

OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 18

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Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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1 Questions from THE CHAIRMAN

2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

3 Mr O'Connor, would you like me to ask my question
4 first and then you can ask anything arising out of that?

5 I'm just slightly concerned about CCTV on event
6 night. The responsibility, as I understand what you're
7 saying, is handed over to Sierra.

8 A. Correct.

9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So what responsibilities do you actually
10 have that you're meant to do on event nights, not just
11 "we can just watch as it we're going past", but
12 do you have responsibilities in relation to CCTV on
13 event nights?

14 A. The operation of them?

15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Watching them, seeing what's going on.

16 A. I'd say we have got a visual monitor/monitors where
17 we can monitor CCTV. If we spot something which is --
18 which we believe is not spotted by ShowSec, we would
19 report.

20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I know you can watch it and I know
21 you have other things to do. Are you under an
22 obligation, is it part of your duty to be watching them
23 on event nights?

24 A. Yes, that along with other duties, control room duties
25 at the time.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: When you have time you look at them,
2 they're not being monitored all the time in your room on
3 the event nights?
4 A. I wouldn't be monitoring them --
5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I know you can't, but would somebody be
6 monitoring them all the time?
7 A. If I wasn't monitoring, I'm assuming my shift partner,
8 Stephen Noone, would be monitoring if I was called away
9 anywhere.
10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. There are two ways of looking at
11 it: you're in there -- I know it's different but I just
12 want to understand in practice the reality of the
13 situation.
14 You're doing something else and you say you assume
15 that your partner would be doing it. Do you say, "I've
16 got to do this, can you take over looking at the
17 monitors?" Would you say that or would you just assume
18 he would do it?
19 A. I assume he would do it.
20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And if he has something else to do?
21 A. Then same applies, I'd take over.
22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If you both have something else to do
23 at the time?
24 A. Well, obviously, we'd both got other duties to perform,
25 obviously nobody would be monitoring that CCTV unless

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1 somebody else was in the room.
2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So on event nights there could be
3 occasions when nobody is monitoring the CCTV in your
4 particular control room?
5 A. That would be correct, but that would only be for short
6 periods of time.
7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay.
8 Just to confirm, because when Mr O'Connor asked you
9 questions, it seemed like there was a slight difference.
10 If you saw somebody on an event night with a large
11 rucksack, you would not immediately be suspicious about
12 it because you would think they were merchandising
13 people?
14 A. I would say yes, sir.
15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So a rucksack itself, the mere fact of
16 having a rucksack, would not be something which would
17 raise your suspicions.
18 A. It wouldn't, no.
19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Thank you.
20 MR DE LA POER: I see Mr Weatherby's appeared on the monitor
21 and it may be he wishes to follow up some of Mr Cooper's
22 questions before we turn to Mr O'Connor.