

and for the decant, which I think will have meant me waiting to hear from Bob Fontenot.

- 13 On 12 May, I emailed Bob asking whether he was wanting random pat downs on the doors or whether he wanted a full pat down. I also explained that more people would be required to do full pat downs. This was based on information and queries I was getting from Miriam Stone at the venue. Bob replied the same day suggesting that, as there was not going to be wandering (I think this reflects what they had told me in person or over the telephone), then he wanted us to start pat downs of everyone and only going to random if ingress was being slowed down. I reported that back to Miriam on 17 May by email, confirming that a full decant was not required, nor was full wandering, but that a full pat down was and asking her to let me know if extra staff were needed to do this. Miriam responded the same day informing me that doing a full pat down was going to be an even bigger exercise than wandering, costing a significant amount more. Again, as that raised an issue of cost, I needed to discuss that with Bob Fontenot, which I believe I did in person rather than email.
- 14 The issue around pat downs is not an unusual one to be raised, it gets raised by various tour management teams and so it wasn't unusual for this to be raised for the Ariana Grande concert. I can recall the conversation with Bob Fontenot when I reported back to him the cost of the pat downs, albeit I can't remember the exact words of our conversation. I met him in the room next to where I was based at the Birmingham (NEC) venue, the room that Bob was using. I actually think we had a catch-up meeting not long after he arrived in Birmingham and I explained to him that full pat down was available but the cost was significant. I recall that his reaction was one of being fairly unhappy at the extra cost and he said he wasn't willing to sign off that extra cost. To be fair to Bob, he knew there would still be random pat downs at the door and, although Bob expressed his personal view that all venues should be doing full pat downs, he wasn't going to pay extra if the Manchester Arena didn't do it as a matter of course. At the NEC in Birmingham there was the option to have full pat downs at a low additional cost, which was significantly lower than that quoted by Manchester Arena. I am not aware of the reason for the cost difference. I should add that the full pat down would have been at the entry to the venue and not at the entry to the City Rooms, which was public realm.
- 15 It is also relevant that at every show, there is a security briefing. These normally take place for an evening concert at about 4-5pm, although for the Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena, it took place earlier at 1/2pm. I recall being at that security

briefing along with Miriam Stone, Bob Fontenot and the event venue security. At that briefing, it was stated by Miriam Stone that the security arrangements included random pat downs as opposed to full pat downs and accordingly Bob Fontenot was aware of that. Bob was aware of the security arrangements that were to be carried out because of that briefing and the earlier discussions that we had had. Bob did not, at that point, during that security briefing, seek to change the arrangements and actually, had he wanted to he could have, as occasionally security arrangements are changed quite late in the day following the security briefing.

- 16 As far as I can recall, there was nothing particularly unusual about the Ariana Grande tour concerning security or matters generally and I don't recall any information being provided by Bob or the Ariana Grande management concerning security risks. Wandering is seen as an alternative to pat downs but again Bob Fontenot felt that wandering should be standard, but if it wasn't standard at the venue, he didn't feel the tour should pay for it. I do not recall the tour management providing a risk assessment for security, albeit some tours do.
- 17 I was working at the Manchester Arena on the night of the bombing in my capacity as a promoter's representative. My role on the night was largely to act as a liaison point between the tour production and the venue.
- 18 I arrived at the Arena first thing. During that time, I was ensuring that things were running smoothly, for example, checking that all of the local crew booked were present and overlooking the build aspects of the production to ensure that they were running to the time schedule. At around 1730hrs there was a sound-check party for those with higher priced 'VIP' tickets to attend, which I believe was organised by VIP Nation. This ticket allowed guests to attend a 'meet and greet' event with Ariana Grande and watch her perform during the sound-check before the show. At around 1830hrs the doors to the Arena were opened.
- 19 Throughout the show, I remained backstage as it was where I was required to act as a middleman between the tour and SMG at the venue, namely Miriam Stone. I had two radios, one which connected me to the tour party and one which connected me to the venue. I don't usually deal with the venue's event security much on the night of shows because the tour's security are present to liaise directly with them. For this show the tour's head of security, Bob Fontenot, was left to deal directly with a representative of the venue's event security, Showsec, meaning that I wasn't involved with any security