {INQ031678/34}. You've now descended into the  
4 station itself .  
5 {INQ031678/35}.  
6 {INQ031678/36}, please. We've jumped ahead  
7 5 minutes and it's now 19.27 hours, and if we were to  
8 watch the footage we'd see that you got into a patrol  
9 car and you leave the area of the station?  
10 A. Yes, correct.  
11 Q. When I say you, I mean you and Mr Renshaw. Where were  
12 you going?  
13 A. We were going to our refreshments round the corner.  
14 Q. Do you mean that you were going somewhere to buy  
15 refreshments?  
16 A. Yes, correct.  
17 Q. With the intention of bringing them back with you?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. And when you were interviewed by the journalist -- this  
20 might be in one of your witness statements -- you said  
21 that you went to buy a kebab; is that right?  
22 A. Yes, correct.  
23 Q. Can we go next, please, to {INQ031678/58}.  
24 It's now 20.08, so 41 minutes after we have seen  
25 your departure, and you're now returning; is that

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1 correct?  
2 A. Yes, correct.  
3 Q. Did you at that stage have with you your food?  
4 A. Yes, correct.  
5 Q. Where are you going to as we see you in this image?  
6 A. We'll be exiting the vehicle to come back into  
7 Manchester Victoria station.  
8 Q. With a view to going where?  
9 A. The Northern staff office on platform 3.  
10 Q. So we heard about this in, I think, the evidence of  
11 Sergeant Wilson. This was an area that you BTP staff  
12 would go to from time to time for a drink or to eat your  
13 food?  
14 A. Yes, correct.  
15 Q. This was 41 minutes after we've seen you depart. Let's  
16 have {INQ031678/59}, please.  
17 There you are, walking into the station. I think  
18 you're walking past the war memorial; is that correct?  
19 A. Yes, correct.  
20 Q. And we can see each of you -- there's a bag containing,  
21 as we now know, food.  
22 {INQ031678/60}, please. So you've now walked  
23 through the barriers and you're on platform 3?  
24 A. Yes, correct.  
25 Q. I'm not going to ask you exactly where the office is,

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1 but we now it's not very far away from there.  
2 Next we're going to jump forward to 20.54 hours.  
3 {INQ031678/92}, please.  
4 So you're seen walking up Hunts Bank at 20.54 hours,  
5 as I've said.  
6 {INQ031678/93}, please. You're on Station Approach.  
7 {INQ031678/94}.  
8 {INQ031678/95}. We are now at 20.55 hours and  
9 you have come into the station, again walking past the  
10 war memorial.  
11 And {INQ031678/96}. You're then walking back  
12 towards the Northern office?  
13 A. Yes, correct.  
14 Q. When you gave your second witness statement, you  
15 indicated that what was happening at this stage was  
16 you'd left the station for just a short time in order to  
17 have a cigarette?  
18 A. Yes, correct.  
19 Q. The next image we're going to see is timed at  
20 21.36 hours. {INQ031678/97}, please.  
21 We can see at 21.35 you're walking back from the  
22 Northern office, aren't you?  
23 A. Yes, correct.  
24 Q. And back into the station via the ticket barriers?  
25 A. Yes, correct.

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1 Q. That's happening at 21.36. You're now starting to  
2 resume patrol.  
3 By our calculations, you and Mr Renshaw had been  
4 away from patrol for 2 hours and 9 minutes.  
5 A. Correct.  
6 Q. As against a time that you were expected to take  
7 refreshments of between 50 and 60 minutes?  
8 A. Yes, correct.  
9 Q. When you look back now, does that seem to you to be  
10 acceptable?  
11 A. No, unacceptable.  
12 Q. If you'd had a supervisor there that night, do you think  
13 that you would have been taking more than 2 hours for  
14 your break?  
15 A. I wouldn't possibly say.  
16 Q. Well, just look back and take a moment to think about  
17 it. You were the most senior officer on duty in that  
18 station with 8 months' service. You took 2 hours and  
19 9 minutes off during your shift and we've heard about  
20 other officers. Do you think, being fair to yourself  
21 perhaps, that you would have done that if you'd had  
22 supervision?  
23 A. I would say probably not.  
24 Q. As it happens, coming back on patrol at 21.36, you had  
25 just missed Salman Abedi walking to the City Room from

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1 the tram platform. Have you seen footage of him  
 2 walking?  
 3 A. I don't believe so.  
 4 Q. I'm going to ask that we watch just a short piece of  
 5 footage -- it's 3 minutes in length -- just to help you,  
 6 really.  
 7 It's {INQ020156/1}. Once you have that, I'll give  
 8 you the timing. We're going to start at 44:14, please,  
 9 and play it through to 47:46.  
 10 These are counter times, not actual times,  
 11 obviously.  
 12 (Video played to the inquiry)  
 13 Can you see the way in which he is walking --  
 14 A. Yes, I can, yes.  
 15 Q. -- with a bag on his back?  
 16 21.29. He's just making his way to the City Room.  
 17 You're shortly to come back on patrol.  
 18 I think you see how he's bent over and it might even  
 19 be said he's struggling to walk with the weight of  
 20 what's on his back.  
 21 A. Yes, I can, yes.  
 22 Q. There, tucking a wire back under his clothing.  
 23 As I think you'll probably appreciate, it's almost  
 24 precisely an hour prior to the detonation by him of his  
 25 device.

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1 Thank you very much indeed, Mr Lopez.  
 2 As I've indicated now a number of times, you had not  
 3 yet resumed patrol, and there have been a lot of ifs and  
 4 buts in the evidence today, but I'm going to ask you  
 5 today to help us with this if you can. Obviously, we  
 6 all know what he's about to do. What I want to do is  
 7 ask you to put yourself back in the shoes that you were  
 8 in on 22 May. If you'd come on patrol 10 minutes  
 9 earlier and if you had seen that man walking in that way  
 10 with that bag on his back, would you have regarded him  
 11 as suspicious?  
 12 A. Even though it was a train station with people  
 13 travelling with large rucksacks on their back, we would  
 14 get people coming through with large items in there,  
 15 looking at that footage now, if he'd walked past me with  
 16 that bag on his back, I probably would have asked him  
 17 what was in it. Yes, I probably would have, yes.  
 18 Q. Mr Lopez, could we go back, please, to the sequence of  
 19 events -- you're already there, thank you very much.  
 20 We're going to go next to {INQ031678/107}, please.  
 21 This is you and Mr Renshaw having resumed patrol.  
 22 It's now 21.47 and you have re-entered the City Room.  
 23 If we were to watch all of the footage -- which we're  
 24 not going to, we're just going to watch a very short  
 25 part of it in one moment -- we would see that you do not

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1 go back up on to the mezzanine at that stage. Can you  
 2 tell us why you do not go back up at that stage?  
 3 A. I remember being called over to ShowSec in relation to  
 4 a drunk Scottish woman that had been ejected from the  
 5 arena. I remember walking into the City Room to go and  
 6 speak to members of staff at the door. Myself and Mark  
 7 was notified she was sat on the stairs near up to  
 8 JD Williams. I remember observing her for a couple of  
 9 minutes, stood in the middle of the City Room, until she  
 10 approached us. At this stage she made an inappropriate  
 11 comment in relation to a group of Asian males that was  
 12 stood around the lift area.  
 13 Q. Yes. Just to be clear about that, that group does not  
 14 contain Salman Abedi?  
 15 A. No, it doesn't, no. She'd explained to us that they  
 16 were tampering with the lift for the last 10 minutes.  
 17 At this point myself and Mark observed the group,  
 18 however they all made off in different directions and  
 19 didn't seem at all suspicious to us, and we remained  
 20 in the City Rooms chatting to a ShowSec member of staff,  
 21 so we didn't go on top of the mezzanine level --  
 22 Q. I think I have understood this but tell me if I have got  
 23 it wrong: had you gone to the City Room on this occasion  
 24 at 21.47 for a specific purpose?  
 25 A. Yes, I believe so.

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1 Q. Namely not because of egress, which after all was  
 2 45 minutes away, but instead to deal with a woman who  
 3 was said to be from Glasgow, who had been ejected for  
 4 being drunk?  
 5 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 6 Q. So there was no particular reason for you to go on to  
 7 the mezzanine at that stage because the vantage was not  
 8 important?  
 9 A. No.  
 10 Q. What was important was to speak to this woman and see  
 11 what she was up to?  
 12 A. Yes, correct.  
 13 Q. I think you probably know we have an entire sequence of  
 14 events that deals with the movements of that person,  
 15 which it won't be necessary for us to go into.  
 16 We will continue with this sequence of events, with  
 17 {INQ031678/108}, please, next.  
 18 As you told us, you can there be seen at 21.48,  
 19 speaking to members of the ShowSec security team.  
 20 {INQ031678/109}, please. You walk away from them.  
 21 21.52.  
 22 {INQ031678/110}. You then speak to a member of the  
 23 public. We're going to run this through until  
 24 {INQ031678/116}, then I'll ask some questions.  
 25 {INQ031678/111}, please. You then talk at 21.55 to

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1 Mohammed Agha, who is on what are known as the grey  
 2 doors.  
 3 {INQ031678/112}. 21.57.  
 4 {INQ031678/113}. 21.59.  
 5 {INQ031678/114}. You're now on the walkway, away  
 6 from the City Room.  
 7 {INQ031678/115-116}. You're now back, not far away  
 8 from the war memorial.  
 9 There are a few things I would like your help with  
 10 in relation to that sequence. We've seen that you had  
 11 dealings during that period with security staff from  
 12 ShowSec.  
 13 A. Yes, correct.  
 14 Q. Your experience was limited, we understand that, but was  
 15 it common during the course of concerts for BTP officers  
 16 to have dealings with ShowSec security staff?  
 17 A. Yes, I would say so, yes.  
 18 Q. So far as you knew, were there any formal arrangements  
 19 between BTP and ShowSec for that to happen or did it  
 20 just happen on an informal basis?  
 21 A. Yes, informal basis.  
 22 Q. We're going to just watch a short piece of live footage  
 23 from those stills that we've recently seen.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Presumably, that would happen if there's  
 25 some member of the public who's causing trouble or

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1 anything like that who ShowSec thought might need to be  
 2 removed or something like that?  
 3 A. Yes, they would always approach us if there were  
 4 incidents ongoing. We'd always speak to them at the  
 5 start of concerts for the amount of people that was  
 6 going into the arena, so yes, we'd always communicate  
 7 with them during the night.  
 8 MR GREANEY: The chairman has picked up on my point, which  
 9 I think you do agree with, there was no formal system  
 10 whereby you had agreed with ShowSec staff: this is where  
 11 we'll be at egress and that's where you will be?  
 12 A. No, there wasn't, no.  
 13 Q. The piece of footage that we're going to see concerns an  
 14 interaction or a potential interaction at any rate  
 15 between you and a woman called Julie Merchant. Have you  
 16 heard her name?  
 17 A. Only since the investigation, yes.  
 18 Q. So you'll be aware that she was part of an anti-fake  
 19 goods operation?  
 20 A. Yes, correct.  
 21 Q. And that she has suggested that she drew your attention  
 22 to Salman Abedi. We're going to watch the footage  
 23 together and then I'm going to ask you for whatever help  
 24 you can give us in relation to that.  
 25 Could we have, please, Mr Lopez, {INQ036597/1}.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You have seen this before, I assume,  
 2 have you?  
 3 A. I have, yes, sir.  
 4 MR GREANEY: And indeed you've commented upon it.  
 5 I think we probably know what your evidence is about  
 6 this piece of footage, but as you'll appreciate, we need  
 7 to adduce it before the chairman and indeed before the  
 8 public.  
 9 (Pause)  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: What did happen to the lady from  
 11 Glasgow?  
 12 A. From what I can remember, due to the inappropriate  
 13 comments she made regarding the group of Asian males,  
 14 I told her to watch her language where she was and  
 15 I can't remember what happened to her after that.  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you.  
 17 MR GREANEY: We can adduce some evidence. She hangs around  
 18 for a lengthy period.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I was just filling the time while we  
 20 look for the video, really.  
 21 MR GREANEY: She spends a lot of time sitting on the steps  
 22 leading up to the mezzanine.  
 23 We're going to play from 04:00, please, a screen  
 24 time of 21.57.39.  
 25 (Video played to the inquiry)

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1 Can we just play that over again, please? And  
 2 you're aware that she suggests that she's gesturing  
 3 in the direction of the mezzanine stairs and indeed the  
 4 mezzanine area. Could we play from 04:00 again, please?  
 5 Would you like to watch that again?  
 6 A. No thank you.  
 7 Q. You've watched it many times, I'm sure.  
 8 Do you have any recollection of being approached by  
 9 Julie Merchant?  
 10 A. No recollection, no.  
 11 Q. Do you have any recollection of Salman Abedi being  
 12 pointed out to you?  
 13 A. Not at all, no.  
 14 Q. Do you have any recollection of anyone gesturing in the  
 15 area of the mezzanine?  
 16 A. Not at all, no.  
 17 Q. Or of anything being said to you by anyone about  
 18 a person praying?  
 19 A. No.  
 20 Q. Can I just be clear about what you are saying? Are you  
 21 saying that those things might have happened but you  
 22 just can't remember or are you saying that you're  
 23 confident those things didn't happen?  
 24 A. I'm confident they didn't happen.  
 25 Q. Is Julie Merchant someone that you know?

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1 A. Not until this investigation , no.  
 2 Q. I'm just going to ask you this out of fairness to you  
 3 and to her: are you aware of any reason why she might  
 4 say all of that happened if it didn't happen?  
 5 A. Not at all , no.  
 6 Q. I'm going to return to the sequence of events and I am  
 7 nearly at the end of my questions. We're going to go to  
 8 {INQ031678/118}, please.  
 9 It's now 22.10 hours. You're walking out of the  
 10 station.  
 11 {INQ031678/119}, please. You're now outside the  
 12 station. It's about 20 minutes until actual egress. If  
 13 we were to watch all of this footage, we'd see that  
 14 you're involved in directing some traffic at this stage.  
 15 Do you remember that?  
 16 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.  
 17 Q. Why was it that you had gone outside to direct traffic?  
 18 A. Usually, before egress and at egress, taxis park up in  
 19 the road and block the buses on the other side, so it  
 20 would have just been to move traffic on.  
 21 Q. It's very important that we understand that you  
 22 certainly are not doing nothing during this period  
 23 between 10.00 and 10.30. Can we be clear, had you been  
 24 instructed to go outside or had you just decided to do  
 25 that yourself?

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1 A. Decided myself.  
 2 Q. {INQ031678/126} next, please. You then re-enter.  
 3 {INQ031678/128}. You're near the war memorial at  
 4 22.12.  
 5 Then {INQ031678/131}, please. You're outside again  
 6 with Mr Renshaw, involved in moving traffic.  
 7 {INQ031678/137}, please. Still outside at  
 8 22.21 hours.  
 9 During this period, as we know, no BTP officer is in  
 10 the City Room.  
 11 A. Yes, correct.  
 12 Q. I asked you about this at the very beginning.  
 13 Do you have any explanation for how it came about that  
 14 no BTP officer was in the City Room?  
 15 A. Upon egress?  
 16 Q. On egress, yes.  
 17 A. The position that I was stood in on egress, the war  
 18 memorial on the concourse, in my own opinion is one of  
 19 the best places to stand for egress for just a number of  
 20 reasons. I know the City Rooms and the footbridge  
 21 leading into Victoria get really busy to members of the  
 22 public, so where I'm stood at the memorial, I'm in high  
 23 visibility ; if people need me for anything, I'm there.  
 24 Also that night I wasn't there just to police the  
 25 arena, I'm there to police Victoria Station, so the

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1 railway staff could see me if they had any issues with  
 2 tickets or if there are any issues in trains, I could be  
 3 on hand for that as well, and also for outside, any  
 4 issues outside with congestion for traffic .  
 5 Q. Let's try to break this down a little so we can  
 6 understand your position.  
 7 Did you consider that you were in charge of the  
 8 other officers who were there that night?  
 9 A. No, I didn't, no.  
 10 Q. Did you consider that you were the officer whose job it  
 11 was to say, "You go there, you go there"?  
 12 A. No, I didn't, no.  
 13 Q. You do know and have accepted, I think, that the  
 14 expectation and instruction of Sergeant Wilson was that  
 15 someone should be in the City Room --  
 16 A. Yes, correct.  
 17 Q. -- on egress. Did you consider it was your job to make  
 18 sure one of your colleagues was there?  
 19 A. Not at all , no.  
 20 Q. Of those of you who were there, or indeed of anyone more  
 21 generally, whose job did you consider it was that night  
 22 to direct officers where they should and shouldn't go?  
 23 Who was in charge?  
 24 A. I would say Sergeant Wilson.  
 25 Q. But he wasn't there.

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1 A. No.  
 2 Q. So of those who were there, was anyone in charge?  
 3 A. I wouldn't say so, it's usually just discussed between  
 4 yourselves.  
 5 Q. Finally, I'm going to ask you some very --  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Just before that, sorry.  
 7 (Inaudible: distorted) Sergeant Wilson was in charge  
 8 -- I think he had gone off duty by then but I will be  
 9 reminded about that if I have got that wrong.  
 10 MR GREANEY: No, you're right about that, sir, he had.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So you'd just decide amongst yourselves  
 12 who would go where?  
 13 A. Yes, correct.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You decided to be at the war memorial?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did you know what the others were going  
 17 to decide to do? Had there been any discussion?  
 18 A. No, not that I can remember, sir, no.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We actually know at 22.30 they're all by  
 20 the memorial as it happens. So clearly, it just wasn't  
 21 sorted out where you'd all go at all?  
 22 A. No, I don't think so, no.  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 24 MR GREANEY: This may not be a criticism of you but of the  
 25 system. As you describe it now, it sounds like a fairly

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1 haphazard way for ensuring that someone is in the  
 2 City Room, doesn't it?  
 3 A. Yes, correct.  
 4 Q. I'm going to ask you a small number of questions about  
 5 the explosion and the aftermath. What I don't want you  
 6 to do is to mention any names or any injuries or  
 7 anything of that sort. In fact, I'm sure you'll be able  
 8 to say yes or no to each of those questions. Does that  
 9 make sense?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. At the time of the explosion, you were by the war  
 12 memorial?  
 13 A. Yes, correct.  
 14 Q. Immediately on hearing it, you ran on to platform 3?  
 15 A. Yes, correct.  
 16 Q. You ran up the stairs leading to the concourse that  
 17 joins the platforms?  
 18 A. Yes, correct.  
 19 Q. And through what we know are called the red doors and  
 20 into the City Room?  
 21 A. Yes, correct.  
 22 Q. As I'm sure everyone will agree, entirely to your  
 23 credit, you were the first on the scene, weren't you?  
 24 A. Yes, correct.  
 25 Q. Indeed, you overtook other colleagues in your

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1 determination to get there?  
 2 A. Yes, correct.  
 3 Q. Once in the City Room, you provided such assistance as  
 4 you could, didn't you?  
 5 A. Yes, correct.  
 6 Q. As I think you'll appreciate, we are going to hear from  
 7 you later in the inquiry in relation to those who dealt  
 8 with.  
 9 A. Yes, correct.  
 10 MR GREANEY: Those are my questions for now. I will check  
 11 that ShowSec and SMG have no questions and they don't.  
 12 So I think next is Mr Gozem on behalf of the bereaved  
 13 families.  
 14 Questions from MR GOZEM  
 15 MR GOZEM: Thank you.  
 16 PC Bullough, can you hear me and see me?  
 17 A. Yes, I can, sir, yes.  
 18 Q. Thank you very much.  
 19 Just help us to understand, please. Sergeant Wilson  
 20 told us that he would regard it as unacceptable if there  
 21 was no BTP officer in the City Room at egress. I think  
 22 that's a sentiment you agree with, isn't it?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. It must have been clear to you at 10.30 and for a few  
 25 minutes before because the four of you who were there

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1 were all standing near the war memorial but there was  
 2 nobody there. Is that right?  
 3 A. Could you just repeat that, sorry?  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's been suggested you must have  
 5 realised at 10.30 that there was nobody in the City Room  
 6 because you're all standing at the war memorial.  
 7 A. Yes, correct.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did it occur to you at the time that  
 9 there was nobody there?  
 10 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Sorry to interrupt, Mr Gozem.  
 12 MR GOZEM: What did you understand the purpose was of there  
 13 being somebody in the City Room at egress?  
 14 A. I think I understood the purpose was to provide  
 15 a reassurance to members of the public. I do know it  
 16 gets busy, so we do high-visibility patrols in there.  
 17 Q. Right. But what about the suspicious characters that  
 18 you told us you were also on the lookout for?  
 19 A. Sorry, can you just repeat that?  
 20 Q. You mentioned that it wasn't just to provide  
 21 reassurance, you would also be on the lookout for  
 22 suspicious characters.  
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 24 Q. Would that have been one of the purposes of being in the  
 25 City Room at egress?

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1 A. Yes, I would say so, yes.  
 2 Q. And it simply didn't occur to you that there was nobody  
 3 there?  
 4 A. No, it didn't, sir, no.  
 5 Q. How important was looking out for suspicious characters  
 6 as opposed to providing reassurance?  
 7 A. I would say they're both important in policing.  
 8 Q. Right. Was there really no hierarchy, ie did nobody  
 9 ever turn to you and say, "You're the most experienced",  
 10 or whatever, "what shall we do now?" Did nothing like  
 11 that ever happen?  
 12 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 13 Q. Did you think it was perfectly all right to not follow  
 14 Sergeant Wilson's instructions in the email?  
 15 A. No, I think I should have followed the instructions  
 16 in the email.  
 17 Q. Because it looks like there were three ways in which  
 18 that went wrong, certainly at least: one was your break,  
 19 another was the single patrol, and another was the  
 20 policing of the City Room. Am I right?  
 21 A. Yes, correct.  
 22 Q. Let's just look at your break first of all. That  
 23 started off, you mentioned, with you and Mark Renshaw  
 24 going round the corner to get some food.  
 25 A. Yes, correct.

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1 Q. "Round the corner" was in fact a drive out to Longsight,  
2 about 4 or 5 miles away, to get a kebab, wasn't it?  
3 A. I can't remember where we went for it exactly.  
4 Q. If Mark Renshaw says that, you wouldn't doubt it, would  
5 you?  
6 A. No, I wouldn't, no.  
7 Q. And that took over half an hour itself, didn't it?  
8 A. Yes, correct.  
9 Q. Nobody had ever drawn to your attention the fact that  
10 there was a blind spot in the City Room on the CCTV?  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. Did PC Corke ever share his experiences with you of  
13 working there, ever give you any advice?  
14 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
15 Q. Did it ever occur to you that it might be a good idea to  
16 get some instruction from Sergeant Wilson or  
17 Sergeant Wilcock, who had replaced him, when you didn't  
18 have anybody in the City Room?  
19 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
20 Q. When you were asked by Mr Greaney about why there was  
21 nobody there, you said, "I can't answer that question".  
22 "Why there was no police officer in the City Room?", and  
23 you said, "I can't answer that question". Do you  
24 remember?  
25 A. Sorry, are we talking about just now or...

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1 Q. Yes, just now.  
2 A. I can't remember, no.  
3 Q. Well, that's what you said. The reason why there was  
4 nobody there was because you decided simply not to go  
5 there; isn't that right?  
6 A. Yes, but I think there were — the place that I was  
7 stood on the concourse next to the war memorial gave me  
8 a better view of the station; I'm to be there for the  
9 railway as well.  
10 Q. And that's the reason why you disobeyed the clear  
11 instructions in the email? You thought it was a better  
12 position than where the sergeant wanted you to be?  
13 A. Yes, I would say so, yes.  
14 Q. Well, that's why I ask you. Did you ever think of  
15 getting in touch with anybody, a supervisor, to say,  
16 "I'm not going to go into the City Room, we are not  
17 going to go into the City Room because we think there's  
18 a better place to be"?  
19 A. It was not something that I thought of on the night, no.  
20 MR GOZEM: I have no other questions, thank you very much.  
21 MR GREANEY: Sir, Mr Cooper has some questions on behalf of  
22 the families as well.  
23 Questions from MR COOPER  
24 MR COOPER: Thank you.  
25 I would like to ask you about the single patrolling,

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1 if I may. Single patrolling is not just a directive  
2 from the British Transport Police, it is a directive  
3 from the Home Office as well, isn't it?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. For the avoidance of doubt, that is a Home Office  
6 directive?  
7 A. Yes, correct.  
8 Q. And all training given is geared towards lone officer  
9 working, isn't it?  
10 A. Yes, I would say so.  
11 Q. Thank you.  
12 I just want to clarify the timings and I'm not going  
13 to go over old ground, but I'm trying to draw something  
14 together here, if I can, of your break.  
15 The doors opened for the concert at 6 o'clock?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. Would that be right?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. So 6 o'clock. You and Officer Renshaw agreed to take  
20 refreshment — I'm looking at your statement, there's no  
21 need for it to be put and indeed there's no need unless  
22 you want to look at it, but it's paragraph 12 for those  
23 who have it of {INQ033295/2}.  
24 You and Officer Renshaw agreed to take your  
25 refreshments at 19.22?

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1 A. Yes.  
2 Q. That's what you tell us. The doors opened 6 o'clock.  
3 Refreshments taken, 19.22. I know you came on duty  
4 earlier, but I'm just talking about the Ariana Grande  
5 concert when people are coming in. So when the people  
6 who we represent and others are coming in, it's  
7 6 o'clock onwards.  
8 So at 19.22, you take a refreshment break. You  
9 return 41 minutes later; that's your paragraph 13.  
10 Then at 21.36, you return from your break having had  
11 a cigarette break as well in it; is that right?  
12 A. Yes, correct.  
13 Q. And you return to the station at 21.46?  
14 A. Yes, correct.  
15 Q. So I'm just trying to work out how many hours you're  
16 actually policing the Ariana Grande concert, not just  
17 the premises but the concert when those we represent are  
18 there.  
19 Effectively, it's 1 hour and 22 minutes between  
20 6 o'clock and 7.22, and then an extra 45 minutes before  
21 detonation.  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. That's the total amount of time. If you add 1 hour 22  
24 and 45 minutes together, that's the policing time you  
25 give for the Ariana Grande concert?

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1 A. Yes, correct.  
 2 Q. And in that time, you're directing traffic for a period  
 3 of time; Mr Greaney's gone over that. So within that  
 4 1 hour 22 plus 45 you're directing traffic as well?  
 5 A. Yes, correct.  
 6 Q. And so would you agree you're spending very little time  
 7 at all actually policing the Ariana Grande concert?  
 8 A. Yes, I agree.  
 9 Q. And with hindsight, there's that word again, would you  
 10 agree that that was a mistake?  
 11 A. Yes, I would, yes.  
 12 Q. That's frank of you and we thank you for that.  
 13 I would like to ask you a little on the subject of  
 14 the policing of the concert as to the multi-tasking that  
 15 you interpreted you had to do. You're positioning  
 16 yourself to look for revenue breaches as far as the  
 17 station is concerned.  
 18 A. Yes, correct.  
 19 Q. Tickets, effectively, that's one job you had, revenue  
 20 protection. The second job you had was to deal with  
 21 traffic congestion.  
 22 A. Yes, correct.  
 23 Q. And then the third job was visibility to the public?  
 24 A. Yes, I agree.  
 25 Q. So of the short period of time you're giving to the

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1 Ariana Grande, that time is then sub-divided three ways  
 2 into revenue protection, traffic congestion and then  
 3 visibility?  
 4 A. Yes, correct.  
 5 Q. You've broken down the reasons in your view for being  
 6 in the City Room into looking out for suspicious  
 7 characters and reassuring the public.  
 8 A. Yes, correct.  
 9 Q. Would you also agree there's a third category, which is  
 10 deterrence, the very presence of an officer in uniform  
 11 in particular would be a deterrent to wrongdoers of any  
 12 variety?  
 13 A. Yes, I'd agree, yes.  
 14 Q. So whilst you and your colleagues -- in fact you were  
 15 all coalescing around the memorial towards the end,  
 16 there was not a single deterrent element as far, as  
 17 uniformed officers were concerned, in the City Room  
 18 whilst that was happening?  
 19 A. That's correct, yes.  
 20 Q. And so at the critical time when this murderer detonated  
 21 his bomb there was not a single uniformed presence  
 22 in the City Room?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. Another question if I may, please. We've heard a little  
 25 bit about this, but I would like some clarification.

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1 There was some understanding, was there, that between  
 2 the time that audiences or the public went into the  
 3 arena and the concert started and egress was a bit of  
 4 downtime for police officers. Would that be right?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. So it was a general understanding was it, between the  
 7 time that people went into the concert and came out  
 8 again, there was downtime? Where does that come from?  
 9 Is that just something that officers had interpreted  
 10 during the course of their duties or was there some form  
 11 of official directive to that?  
 12 A. No, there was no official directive. I think it's just  
 13 something that officers decided amongst themselves,  
 14 really.  
 15 Q. Why did officers decide this?  
 16 A. I couldn't say, sir, no.  
 17 Q. Did senior officers ever -- they were aware -- senior  
 18 officers were, I presume, aware of this practice?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Did any senior officer at British Transport Police say,  
 21 "No, this is inappropriate"?  
 22 A. No, they didn't, no.  
 23 Q. Further, did they say it's acceptable?  
 24 A. No, they didn't, no.  
 25 Q. They just ignored it?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. But knew about it?  
 3 A. Yes, I would say so, yes.  
 4 Q. And during this downtime, it was either taking of  
 5 refreshment or catching up with paperwork, that sort of  
 6 thing?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Or generally putting your feet up?  
 9 A. I would say all three of them, yes.  
 10 Q. Whilst officers were putting their feet up during this  
 11 time was it ever thought that a presence, a deterrent  
 12 presence -- and you've accepted that deterrence is one  
 13 of the issues -- a uniformed presence in the City Room  
 14 during this period of time might have been useful?  
 15 A. Yes, I would say so.  
 16 Q. And when has that finally dawned -- perhaps on you, as  
 17 you're giving evidence -- when has it finally dawned on  
 18 officers that instead of putting their feet up during  
 19 this period of time, during the period of time that  
 20 Abedi was wandering in and out of the City Room, when  
 21 officers had their feet up, it might have been helpful  
 22 for them to be showing a presence in the City Room?  
 23 When has that dawned upon officers?  
 24 A. I'm not sure, sir.  
 25 Q. But it has dawned upon you now?

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1 A. Yes, it has, yes.  
 2 Q. Had it dawned upon you before we started asking you  
 3 these questions?  
 4 A. Yes, it had.  
 5 Q. It had? So it's a fair -- and in fairness to you,  
 6 officer, you're dealing with these questions frankly and  
 7 the families are grateful to you for that. But the  
 8 reality is that this practice -- and I'm using putting  
 9 your feet up during this period of time -- should be  
 10 stopped, shouldn't it?  
 11 A. Yes, it should, yes.  
 12 Q. Is it still going on?  
 13 A. No, it's not, no.  
 14 Q. When was it stopped?  
 15 A. I believe it was shortly after 22 May.  
 16 Q. Just a few more disparate questions.  
 17 You were on the scene, and I'm not going to ask you  
 18 detailed questions about it, nor refer you to  
 19 documentation on it, but for those following my  
 20 questions, this is page 30 of your earlier statement.  
 21 {INQ024288T/30}.  
 22 You indicate there that you were frustrated, and  
 23 again by all means refer to it if you want to privately  
 24 where you sit, but you indicate that you were frustrated  
 25 that you weren't getting assistance from trained and

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1 experienced medical professions.  
 2 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So this is after the explosion, so we  
 4 understand.  
 5 MR COOPER: Indeed, that's why I'm being very careful.  
 6 It may well be obvious and I'm sure the chair has it  
 7 so I won't labour it, but why were you frustrated to  
 8 such an extent that you record it in your statement in  
 9 detail, which I won't go into, but clearly from your  
 10 statement you are very upset by this?  
 11 A. Yes, I was, yes.  
 12 Q. Why?  
 13 A. I think the training that I've had wasn't sufficient  
 14 enough to deal with what I was witnessing. Erm...  
 15 sorry.  
 16 Q. I know you're upset and let me reassure you, I have one  
 17 more question after this, then I'll sit down.  
 18 Effectively, did you feel left in the lurch?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Doing your best, but hopelessly ill -- trained and prepared  
 21 for it?  
 22 A. Yes, correct.  
 23 Q. Forgive me, officer, for distressing you. That's not my  
 24 intention, please take it from me.  
 25 I'll ask you this then and it's to do with

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1 stretchers, and for those that follow me it's at  
 2 {INQ024288T/34} of your statement. You say this, and  
 3 I'm conscious of what I'm saying and it will not  
 4 distress: you observe that people were falling through  
 5 the cardboard provided to them and you say this:  
 6 "Until some genius [this is how it is written] made  
 7 the idea of making it a little more comfortable and  
 8 putting the cardboard on top of the railing."  
 9 A. Yes, correct.  
 10 Q. I am just pausing to get my words right. This was still  
 11 at times causing difficulty for people on those  
 12 stretchers, wasn't it?  
 13 A. Yes, I agree.  
 14 Q. And I ask questions particularly so -- as you're aware,  
 15 I represent John Atkinson, so my questions are very much  
 16 predicated on that issue.  
 17 Again, hopelessly inadequate for providing proper  
 18 care and provision?  
 19 A. Yes, I agree.  
 20 MR COOPER: I'll leave it there, sir, thank you.  
 21 MR GREANEY: Sir, I'm going to check with the witness,  
 22 through you, that she's fine to carry on with the  
 23 knowledge that I think it's just Mr Gibbs left.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: There's a few from me but not about the  
 25 things you've been dealing with after the explosion.

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1 The query really is: are you happy to carry on, would  
 2 you like a short break?  
 3 A. Yes, I am, sir.  
 4 Questions from THE CHAIRMAN  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Do say if you're not.  
 6 I'm afraid we do a lot of what ifs in this inquiry,  
 7 inevitably. We know that when you went in earlier to  
 8 the City Room, certainly on one occasion when you were  
 9 watching what was going on, you went up on to the  
 10 mezzanine?  
 11 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If you had gone into the City Room prior  
 13 to egress and during egress, where do you think you  
 14 would have watched it going on? And please don't be  
 15 guided by what I have just said because it may not be  
 16 the same place. Where would you have gone to, do you  
 17 think, to watch it?  
 18 A. I would probably say the emergency doors, stood outside  
 19 of them.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Where Mr Agha was?  
 21 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. Would you expect other people to  
 23 go to the same sort of place?  
 24 A. I couldn't say, sir, no.  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Just so I can get the balance of

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1 things, you've gone in there to have a visible presence  
 2 when people are all coming out and no doubt if there's  
 3 some sort of stampede, you'd help sort it out to stop  
 4 people injuring themselves all coming out together.  
 5 A. Yes, correct.  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Obviously you look around when you are  
 7 there, but incidentally to doing that, if you saw  
 8 a suspicious-looking character, you'd no doubt try and  
 9 do something about it if you could.  
 10 A. Yes, I'd approach them.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: But the main purpose of going in at that  
 12 time is to supervise the egress rather than doing  
 13 a search round and seeing if you can see anybody  
 14 suspicious?  
 15 A. Yes, correct.  
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 17 MR GREANEY: Sir, then I will invite Mr Gibbs to ask his  
 18 questions.  
 19 Questions from MR GIBBS  
 20 MR GIBBS: Sir, I have 11 points, but they're all really  
 21 short. I'm not going to suggest that we take any kind  
 22 of break for the witness.  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No, I'm not sure I can count up to 11,  
 24 but I'll try.  
 25 MR GIBBS: Let me do the counting.

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1 (1), this was your fifth concert in the arena and  
 2 had any of them been difficult beforehand?  
 3 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 4 Q. Mr Greaney mentioned the question of probation.  
 5 Technically, were you still a probationer at the time?  
 6 A. Yes, I was.  
 7 Q. And your period of probation would have finished when?  
 8 A. July 2018.  
 9 Q. (2), the incident report book was brought up on screen  
 10 and the learned chairman asked you -- I'm not going to  
 11 bring it up again. Above the part that you were being  
 12 asked about was an incident which is irrelevant to this  
 13 inquiry but was it one that you had been dealing with  
 14 before you went to Victoria that day?  
 15 A. Yes, it was, yes.  
 16 Q. And where had it taken you?  
 17 A. Salford Crescent Railway Station.  
 18 Q. (3), it was suggested to you, I think, and this may not  
 19 matter, but let's just make sure we've got it accurate,  
 20 that the bomber had entered the City Room at 18.34, and  
 21 we looked at a still around this time. Could we just  
 22 have the still again, please? The reference is  
 23 {INQ035973/11}.  
 24 This is from the master schedule rather than -- can  
 25 I give you the other reference? The other reference is

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1 {INQ035973/13} of the one we were looking at. This is  
 2 in the master schedule. We're looking at 18.34. We can  
 3 see where you are. We see that the legend says that the  
 4 bomber is not seen to enter the City Room but that you  
 5 and Mr Renshaw could have been seen by the bomber as he  
 6 approached from the footbridge. Either way, did you  
 7 notice him?  
 8 A. No, I didn't, no.  
 9 Q. You know now that he didn't have a rucksack with him at  
 10 that time?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. Thank you.  
 13 (4), Mrs Merchant. I don't think I really need to  
 14 ask you any questions about Mrs Merchant. Save this: if  
 15 someone had said to you anything about praying, do you  
 16 think you would have remembered it the next day --  
 17 A. Yes, definitely, yes.  
 18 Q. -- in the light of what then happened?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Did you remember any such thing?  
 21 A. No, I didn't, no.  
 22 Q. (5), the chairman's already said there are a lot of what  
 23 ifs, but let me give you another one and if you can't  
 24 help, just say so. If someone, whilst you'd been in the  
 25 City Room, had said to you, whether it be a member of

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1 the public or a member of the ShowSec staff, "There's  
 2 a suspicious fellow with a rucksack and I'm suspicious  
 3 of him", judging by what you would normally do in those  
 4 circumstances, do you think you would have done  
 5 something about that?  
 6 A. Yes, definitely.  
 7 Q. What do you think you would have done? Of course, we're  
 8 guessing to some extent.  
 9 A. I would have found out where they was originally and  
 10 then approached the person.  
 11 Q. And of course, we've no idea what you would have said or  
 12 what the man would have said back or what would have  
 13 happened next. But generally, if you had been  
 14 suspicious of somebody, would you have taken action?  
 15 A. Yes, I would, yes.  
 16 Q. (6), can we go back to -- I don't need it up on screen.  
 17 It's 21.59, and it's the moment when having been in the  
 18 City Room for a while, you and Mr Renshaw -- you come up  
 19 because ShowSec had asked for your help with someone  
 20 who'd drunk too much and then you speak to Mr Agha and  
 21 then you walk out again and there's the question of  
 22 Mrs Merchant.  
 23 Can we just focus on that moment? So it's about  
 24 half an hour before the concert is due to end. You  
 25 could have stayed in there and waited that half hour and

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1 instead you went downstairs. We'll look in a moment at  
 2 what you did downstairs. Do you remember why you left  
 3 at that time?  
 4 A. No, I can't remember, no.  
 5 Q. (7), one of the things you did when you got downstairs  
 6 was that twice you go out into the road through the  
 7 memorial entrance and you move cars on and taxis.  
 8 A. Yes, correct.  
 9 Q. Can you just explain, please, to the chairman why it is  
 10 that that's important, if it is?  
 11 A. Usually, upon egress, and even before egress, the amount  
 12 of people that come on to Victoria Station to go on  
 13 onward travel on taxis -- taxis pull up on the approach  
 14 of Victoria and park up in the middle of the road,  
 15 sometimes block all the oncoming traffic from the other  
 16 side, so I presumed that my job was to direct them on so  
 17 that traffic could come past the other way.  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It doesn't actually appear on the  
 19 email's instructions, in other words the briefing, from  
 20 Sergeant Wilson, does it?  
 21 A. No, it doesn't, no, sir.  
 22 MR GIBBS: How did you know to do it? Why was that  
 23 important?  
 24 A. Just before policing, I'd done four previous events so  
 25 I just know from previous intelligence that that's what

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1 happens.  
 2 Q. Had you done that on previous events or seen other  
 3 officers doing it?  
 4 A. No, I'd done it on previous events.  
 5 Q. You had?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. So if we're thinking about at ingress the free movement  
 8 of people into the arena and at egress the safe and free  
 9 movement of people out of the arena, why does it make  
 10 a difference whether the road is gridlocked?  
 11 A. The taxis, where they all are outside on the front  
 12 approach, people go outside and queue up for taxis. It  
 13 gets heavily crowded on the actual approach road, so to  
 14 get the traffic moving a little bit quicker and to get  
 15 the traffic going in different directions, I think it's  
 16 just the common sense approach to get people away  
 17 safely.  
 18 Q. (8), it's another still. It's, please, the set of  
 19 pictures that we looked at before, {INQ031678/136}.  
 20 It's one that we didn't, I think, dwell on when you were  
 21 being taken through.  
 22 This is while you're outside and you've been doing  
 23 the traffic and it's now 10.21. You and Mr Renshaw are  
 24 speaking to a member of the public. Do you remember  
 25 that?

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1 A. No, I don't, no.  
 2 Q. Is it any part of your work at Victoria Station to move  
 3 people on if they shouldn't be there?  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. Why do the police do that?  
 6 A. Usually at Victoria, we get a lot of vagrants outside  
 7 asking for money, a lot of ASB children messing around.  
 8 So yeah, if they're not using the railway station for  
 9 a common purpose of travelling then and they have no  
 10 ticket to travel then our aim is to move them on  
 11 somewhere else.  
 12 Q. Is that something which is always important or more  
 13 important at some times than at others?  
 14 A. More important than others sometimes, depending on what  
 15 our aim is for the day, our task for the day.  
 16 Q. In terms of the free movement of people at the end of  
 17 a concert, does that raise the significance of it or  
 18 does it not affect it?  
 19 A. Can you re-word that?  
 20 Q. Yes. Moving people on who perhaps aren't there for  
 21 perfect purposes. Is that something you do at the end  
 22 of a concert, any more than you would do it at any other  
 23 time?  
 24 A. Not that I can remember, no.  
 25 Q. Thank you.

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1 (9), and it's the question of placing yourself  
 2 at the war memorial. As everyone has pointed out to  
 3 you, just when the bomb goes off, you're all four in the  
 4 same place, by the war memorial. If there were only one  
 5 place that you could stand at egress, where would it be?  
 6 A. The war memorial on the main concourse.  
 7 Q. Just explain why, please.  
 8 A. Upon egress, coming down the footbridge on to the steps  
 9 on to Manchester Victoria, members of the public that  
 10 are coming out of the arena can see police officers in  
 11 high visibility, so they can come to us with any issues  
 12 they've got, any directions they want, or any advice.  
 13 Also, as I'm there for Manchester Arena I'm also there  
 14 for Manchester Victoria railway staff. The position  
 15 that I was stood in railway staff can see me if they've  
 16 got any issues on board trains or if they have any  
 17 ticket issues. I'm in a position where staff can see me  
 18 and members of the public.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: In your view how many people ideally,  
 20 and BTP officers, would be stationed there?  
 21 A. I would say one.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 23 MR GIBBS: Which brings me to (10), which is: do you expect  
 24 to be given, did you then expect to be given precise  
 25 instructions as to where you should each be at

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1 particular times or, as adult police officers, could you  
 2 be expected to work some things out at least for  
 3 yourselves, would you say?  
 4 A. Yes, work things out by ourselves.  
 5 Q. Why is that?  
 6 A. We're in a job where we are all adults, you know, we can  
 7 discuss things amongst ourselves and make a decision  
 8 without the need for going to a sergeant as such to  
 9 get -- we should have really discussed it between  
 10 ourselves.  
 11 Q. As to what you were discussing or talking about or doing  
 12 at the time, can you remember now exactly what you were  
 13 doing?  
 14 A. No, I can't, no.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think I just need to give you the  
 16 opportunity again to deal with it if need be. I just  
 17 want to understand that. You have been given  
 18 instructions by the sergeant as to where people should  
 19 be at egress. Did you regard that as something that you  
 20 should follow?  
 21 A. Yes, I do, should follow.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Clearly, if something happens which  
 23 makes it more suitable from a policing point of view to  
 24 do something else then you'd expect to have the  
 25 discretion, being an adult, to do something else?

201

1 A. Yes, correct.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: But in the absence of there being  
 3 anything else which would make something a greater  
 4 priority, would you deliberately disobey what the  
 5 sergeant said just because you thought you could have  
 6 a better idea?  
 7 A. No, I wouldn't, no.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No. Sorry, I just don't want to get  
 9 a wrong impression.  
 10 MR GIBBS: Absolutely, of course.  
 11 Finally, number (11), the question of downtime.  
 12 What we're talking about is, I think, the time between  
 13 ingress and egress, so the time when all these thousands  
 14 of people who are going to go to this concert are  
 15 actually inside the concert and listening to the music.  
 16 In that period, were you less hectic than you would  
 17 otherwise be?  
 18 A. Yes, I would say so.  
 19 Q. Obviously, there's still Victoria Station to police and  
 20 the concourse and people coming off trains and going to  
 21 trains, but it's not the rush hour by then if we're  
 22 talking 8 or 9 o'clock.  
 23 A. No, it's not, no.  
 24 Q. And so at the station, is it a busy time or a less busy  
 25 time?

202

1 A. I would say a less busy time.  
 2 Q. And for the concert, is it a busy time or a less busy  
 3 time?  
 4 A. A less busy time.  
 5 Q. And there are -- we know exactly when the busy times  
 6 are.  
 7 In that downtime, you've been directed by the  
 8 sergeant that that would be a good time to take  
 9 refreshment breaks?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. And did you agree with that?  
 12 A. Yes, I did.  
 13 Q. Whilst taking refreshment breaks, and we see what the  
 14 sergeant says, did you normally want to keep at least  
 15 one person visible on the station?  
 16 A. I couldn't remember, no.  
 17 Q. Thank you.  
 18 And in terms of admin, if you had admin to do during  
 19 that period where would you do it?  
 20 A. At Manchester Peninsula.  
 21 Q. So you would leave the station and walk 5 minutes up the  
 22 hill to the 7th floor of Peninsula and do work on the  
 23 computer?  
 24 A. Yes, correct.  
 25 Q. What sort of admin might that be?

203

1 A. Any updates in relation to what we're investigating on  
 2 NICHE.  
 3 Q. And NICHE is the computer arrangement?  
 4 A. Yes, it is, yes.  
 5 Q. Then be back in time for the busy time at the end of the  
 6 concert?  
 7 A. Yes, correct.  
 8 Q. Was that acceptable to do admin during the downtime?  
 9 A. At that time, yes.  
 10 Q. Yes. Putting your feet up, is that part of policing?  
 11 A. No, it's not, no.  
 12 Q. Would you describe yourself as putting your feet up?  
 13 A. No, I wouldn't, no.  
 14 MR GIBBS: Those are my questions.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. Before you ask any more  
 16 questions, I want you to help me with something. You  
 17 were taken through a series of stills and indeed CCTV of  
 18 Abedi walking along carrying his rucksack.  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And you were asked by Mr Greaney  
 21 whether, if you'd seen him on that night, you would have  
 22 been suspicious of him. Can you tell me why? What  
 23 would have made you suspicious if you'd seen him?  
 24 A. In two ways, really. It's a train station, people are  
 25 travelling with rucksacks on their back going to

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1 different locations. It isn't something I look at too  
 2 much as such stopping people. However, the other side  
 3 of it, after looking at the footage with his back  
 4 hunched quite low down, you know, it would maybe --  
 5 I couldn't possibly say but it could flag something in  
 6 my head to actually go and ask what was in the bag.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Because it appears to be a heavy  
 8 rucksack?  
 9 A. Yes, from the stills, yes.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And that is what would draw your  
 11 attention. So that would mean that in the period that  
 12 you saw him -- I'm trying to get a realistic  
 13 assessment -- you would have formed a big enough  
 14 impression of this weighing him down more than you'd  
 15 expect a normal rucksack to do?  
 16 A. Yes, I would say so.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: In those circumstances you think you'd  
 18 go up and ask him what was in it?  
 19 A. Yes, maybe just a general conversation of asking  
 20 what was in it and why it looked so heavy. That's the  
 21 only thing I would say to him if that was the case, yes.  
 22 MR GIBBS: Would you mind if I asked a question arising out  
 23 of that?  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Not at all, please do.  
 25 MR GIBBS: Officer, when you look at those pictures of this

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1 man now, how easy do you find it to assess him as an  
 2 ordinary person as opposed to the person who did what we  
 3 know he did?  
 4 A. Can you re--word that, sorry?  
 5 Q. You're shown these images of him and he's walking how  
 6 he's walking and carrying what he's carrying, and you're  
 7 asked if you'd seen that what would you have done. How  
 8 easy do you find it to say that knowing what you now  
 9 know about him?  
 10 A. Quite easy.  
 11 MR GREANEY: When the chairman asked you what it was about  
 12 this man that you think would have made you suspicious,  
 13 you in fact began by saying two things and I think you  
 14 then identified one thing, unless I missed the second.  
 15 The one thing you identified was the way in which he was  
 16 walking because of the weight of the bag. Was there  
 17 a second thing that you wanted to draw to our attention?  
 18 A. No, it was just depending on where -- he was going  
 19 through a train station with a heavy backpack on  
 20 wouldn't have kind of raised my suspicions but somebody  
 21 walking nearly to the ground, that would raise my  
 22 suspicion, that's what I was saying. There wasn't two  
 23 things.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Let's look at anything else: would the  
 25 way he was dressed raise your suspicions?

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1 A. No, it wouldn't.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: The way he was walking, would it raise  
 3 your suspicions?  
 4 A. No, not at all, no.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If you had seen him in the lift, then  
 6 that might have raised your suspicions because of what  
 7 he was apparently doing with a lead, but of course you  
 8 wouldn't have seen that.  
 9 A. No.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Do we know if anybody is able to see  
 11 CCTV in the lift?  
 12 Further questions from MR GREANEY  
 13 MR GREANEY: We don't on the basis of evidence so far but  
 14 it's something that we can look at.  
 15 If you'd known that he had been in the station for  
 16 a prolonged period of time, would that have been  
 17 something which would have increased your suspicion?  
 18 A. It would depend, really, if he was waiting for a train,  
 19 trains sometimes get delayed, so people stay inside the  
 20 stations and hang around. No, I wouldn't say so, no.  
 21 MR GREANEY: Thank you. Those are my questions.  
 22 I wonder if PC Bullough could remain in the witness  
 23 box for one moment.  
 24 I note the time, sir, but Mr Henderson would like to  
 25 read some statements, if that's acceptable to you, but

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1 we would need to have a short break just for the benefit  
 2 of the stenographers and to enable anyone who doesn't  
 3 need to listen to the reading to leave.  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. If I say 4.35, is that too long?  
 5 MR GREANEY: That's too long, I think, sir. Half past would  
 6 be fine for our purposes.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I hope it is for the stenographers, too.  
 8 (4.22 pm)  
 9 (A short break)  
 10 (4.30 pm)  
 11 MR HENDERSON: Thank you, sir. I'm aware of the time and  
 12 the late hour, but in order to stay on schedule  
 13 I propose to read three witnesses' statements. These  
 14 are three of the ShowSec stewards or supervisors who  
 15 were on duty on 22 May 2017 and who weren't as  
 16 intimately involved with the events in the City Room,  
 17 but who nonetheless describe some events that took  
 18 place, such as other suspicious behaviour or the  
 19 evacuation.  
 20 I will summarise some parts of their witness  
 21 statements where they refer to events post--detonation  
 22 and simply refer to a few high--level points at that  
 23 stage.  
 24 Witness statement of DIMITAR ARABADZHIEV (read) (summarised)  
 25 MR HENDERSON: The first is Dimitar Arabadzhiev.

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1 Mr Arabadzhiev was a ShowSec steward working at the  
 2 arena on 22 May. He has provided a statement which is  
 3 at {INQ011827/1}.

4 That's a signed statement produced by ShowSec on  
 5 24 May 2017.

6 Turning to {INQ011827/2} of that statement, sir, if  
 7 you wish to follow along, he describes how he arrived  
 8 at the arena at 5 o'clock in the evening and from the  
 9 second paragraph down on page 2 I will read a section of  
 10 his statement. He says as follows:

11 "5.20 pm. Went to City Rooms via the lift. Had  
 12 a briefing from Dave Middleton. Filled in most of the  
 13 back of the shift report but pushed for time. Focussed  
 14 on the most important bits: times, audience profile and  
 15 emergency procedures. I went to position on the bridge.  
 16 There were four of us. Kyle Lawler was one of them.  
 17 I stayed on the inner portion of the station where the  
 18 entrance is to the arena and station with the other SIA.  
 19 "I was in position at 5.47. I was patrolling around  
 20 answering questions from customers, eg where the cash  
 21 machines are and McDonald's.

22 "I think slightly after 8 pm, there was a small  
 23 Asian fellow in a black puffy jacket with a white  
 24 T-shirt, slim fitting. He was moving around looking  
 25 a bit lost. Then I lost sight of him because of the

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1 support beam. I thought he went either to the entrance  
 2 or the merchandise stand which was on the left. He  
 3 wasn't carrying a bag.

4 "He looked a bit odd so I was going to ask him  
 5 something, but I lost sight of him. I guess he was aged  
 6 between 25 to 35. He was clean-shaven with short black  
 7 spiky hair, small figure.

8 "A male gentleman aged between 55 and 70 with  
 9 a short white beard and white hair and clothes that were  
 10 a bit colourful had a semi-professional camera,  
 11 a Panasonic G2. He asked me where the Printworks were  
 12 and I directed him and he went on his way. However, he  
 13 stopped halfway between the bridge and the arena and  
 14 took a picture of it, I assume of the train station  
 15 steps or the support beam. There were no trains there  
 16 on that side so I felt this was a bit strange.  
 17 I thought I should ask him what he was doing but he  
 18 moved away.

19 "I assumed he was a tourist and went off to the  
 20 Printworks. As my break was near I thought I would  
 21 record this then but I forgot about it as I was talking  
 22 to other staff about how the night was going.

23 "I took my break at 9.05 pm. After my break I  
 24 redeployed to the far end doors, near to the VIP  
 25 check-in at 9.20 pm. I stayed on the doors and directed

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1 the public around the arena."

2 Mr Arabadzhiev then deals with traffic management  
 3 duties for the rest of the evening outside the arena.  
 4 He describes how he heard the explosion and thought it  
 5 was a car backfiring but was told by his supervisor that  
 6 something big had happened and he should prepare space  
 7 for a lot of police and other emergency vehicles to  
 8 arrive. He did so and eventually stood down at  
 9 approximately midnight and was taken home by a friend.

10 Witness statement of MALCOLM BOSTOCK (read) (summarised)

11 MR HENDERSON: The second statement is provided by  
 12 Malcolm Bostock and that is a statement taken by GMP  
 13 dated 13 September 2017. For those who wish to follow,  
 14 it's at {INQ005662/1}.

15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And we have seen mention of him on one  
 16 of the stills, I think?

17 MR HENDERSON: That is correct, he does appear on one of the  
 18 sequence of events. He says:

19 "I was working as a steward on the night of the  
 20 Ariana Grande concert, having been employed by ShowSec  
 21 International Crowd Management. My shift started at  
 22 17.30 hours and I saw I was allocated to block 102 when  
 23 I signed on.

24 "I was given a briefing from a supervisor, a  
 25 Martin Spencer, along with a group of others. It was

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1 stressed during the briefing that the audience was going  
 2 to be predominantly young and it was our responsibility  
 3 to take care of them.

4 "I took my position in the concourse at block 102  
 5 and was informed that there was going to be what is  
 6 referred to as a 'hold' on doors, which is basically  
 7 holding people in the concourse area before the actual  
 8 doors into the arena are opened. I had a briefing and  
 9 note sheet and I noted the time as 18.05 hours.

10 "I spoke to several of the crowd while they held  
 11 in the concourse prior to taking their seats. Everyone  
 12 was in good spirits and excited about the show.  
 13 I recall noticing that the vast majority of the crowd  
 14 were young and mainly girls.

15 "After 10 minutes or so my supervisor for the  
 16 area -- I think he was called Phil -- instructed me to  
 17 release the hold and I opened the doors and people took  
 18 their seats. My role was to assist and direct people to  
 19 the correct areas and generally help with any questions  
 20 or concerns brought to my attention.

21 "At 19.52 hours I was approached by a customer. She  
 22 came from block 101, row L. She was a white lady in her  
 23 40s or 50s, about 5 foot 5 inches tall, large build with  
 24 shoulder length blonde hair. She was nervous and told  
 25 me she was concerned about an Asian woman she was sat

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1 next to. She said that the Asian lady was constantly  
 2 going in and out of her bag and it was making her and  
 3 her friends nervous. I think she said they were in  
 4 seats 6, 7, 8 and 9 from memory.  
 5 "I told the lady that I would inform my supervisor,  
 6 so I went into the concourse and found Phil down near  
 7 Hunts Bank. Phil said we would go and have a look.  
 8 I went back into block 102 and walked down the steps  
 9 between 101 and 102, trying to be as casual as possible  
 10 in order to check out the woman's behaviour.  
 11 "She was sat in seat 5 of row L in block 101, about  
 12 40 years of age, and of Asian appearance with dark hair  
 13 that was tied back. She had glasses and was wearing  
 14 a blue outfit. I could see she had a slightly  
 15 over-sized handbag between her feet that was possibly  
 16 grey in colour. While I observed her, she reached into  
 17 her bag and took something out that she popped into her  
 18 mouth. It looked like she was just eating sweets.  
 19 I certainly didn't see anything I would describe as  
 20 suspicious.  
 21 "Next to the Asian lady was a woman wearing a white  
 22 top. I believe she was a friend of the woman who had  
 23 initially approached me with concerns. Phil also walked  
 24 down the aisle himself and had a look. He said to keep  
 25 an eye on the situation but couldn't see anything of

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1 concern. I made a note of the above on my briefing  
 2 sheet.  
 3 "While I was on my break at about 20.35, I mentioned  
 4 this complaint to another steward who was an Asian lad  
 5 working in block 202. I can't recall his name but  
 6 he was already aware of it, so Phil must have mentioned  
 7 it to others.  
 8 "After finishing my break at 20.50 hours, I went  
 9 back to my position at block 101 and took over from the  
 10 chap who had been covering for me. He told me that he  
 11 had been spoken to by the lady in the white top who was  
 12 sat next to the Asian lady. She had again complained  
 13 about her behaviour. Literally, while we were talking,  
 14 the woman in the white top walked past us from the  
 15 concourse. I spoke to her and told her there wasn't  
 16 a lot we could do in the circumstances but that we would  
 17 keep an eye on the situation. She appeared happy with  
 18 that and returned to her seat.  
 19 "At 22.25, I was asked by Phil to go to the area 114  
 20 to be part of what's called a soft divert, where the  
 21 crowds are encouraged to use one particular exit over  
 22 another, in this case Trinity glass as opposed to  
 23 City Room or Trinity rollers.  
 24 "I was stood with Peter Glink and close to  
 25 Andy Foster, who I saw there. We had only been there

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1 a couple of minutes when I heard a very loud single bang  
 2 noise. I recall someone saying it was a speaker but  
 3 customers were asking what was going on as they were  
 4 leaving and there was a slight air of panic and concern.  
 5 "Mark Richards asked Pete and I to go along the  
 6 concourse and have a look in the direction of Trinity  
 7 rollers and City Rooms to see what was going on."  
 8 I will now just summarise that Mr Bostock then  
 9 describes how he assisted an injured woman in the  
 10 City Room. He then goes on --- and this is on page 5 ---  
 11 to describe the evacuation and leaving. He then says:  
 12 "We were then called out to by another ShowSec  
 13 supervisor who I do not know, identified by a purple  
 14 uniform, who asked us to go back inside the arena to the  
 15 bowl area. Pete and I went back up Trinity Road on our  
 16 way and in through Trinity rollers again and into the  
 17 arena bowl via block 107.  
 18 "There were now armed police all over the place and  
 19 they told us to leave the building via the back gate.  
 20 We did this, taking a member of the public who was still  
 21 in the arena."  
 22 He then describes everybody tending a roll call and  
 23 leaving.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We have heard evidence that after the  
 25 explosion, there was what was presumably described as

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1 a hard divert, when everyone coming to the City Rooms  
 2 was diverted elsewhere. But it sounds like there was  
 3 soft divert, which I assume is a less compulsory  
 4 diversion, to try and get people away from the City Room  
 5 even before the explosion?  
 6 MR HENDERSON: Indeed. There seems to have been quite  
 7 a fortunate decision. I'm not entirely sure on the  
 8 evidence we have why that decision was made, to, but a  
 9 fortunate decision was made to start to move people  
 10 towards the other exits.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's fortunate to the extent of the  
 12 number of people who were actually leaving through that  
 13 exit, which might have been greater.  
 14 Thank you.  
 15 Witness statement of REBECCA DONAGHY (read) (summarised)  
 16 MR HENDERSON: The final statement for this evening is from  
 17 Rebecca Donaghy. She's provided a statement which was  
 18 taken again by ShowSec dated 30 May 2017. It's at  
 19 {INQ011955/1}.  
 20 Again I'll read some excerpts from the statement and  
 21 summarise the latter part of it.  
 22 She says as follows:  
 23 "I am a casual supervisor with ShowSec  
 24 International. I have worked for ShowSec for 5 years.  
 25 I have done ShowSec's online training modules, I have

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1 first aid training, which may be out of date. I have  
 2 passed ShowSec's own supervisor course. ShowSec provide  
 3 crowd management and security services at  
 4 Manchester Arena. I have worked there regularly for  
 5 5 years.  
 6 "I was scheduled to work as a casual supervisor on  
 7 Monday, 22 May 2017 at the Manchester Arena for the  
 8 Ariana Grande concert. My shift started at around  
 9 1700 hours. I attended the supervisors' briefing, which  
 10 is conducted by Tom Rigby, who was the head of security  
 11 for the event. There was nothing out of the ordinary  
 12 in the briefing.  
 13 "The search policy for the event was a full bag  
 14 search as in all bags must be searched and large  
 15 rucksacks or suitcases were to be searched in-depth by  
 16 myself or by Access Control staff.  
 17 "People were searched by Access Control as deemed  
 18 necessary. I was the supervisor for the Hunts Bank  
 19 doors. I had stewards and SIA staff to supervise. The  
 20 two SIA staff were in Tom Rigby's briefing as well.  
 21 "At 1730 hours I briefed my stewards fully including  
 22 details of the event and the search policy and wrote it  
 23 in my shift report.  
 24 "Prior to going green for doors, there were about  
 25 50 people in each queue for each door. We went green

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1 for doors at about 18.03 hours and allowed the public  
 2 into the building. The doors were busy for a while.  
 3 I stayed near the doors monitoring my staff. They were  
 4 all conducting bag checks in line with their briefing.  
 5 "At around 1900 hours there was an incident with  
 6 a female who was intoxicated."  
 7 Pausing there, this seems to be the one that we've  
 8 heard about in evidence already today:  
 9 "She left the building to smoke but as there is no  
 10 readmission policy, because she was drunk she wasn't  
 11 allowed back in. The female's daughter was inside the  
 12 building with a responsible adult so the daughter was  
 13 looked after. The female stayed outside for the  
 14 concert, even though she tried to get back in through  
 15 the City Rooms.  
 16 "During one of the support acts, one of the stewards  
 17 from block 103, called Malcolm Bostock, approached me as  
 18 his nearest radio holder. He said he had received  
 19 a complaint from a customer about a lady sat near them  
 20 who was fidgety, agitated and scared of the atmosphere.  
 21 I advised him to go and speak to this female to see if  
 22 she was a fan by asking questions about the main event.  
 23 "Malcolm's supervisor was Phil Hewitson, who was  
 24 nearby. I told Phil Hewitson about the complaint and  
 25 what I had advised Malcolm to do. Phil walked off

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1 in the direction of block 103. Phil said he was going  
 2 to check.  
 3 "Malcolm came back to me about 15 minutes later and  
 4 said he had spoken to them and all they said was the  
 5 female seemed genuine but a bit fidgety. Also, the  
 6 complainants did not want relocating."  
 7 He then goes on to say:  
 8 "At about 2215 hours I opened all of my doors for  
 9 egress. There was a small egress at about this time and  
 10 I positioned my remaining staff for egress. Egress was  
 11 free-flowing at first but at about 2230 I heard a very  
 12 loud bang. It came from my right towards the City Room  
 13 doors. As soon as the bang happened, people started  
 14 panicking and running towards the doors. People, in  
 15 particular young children, were screaming and crying.  
 16 Some were running towards us from the City Room.  
 17 I tried to calm them down to get them out safely.  
 18 People were pushing past each other with no  
 19 consideration for others and trying to get out first."  
 20 Ms Donaghy then goes on to describe helping several  
 21 members of the public who were injured or were trying to  
 22 leave the City Room and eventually she also left to  
 23 attend the roll call and went home.  
 24 I think, sir, it is probably best to leave it there  
 25 for today.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. We'll start again at 9.30  
 2 tomorrow. I'm grateful to everyone for keeping so to  
 3 time today. Thank you.  
 4 (4.48 pm)  
 5 (The inquiry adjourned until 9.30 am  
 6 on Tuesday, 20 October 2020)  
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