

OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 47

December 10, 2020

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Thursday, 10 December 2020

1 (9.28 am)

2 MR DE LA POER: Sir, good morning. We do not have
3 Mr Barraclough in the witness box as is apparent.
4 Instead the gentleman in the witness box is Detective
5 Sergeant Mark Hazelwood. There is a very good reason
6 why Mr Barraclough cannot join us first thing. We are
7 expecting that he will be able to join us later this
8 morning and in order to use our time effectively we have
9 brought Mr Hazelwood forward and he has been very kind
10 in accommodating us in that to deal with a matter we
11 were likely to deal with later today in any event.

12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
13 DS MARK HAZELWOOD (sworn)
14 Questions from MR DE LA POER

15 MR DE LA POER: Can you please give us your name and rank.
16 A. My full name is Mark Andrew Hazelwood and I am a
17 detective sergeant for the Greater Manchester Police.
18 Q. Sergeant, are you part of the Operation Manteline team?
19 A. That's correct, yes.
20 Q. Have you come here today to help us, as your colleagues
21 have before you, in relation to the movements of
22 Salman Abedi between 18 May and 22 May?
23 A. That's correct, yes.
24 Q. So before we embark upon that, can I just give this

1

1 indication so that people are expecting it. That is to
2 say that we will be looking at moving images of
3 Salman Abedi, which we understand many will find
4 distressing, just so that everybody has that in mind
5 when deciding whether they are watching and so they know
6 what to expect.

7 Mr Hazelwood, we're going to start with 18 May. Can
8 we please bring up our sequence of events for that day,
9 {INQ031275/1}.

10 As before, and you know this, because you have seen
11 the plan for your evidence, Mr Hazelwood, we are not
12 going to look at every single slide but we are going to
13 pick out the important ones and, where necessary, look
14 at some moving footage as well.

15 This still marks Salman Abedi's return to this
16 jurisdiction from Libya; is that right?

17 A. That's correct, yes.
18 Q. We can see that that was at 11.13 in the morning of
19 18 May. Can we move forward, please, to {INQ031275/4}.
20 This is CCTV from within the airport capturing
21 Salman Abedi going into WH Smith. What did he purchase
22 when he went in there?
23 A. At 11.20 hours in WH Smith he purchased an O2 SIM card,
24 which was the 3230 telephone number, and a £15 top-up
25 voucher for that SIM card.

2

1 Q. So that was the SIM card that was put in the Alcatel
2 handset?
3 A. That's correct, yes.
4 Q. And also in the Galaxy handset which, as at this point,
5 he hadn't yet purchased?
6 A. That's correct, yes.
7 Q. So moving forward to {INQ031275/5}, please. We can see,
8 shortly after that purchase, he leaves the airport and
9 he does so using a bus.
10 A. Yes, you can see on that image on the upper screen he's
11 using a telephone. At 11.24 the SIM card that he
12 purchased from WH Smith actually goes into the Alcatel
13 at that point and the top-up voucher is used.
14 Q. So he now has access to the telephone system?
15 A. That's correct, yes.
16 Q. And it was a point that Mr Weatherby made yesterday, but
17 we can make again, that rather than catching a taxi from
18 the airport, he catches a bus a short distance and
19 catches a taxi from there?
20 A. That's correct. He booked a taxi whilst he was on the
21 bus at 11.35 hours.
22 Q. You tracked, through the CCTV, Salman Abedi's movements
23 through the bus station once he arrives; is that
24 correct?
25 A. That's correct, yes.

3

1 Q. And if we move forward, please, to {INQ031275/15},
2 we can see that by 12.06 he has caught that taxi, the
3 Skoda Octavia. It's now after midday; is that right?
4 A. That's correct.
5 Q. This first taxi journey he takes once back in the
6 United Kingdom, a statement was taken from the taxi
7 driver; is that correct?
8 A. That's correct.
9 Q. They having been identified by the investigation. Did
10 that taxi driver recall that Salman Abedi had offered to
11 sell him a phone?
12 A. Yes, that was his recollection in his statement, yes.
13 Q. We've heard tell of that already, but it's this journey
14 that that is said to have taken place in. Does the taxi
15 take Salman Abedi through to Devell House?
16 A. Yes, it drops him off on Oxney Road, just outside
17 Devell House.
18 Q. And I think we can see arrival in the car park at
19 Devell House on the lower slide, 12.29.23.
20 Mr Lopez, we're going to do a little bit of this
21 today, could I please invite you to take that down and
22 we're now going to watch the footage at Devell House.
23 {INQ020158/1} from 7:10 into the recording, please.
24 (Video played to the inquiry)
25 Q. This was at 12.29; is that right?

4

1 A. That's correct.
 2 Q. The Nissan Micra is the white vehicle partially obscured
 3 by the tree?
 4 A. That's correct, it is, yes.
 5 Q. Initially on the passenger side, is that right, before
 6 going to the boot and opening it?
 7 A. That's right.
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Does he open the passenger side door?
 9 It's quite difficult for me to tell.
 10 A. That's my interpretation, sir, but it is difficult to
 11 tell, yes.
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 13 (Video playing continued)
 14 MR DE LA POER: We saw him just close the boot; is that
 15 correct?
 16 A. That's right, yes.
 17 Q. Turning to the passenger side?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And now walking away?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Thank you very much indeed. We can stop that and take
 22 that down for now.
 23 From Devell House -- we don't need to look at the
 24 slides or footage for this -- is it right that your
 25 investigation was able to track him walking up and down

5

1 Oxney Road?
 2 A. That's correct, yes.
 3 Q. So he walks away from the camera and then back towards
 4 it?
 5 A. That's right.
 6 Q. Does he then call Ruth Bain?
 7 A. He does. At 12.33 he makes a 2-minute phone call to
 8 Ruth Bain.
 9 Q. And that is in connection with arrangements for
 10 Granby House?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Does he also contact second-hand car dealers?
 13 A. Yes, he makes phone calls to four second-hand car
 14 dealers, one of which is Radcliffe Car Auctions, where
 15 Hashem Abedi previously bought his Hyundai Sonata from.
 16 Q. So on the face of it, attempting to acquire another
 17 vehicle?
 18 A. It appears that way.
 19 Q. Nothing comes of those telephone calls?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Does he then catch a taxi to Broughton Lane in
 22 Cheetham Hill?
 23 A. That's correct, yes, he does.
 24 Q. Was it in the course of that second taxi journey that
 25 day that Salman Abedi asks to buy a telephone from the

6

1 taxi driver?
 2 A. Yes, to which he declines.
 3 Q. And following that conversation, does he arrive at the
 4 mobile telephone shop we saw on the map yesterday at
 5 1.15?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: On the face of it, it's slightly odd
 8 he's asking one taxi driver to buy his phone and the
 9 next one he's asking to buy one from?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 MR DE LA POER: There does seem to be an inconsistency
 12 between what each of them recalls him saying. What
 13 there is no doubt about is that he was determined to
 14 acquire a mobile phone and we know that because he ends
 15 up at a mobile phone shop and he buys one.
 16 A. That's correct.
 17 Q. That is the Galaxy mobile telephone for which he paid
 18 £60 in cash?
 19 A. That's right.
 20 Q. As at 1.15 on 18 May, in possession of two handsets and
 21 one SIM card?
 22 A. That's correct, yes. And the SIM card goes from the
 23 Alcatel to the Samsung at 13.43 hours.
 24 Q. Slightly less than 30 minutes after he'd acquired it?
 25 A. That's correct, yes.

7

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I agree we know about one SIM card.
 2 Whether or not he has another is obviously not something
 3 we can be absolutely certain about and no other one
 4 turns up or is recorded with any phone calls on?
 5 MR DE LA POER: Indeed, and I think the SIO's evidence
 6 yesterday was that there is no evidence of it despite
 7 very extensive work being done in this relation.
 8 Perhaps to be safe, at least one SIM card is
 9 strictly speaking what we can say for certain?
 10 A. Correct, yes.
 11 Q. Having activated that handset with the SIM card, does he
 12 go on at about 2 o'clock to withdraw some cash from
 13 an ATM on New Bailey Street?
 14 A. Yes, that's correct. £300 in total.
 15 Q. So we'll pick him up again, {INQ031275/27}, please,
 16 Mr Lopez.
 17 We can see a familiar image in terms of its
 18 perspective. Being shown around Granby House in the top
 19 slide at 14.17, and after 2.30, down in the basement?
 20 A. That's correct, yes.
 21 Q. Is the parking down in that area?
 22 A. There is parking underground in that area, but there's
 23 also parking around the perimeter of Granby House as
 24 well.
 25 Q. In relation to the parking spot that he secured, a minor

8

1 detail, do we know whether it was in the basement or
 2 in the surrounds or is that not clear?
 3 A. That's not clear.
 4 Q. Moving forward, please, {INQ031275/28}. Continued
 5 viewing of the area around Granby House?
 6 A. Yes, that's correct.
 7 Q. At {INQ031275/29} we can see he is captured coming into
 8 Granby House now having secured access to it?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. 14.42, and not seen again until 17.56, when he goes out?
 11 A. That's correct, yes.
 12 Q. So from here -- we don't need to bring it up because
 13 we've looked at it more than once -- does he travel on
 14 foot to the Victoria Railway Station and arena area,
 15 arriving at 18.18?
 16 A. He does. He catches a bus from Portland Street to
 17 Piccadilly Gardens and then walks from Piccadilly
 18 Gardens to Shudehill tram stop, where he gets the tram
 19 to Victoria.
 20 Q. Does he spend a period of time between 18.18 and 18.39
 21 conducting hostile reconnaissance?
 22 A. He does, yes, that's correct.
 23 Q. We've seen that already and have no need to bring it up
 24 again, but that's where that first act of hostile
 25 reconnaissance fits --

9

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. -- by reference to his arrival in the country and his
 3 other activity on the 18th?
 4 A. That's correct, yes.
 5 Q. So if we move forward, bearing in mind that he left the
 6 railway station at 18.39, at {INQ031275/49}, please, do
 7 we see him purchasing the first of some items that he
 8 acquires over the coming days, here in Wilko in the
 9 Arndale Centre?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. He buys batteries and he remains for approximately
 12 5 minutes?
 13 A. Yes, he does.
 14 Q. {INQ031275/52}, please. We see, 19.19, him still within
 15 the Arndale Centre going to Sports Direct?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And in the bottom slide, purchasing the Kangol suitcase?
 18 A. That's correct, yes.
 19 Q. That is 19.24, the early evening of the 18th. Does he
 20 catch a taxi from the high street to Screwfix?
 21 A. That's right, he gets in a black cab.
 22 Q. From Sports Direct, he catches his third taxi of the day
 23 out to Great Ancoats Street?
 24 A. That's correct, yes.
 25 Q. Where he makes the first of what are a number of visits

10

1 to Screwfix?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. He arrives there at 19.34, is that right?
 4 A. That's right.
 5 Q. {INQ031275/58}, please, Mr Lopez.
 6 There we have that arrival in the top slide.
 7 Mr Lopez, if we can go back, please, to the footage
 8 for that day, which I think you have now loaded and take
 9 us forward to start from 28:08.
 10 (Video played to the inquiry)
 11 Q. Perhaps as we're watching him conduct that transaction,
 12 you can perhaps confirm for us, please, sergeant, that
 13 he spends £25.76 in Screwfix.
 14 A. Yes, that's correct.
 15 Q. And sir, for those who would wish to cross-reference,
 16 that transaction appears at {CPS000194/23}, that we
 17 looked at with Mr Barraclough. We can see all of the
 18 items that were purchased on that occasion in the
 19 document we looked at the day before last, I think it
 20 was.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And all the time he has left the
 22 suitcase somewhere?
 23 MR DE LA POER: Yes.
 24 Was the taxi waiting for him during this
 25 transaction?

11

1 A. No, I believe he walked back after this transaction.
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think one of the captions was he had
 3 taken the blue suitcase out of the taxi. I don't think
 4 people know what's happened to it in the meantime.
 5 A. No. I believe it's in Screwfix. Within Screwfix there
 6 are no cameras that cover the area where the catalogues
 7 are (overspeaking) is potentially there.
 8 (Video playing continued)
 9 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much, Mr Lopez. Pause it
 10 there.
 11 We'll come back to that in just a moment, but does
 12 he leave Screwfix at 19.46 hours?
 13 A. That's correct, yes.
 14 Q. And returns to Granby House with the suitcase and the
 15 items that he bought in Screwfix at 20.04 hours?
 16 A. That's correct, yes.
 17 Q. Mr Lopez, if you can just move that footage on to 30:46.
 18 (Video played to the inquiry)
 19 Q. Perhaps what we can notice on this is the ease with
 20 which it's possible to carry that suitcase up the
 21 stairs.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. We'll contrast that with what we see the next day.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Lopez.

12

1 If we just provide a short summary together,
 2 sergeant, about the 18th. We have Salman Abedi arriving
 3 back in the UK?
 4 A. That's right.
 5 Q. The purchase of a SIM card and a mobile telephone?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Acquiring the Granby House accommodation?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Visiting the Nissan?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Buying the Kangol suitcase and visiting Screwfix?
 12 A. Yes, that's right.
 13 Q. And hostile reconnaissance?
 14 A. Yes, that's correct.
 15 Q. We'll move forward, please, to 19 May. We're going to
 16 start with some footage. {INQ020155/1}.
 17 If we can start at 00:43, please.
 18 Is what we're going to see here the departure from
 19 Granby House?
 20 A. Yes, that's correct.
 21 Q. Indicated there at 8.11 in the morning with a suitcase?
 22 A. Yes, that's correct. You can see he's got his phone in
 23 his left hand, and at 8.11 he makes the booking and
 24 books the taxi for collection from Granby Row and asks
 25 to be taken to Wilmslow Road in Rusholme.

13

1 Q. Is that a road proximate to Devell House?
 2 A. Yes, it is.
 3 (Video playing continued)
 4 A. At this point, realising that the taxi is going to be
 5 some time, he returns back into Granby House for a short
 6 period of time.
 7 (Video playing continued)
 8 Q. Again, had he arranged the collection point to be not
 9 immediately outside Granby House?
 10 A. I can't confirm that. I believe it was just on
 11 Granby Row.
 12 Q. It was on Granby Row?
 13 A. Yes. He's walking past Velvet House towards
 14 Princess Street at the end of Granby.
 15 Q. Approximately how far is that from the entrance to
 16 Granby House?
 17 A. About 30 metres.
 18 Q. Is he just back and to the left of the camera?
 19 A. Yes, that's correct.
 20 (Video playing continued)
 21 Q. At this point is he on either the driver's side or just
 22 at the boot?
 23 A. He is. I think he's at the boot --
 24 Q. We can just see the boot open there, can't we?
 25 A. That's correct, yes.

14

1 (Video playing continued)
 2 Q. We saw the boot closing and he's now on the passenger
 3 side?
 4 A. That's correct.
 5 (Video playing continued)
 6 Q. Might it be the case that one of the passenger side
 7 doors is open at this stage or is it just not clear?
 8 A. It is very difficult to tell because of the quality of
 9 the footage and the tree that's obviously in the way.
 10 Q. Turning to the boot?
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. It's just opened again; is that right?
 13 A. That's correct.
 14 Q. And closed?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 (Video playing continued)
 17 Q. Turning to the passenger side?
 18 A. That's correct, yes.
 19 Q. Back to the boot?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And departing?
 22 A. That's correct.
 23 Q. He's now pulling the bag behind him rather than wheeling
 24 it in an upright position?
 25 A. That's right.

15

1 (Video playing continued)
 2 Q. Is that the taxi travelling to pick him up and now
 3 returning with him in?
 4 A. That's correct, it is. He booked that taxi for
 5 collection as soon as he'd got out of his first taxi in
 6 Devell, so he clearly didn't intend on staying very long
 7 in the Micra.
 8 Q. Returning to Granby House?
 9 A. That's correct.
 10 (Video playing continued)
 11 Q. We're now going to see a good example of how heavy that
 12 suitcase is?
 13 A. Yes, he's struggling to get it out of the boot.
 14 Q. Clearly, handling it with a degree of care, certainly as
 15 it was lowered to the ground.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 (Video playing continued)
 18 Q. We can see the suitcase itself flexing as he lifts it
 19 up.
 20 A. Yes, exactly. It's clearly very heavy.
 21 Q. Thank you, Mr Lopez, we can take that -- pause that,
 22 rather.
 23 So having returned to Granby House, does he remain
 24 indoors for over an hour?
 25 A. That's correct.

16

1 Q. Before then going out again at 10.32 without the
2 suitcase this time?
3 A. That's correct, yes.
4 Q. Does he then travel back to the same Screwfix store?
5 A. He does, on foot.
6 Q. On foot. So Mr Lopez, if we can take the footage
7 forward to 11.42, please.
8 We get the same view as we had previously, the same
9 counter. Whilst at Screwfix on this second occasion,
10 does he spend a total of £93.44?
11 A. That's correct, yes. He also returns an item that he
12 had bought the previous day and receives a refund of
13 £6.45.
14 Q. We heard yesterday from Mr Barraclough an indication
15 that there was within the evidence that he was being
16 careful about money?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Might that be one such example?
19 A. This is an example of that, yes.
20 Q. £93.44, and amongst the items that he purchased did he
21 buy 100 hex nuts?
22 A. That's correct, yes.
23 Q. But not amongst the items that he purchased was anything
24 which might correspond with those nuts?
25 A. No, no bolts.

17

1 Q. In fact it's a feature that we'll see throughout, and
2 this is by no means the largest quantity that he buys,
3 that at the time of the purchase there are no
4 corresponding items to the nuts that he's buying?
5 A. That's correct.
6 (Video playing continued)
7 Q. Is that a roll of carpet protector?
8 A. It is, yes.
9 (Video playing continued)
10 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Lopez. We can take that down.
11 He completes that transaction several seconds later,
12 is that right?
13 A. That's correct, he does.
14 Q. And then departs at 11.30 in the morning in order to
15 travel back to Granby House?
16 A. That's correct, he does, yes.
17 Q. Where he arrives just before midday, 11.48?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Is there then, sergeant, a period of just over an hour
20 whilst he's within Granby House?
21 A. That's correct, there is, yes.
22 Q. Which concludes at 12.55 in the afternoon when he leaves
23 Granby House on foot and walks to Sagar Street?
24 A. That's correct.
25 Q. Before he had left Granby House, had a taxi been booked?

18

1 A. Yes, he booked a taxi at 12.14 and asked to be taken
2 to — I believe it was a Cheetham Hill area.
3 Q. So we've got the sequence right: whilst he's inside
4 Granby House for about that hour, he books a taxi,
5 leaves at 12.55, and is he on the phone to the taxi
6 driver on CCTV once he's out of Granby House?
7 A. Yes, that's correct, I believe he gets into the taxi at
8 approximately 1 o'clock.
9 Q. Mr Lopez, if we can go to the still images, please,
10 {INQ031277/34}.
11 Do we see at 1.15, having been dropped off by the
12 taxi, he is in the vicinity of Manchester Merchants?
13 A. That's correct.
14 Q. Which is to the north of the city?
15 A. Yes. Just outside the city, yes, in the Cheetham Hill
16 area.
17 Q. I think we saw that on the map yesterday. Is he in the
18 Manchester Merchants for a period, a very short period
19 indeed, if we go over the page, {INQ031277/35}, just
20 3 minutes later he's emerging, and did he buy a money
21 tin?
22 A. That's correct, he did, yes.
23 Q. Does he then travel on foot past the Hunts Bank steps of
24 the arena?
25 A. That's correct, he does.

19

1 Q. But he doesn't go into any part of the Victoria Exchange
2 complex, is that right?
3 A. That's right.
4 Q. His journey on foot takes him from Hunts Bank to Station
5 Approach?
6 A. That's correct.
7 Q. And does he get into a taxi outside Victoria Railway
8 Station?
9 A. He does, yes.
10 Q. And does that taxi take him to Screwfix for the second
11 time that day?
12 A. It does, via an ATM on Balloon Street, where he
13 withdraws £100.
14 Q. Was the purpose of his trip to Screwfix, as has been
15 discerned from the evidence, that he had paid for
16 a battery earlier that day, but hadn't taken it away?
17 A. That's correct.
18 Q. So it is to collect an earlier purchase?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Is he in Screwfix for a short period of time, as
21 captured on the cameras?
22 A. Yes, he is, yes.
23 Q. We don't need to look at that footage. But having
24 picked up the battery from that second visit to Screwfix
25 for the day, does he take a taxi to Granby House?

20

1 A. Yes. The same taxi that dropped him off, he was outside
 2 for literally a couple of minutes and he gets back in
 3 the same taxi and returns to Granby House.
 4 Q. Where he arrives at just after 2 o'clock?
 5 A. That's correct, yes.
 6 Q. Does he then go out again at 14.38 hours?
 7 A. Yes, he does, that's correct.
 8 Q. Mr Lopez, you have just taken that down. Can I ask you
 9 to take us to {INQ031277/53} of that document?
 10 We can see he's departed.
 11 {INQ031277/54}. Ten minutes later, he is walking up
 12 Princess Street?
 13 A. That's correct.
 14 Q. {INQ031277/55}, 1 minute later. He's got an item in his
 15 hand. Do we know whether that was an item that he left
 16 with?
 17 A. No, we believe this is an example of, as Mr Barraclough
 18 mentioned, that momentarily we do lose him on cameras
 19 and this is one of those 20-minute periods where we
 20 don't have CCTV footage of him. We made enquiries
 21 within the area because we know he stays within that
 22 area through cell site and call data and there is
 23 a newsagent on Sackville Street which used those black
 24 bags and it was the only particular shop in that area
 25 which did use those black bags, so we believe he may

21

1 have gone to that newsagent, but what he purchased, we
 2 do not know.
 3 Q. From this still, does he return to Granby House at
 4 3 o'clock?
 5 A. Yes, that's correct.
 6 Q. Does he remain inside Granby House for a period of just
 7 short of 4 hours?
 8 A. That's correct, yes.
 9 Q. Meaning that he leaves at 18.54?
 10 A. That's right.
 11 Q. Again on foot in order to go to the Arndale Centre?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. We'll pick this up, please, at {INQ031277/61}. Back in
 14 Sports Direct?
 15 A. That's right.
 16 Q. The time we can see from the still is in brackets;
 17 is that because there's some uncertainty about the
 18 calibration?
 19 A. I believe so, yes.
 20 Q. So if we go forward, please, to {INQ031277/69}. Do we
 21 see on a different camera the time now estimated to be
 22 19.38 hours, this is the purchase of the Karrimor Bobcat
 23 rucksack?
 24 A. Yes, that's correct, he'd been in the store about
 25 18 minutes and paid by his Halifax bank card for the

22

1 purchase of that rucksack.
 2 Q. That is the rucksack that contained the device on the
 3 22nd?
 4 A. It is, yes.
 5 Q. Does he go from Sports Direct to WH Smith, on to Tesco,
 6 and then to an ATM?
 7 A. That's correct, he does. He withdraws £250 in cash from
 8 the ATM.
 9 Q. Resulting in his arriving back at Granby House at
 10 20.20 hours?
 11 A. That's correct, yes.
 12 Q. And {INQ031277/92}, please.
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did you say £200? It doesn't matter,
 14 sorry, I didn't quite hear.
 15 A. Sorry, sir, it was £250.
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 17 MR DE LA POER: It's 20.21. Is this the final sighting of
 18 him on the 19th?
 19 A. That's correct, it is, yes.
 20 Q. But do we know that after he arrives back at
 21 Granby House, there is an internet order placed with
 22 Screwfix Direct?
 23 A. Yes, that's correct, at 21.53 hours.
 24 Q. And that is for 5,000 nylon insert nuts?
 25 A. That's correct, yes.

23

1 Q. Just so that we're clear, the reference to nylon, these
 2 are steel nuts with a nylon around the thread --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- which I think has the effect of causing them to lock
 5 more tightly?
 6 A. That's correct, yes.
 7 Q. So 5,000. The order, £296.50.
 8 A. Yes, that's correct. Ordered in the name of Sam Humells
 9 and he gave an address on Cowesby Street, which is
 10 a street where the family used to live some time ago.
 11 Q. Then minutes after making that order, does he book
 12 a taxi the next morning?
 13 A. He does, he books a taxi for collection at 6.30 from
 14 Granby to Wilmslow Road in Rusholme.
 15 Q. If we just summarise the activity on the 19th. Does he
 16 collect items from the Nissan from Devell House?
 17 A. That's correct.
 18 Q. Two visits to Screwfix and a large internet order. One
 19 visit to Manchester Merchants. Walking past the
 20 Victoria Exchange complex and the purchase of the
 21 Karrimor rucksack?
 22 A. That's correct, yes.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And the internet order is to be
 24 delivered where?
 25 A. It's for collection, so when you --

24

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: From Screwfix?
 2 A. That's correct, yes.
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's fine.
 4 MR DE LA POER: And we're going to see that, sir, shortly,
 5 I think. I think it was the 21st that that was
 6 collected; is that right.
 7 A. Yes, I believe it was.
 8 Q. We can take the 20th relatively shortly because there's
 9 less activity that we need to look at.
 10 Dealing with it by way of summary, the taxi that was
 11 booked the night before, does it arrive and transport
 12 him from Granby House at 06.31 hours?
 13 A. It does, yes.
 14 Q. Is that captured on Great Western Street at 06.47?
 15 A. That's correct, yes.
 16 Q. But then the next sighting of Salman Abedi is not until
 17 07.24 as he is returning on foot to Granby House?
 18 A. That's correct.
 19 Q. Is it known where he was for those 30 minutes?
 20 A. Not exactly. We know the area where he was. Whenever
 21 he gets a taxi from New Moon after he's got out of the
 22 taxi, he gets an automated text message from the taxi
 23 company saying, "Thank you for using the taxi service".
 24 So at 6.51 we know he gets a text message from the taxi
 25 company, so we know at that point he is out of the taxi.

25

1 And the cell site that was used when he received
 2 that text message was a similar cell site or the same
 3 cell site that was used when he's previously made phone
 4 always on Oxney Road on the 18th so we know it was
 5 in the rough area of Oxney Road.
 6 Q. Quite what he was doing there, unknown?
 7 A. Unknown.
 8 Q. So he's captured returning to Granby House at 07.24.
 9 Does he then go out just less than an hour later at
 10 08.16 hours?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Does he have a rucksack with him?
 13 A. That's correct, he does, yes.
 14 Q. Does he go to B&M Home Stores in Gorton?
 15 A. Yes, via taxi.
 16 Q. And if we go, please, Mr Lopez — we only need to look
 17 at a small number of these — to {INQ031276/24}.
 18 At 9.09 he's in B&M and the items purchased are
 19 listed on that slide.
 20 A. That's correct.
 21 Q. Did he then go from B&M via taxi to B&Q?
 22 A. He does yes.
 23 Q. That's in Cheetham Hill?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Does he arrive there at 9.38?

26

1 A. That's correct, yes, it does.
 2 Q. {INQ031276/37}, please, Mr Lopez.
 3 We will capture him leaving B&Q with the items that
 4 he bought, so it is now 10.55. So he spends a little
 5 over an hour in B&Q?
 6 A. That's right.
 7 Q. And we can see the list included 20 x zinc-plated metal
 8 dowels and 150 galvanised metal nuts, and a number of
 9 other items?
 10 A. That's correct, yes. He's on the phone booking his taxi
 11 for collection from B&Q.
 12 Q. So from B&Q, does he arrive, at just after 11.30, back
 13 at Granby House?
 14 A. That's correct, he does, yes.
 15 Q. Where he appears to drop off the items that he had
 16 bought from B&M and B&Q?
 17 A. Yes, the taxi remains waiting outside.
 18 Q. And then Mr Lopez, we can just play a short amount of
 19 this footage. {INQ020154/1}.
 20 (Video played to the inquiry)
 21 Q. From 25:23, please. This is the same Screwfix as he's
 22 previously visited?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. The fourth visit since his return to the United Kingdom.
 25 Perhaps as this is playing, you can confirm that the

27

1 purchase, when it completed, was for £35.65?
 2 A. He actually makes two purchases, two separate ones. He
 3 makes purchases of 1,600 metal nuts at a cost of £71.60.
 4 But then he makes a separate purchase of a 5-litre floor
 5 paint can, which was the £35.65.
 6 Q. I beg your pardon. Let's briefly consider the former.
 7 So that was 16 packets, each of which contained 100
 8 nuts?
 9 A. That's correct, yes.
 10 (Video playing continued)
 11 Q. We'll watch this through so we can have a sense of the
 12 volume of that purchase, which is captured towards the
 13 end of this sequence.
 14 A. You can see that whilst he's waiting for the nuts to be
 15 collected and picked, he then makes this separate
 16 purchase.
 17 Q. So the nuts, did they require the help of a shop
 18 assistant?
 19 A. That's right, yes.
 20 (Video playing continued)
 21 Q. Having been collected and brought in that blue
 22 container, the assistant is then bagging them up for
 23 him?
 24 A. That's correct, he is, yes.
 25 (Video playing continued)

28

1 Q. Thank you, Mr Lopez.
 2 So from Screwfix, does Salman Abedi get into a taxi
 3 at 11.55?
 4 A. That's correct, yes.
 5 Q. Arriving back at Granby House 7 minutes later?
 6 A. That's right.
 7 Q. So it's almost exactly midday on the 20th?
 8 A. Yes, just after.
 9 Q. Does he then remain within Granby House for a period of
 10 7 hours?
 11 A. That's correct, yes.
 12 Q. Leaving briefly at 19.12 hours, carrying a can of paint?
 13 A. That's correct, yes.
 14 Q. And did the investigation establish traces of paint in
 15 a nearby storm drain?
 16 A. That's correct, we did, yes.
 17 Q. Is the inference that the investigation drew that he
 18 left the flat in order to empty out the paint?
 19 A. That's correct, yes.
 20 Q. So that was a brief departure at 19.12 hours. Was there
 21 a more substantial departure at 19.43?
 22 A. That's correct, yes.
 23 Q. Where he goes to Spar, then Salisbury's, and finally to
 24 Tesco Express?
 25 A. That's correct, yes.

29

1 Q. Does he not appear to buy anything in the first two?
 2 A. No, he doesn't.
 3 Q. But he clearly finds what he was looking for because in
 4 Tesco Express he buys rubber gloves --
 5 A. That's correct, yes.
 6 Q. -- before returning to Granby House? We don't need to
 7 bring up the slide, but is it at 20.25 when we have the
 8 final sighting of him returning to Granby House?
 9 A. Yes, we do.
 10 Q. So in summary for the 20th, purchases from B&M, B&Q and
 11 a fourth visit in 3 days to Screwfix?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. 21 May. Is the first sighting of Salman Abedi at 09.17?
 14 A. That's correct, it is, yes.
 15 Q. Is that him leaving Granby House in order to go to
 16 Screwfix?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. So Mr Lopez, {INQ020157/1}. Starting at 01:45, please.
 19 (Video played to the inquiry)
 20 As we are watching this, perhaps, sergeant, you can
 21 confirm that on this visit to Screwfix he spends a total
 22 of £70.66?
 23 A. He does, yes. He also enquires as to whether he can
 24 collect his internet order, but he is told it's not
 25 ready for collection yet.

30

1 Q. That's the internet order he placed on the night of the
 2 18th, is that correct?
 3 A. I believe it was the 19th.
 4 Q. Quite right, the 19th.
 5 Amongst the items that he does take away with him on
 6 that occasion, are there a number of tools?
 7 A. There are, yes.
 8 Q. I don't think we need to watch that transaction through
 9 to conclusion. We can move forward. We will be coming
 10 back to that very shortly, that footage.
 11 Having spent £70.66, does Salman Abedi leave
 12 Screwfix at 09.44?
 13 A. That's correct, he does, yes.
 14 Q. And arrives back at Granby House at 10.01?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Is he then inside Granby House until 10.35?
 17 A. Yes, he is.
 18 Q. At which point he leaves for a period of about
 19 10 minutes to buy some food, cleaning items and air
 20 freshener?
 21 A. Yes, that's correct.
 22 Q. Does he then leave briefly at 10.56?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. And is that to -- so the investigation has inferred --
 25 empty another tin of paint down the drain?

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1 A. That's correct.
 2 Q. Having returned back to Granby House, that task done at
 3 11.03, is he then inside Granby House for a period of
 4 just over 3.5 hours?
 5 A. He is, that's correct.
 6 Q. Leaving at 14.47 in a taxi he'd booked just after
 7 2 o'clock?
 8 A. That's correct.
 9 Q. And that taxi takes him to Screwfix, where he arrives at
 10 14.56?
 11 A. Yes. He had rang Screwfix at 12.47 and reduced his
 12 online order, I believe, from 5,000 nuts to 2,000 nuts.
 13 Q. So let's just bring up, please, that same footage that
 14 we had, 10:21. Again we'll watch this through, it's
 15 just 3 minutes, so we can see the volume of his order.
 16 We'll remind ourselves, as that's coming up, the
 17 order on the 19th had been for 5,000 nuts?
 18 A. That's correct, yes.
 19 Q. And as you say, there was a telephone call in which
 20 he had reduced it to 2,000 nuts?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. It's those 2,000 that are to be collected.
 23 (Video played to the inquiry)
 24 As we're watching this, in terms of the cost, had it
 25 been £296 for the 5,000 nuts?

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1 A. That's correct, yes.
 2 Q. But because the order was reduced, was there a refund of
 3 £177.90?
 4 A. That's right, there was, yes.
 5 (Video playing continued)
 6 Q. Thank you, Mr Lopez.
 7 Does he leave Screwfix at 3.10?
 8 A. He does, yes.
 9 Q. In a taxi that returns him to Granby House at just
 10 before 3.45?
 11 A. That's correct, yes.
 12 Q. Is he then inside for a period of about 2.5 hours?
 13 A. Yes, he is.
 14 Q. Does he leave at 18.26 in a bus before taking a tram to
 15 the Victoria Railway Station?
 16 A. That's correct, yes.
 17 Q. And between 18.53 and 19.12, does he conduct the hostile
 18 reconnaissance that we have already seen?
 19 A. That's right, yes.
 20 Q. Having done so, does Salman Abedi go back to
 21 Granby House at 19.36?
 22 A. That's correct, yes.
 23 Q. Having purchased some milk on the way?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Is the final sighting of him on the 21st at 19.44 hours,

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1 going back into Granby House?
 2 A. It is, yes.
 3 Q. So if we just summarise 21 May. Are there the fifth and
 4 sixth visits to Screwfix --
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. -- since his arrival back in the United Kingdom? And
 7 a second clear occasion of hostile reconnaissance?
 8 A. Yes, that's correct.
 9 Q. The final day, 22 May. Did Salman Abedi leave
 10 Granby House at 8.32?
 11 A. He did, yes.
 12 Q. In order to withdraw some cash?
 13 A. Yes. He withdrew £400 from an ATM just around the
 14 corner from Granby Row.
 15 Q. Does he go back to Granby House, such that he is back
 16 inside by 8.45?
 17 A. That's correct, yes.
 18 Q. Is he not seen again until 12.30?
 19 A. Yes, that's right.
 20 Q. Mr Lopez, {INQ020160/12}.
 21 We see that second departure of this day, this time
 22 with the large Kangol suitcase?
 23 A. That's correct, yes.
 24 Q. At this stage is there a rucksack apparent on his back?
 25 A. There is, yes.

34

1 Q. There is?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. So he has a small rucksack, this is not the Karrimor
 4 Bobcat rucksack?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. It's the one that he arrived, so it would seem, back
 7 in the country with?
 8 A. That's correct, yes, it's a Nike rucksack.
 9 Q. Does he lead that suitcase into a taxi that drops him off
 10 in the vicinity of Houldsworth Street?
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. Does he then walk through the streets for a period of
 13 time?
 14 A. He does, yes.
 15 Q. During which he is captured with a black bin bag in his
 16 hand?
 17 A. That's correct, yes.
 18 Q. Should we draw the inference, or is there an available
 19 inference, that that bag must have been concealed either
 20 in the rucksack or in his large Kangol suitcase because
 21 he doesn't appear to have it in his hand before then?
 22 A. I think that's correct, yes.
 23 Q. So some items in a black bag concealed in another bag
 24 for a period of time and then put in a bin?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And put in a bin some distance from Granby House?
 2 A. Yes, Stevenson Square, we think, is the rough area where
 3 he put the bin bag in a bin.
 4 Q. Having been out for a little less than 45 minutes, does
 5 he return to Granby House at 13.12 hours?
 6 A. That's correct, he does, yes.
 7 Q. So withdrawing cash, then disposing of items --
 8 A. That's correct, yes.
 9 Q. -- so far that day?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Is he then not seen again until 17.30 hours?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. Mr Lopez, {INQ020160/26}.
 14 Is he here captured disposing of two full black bin
 15 liners in the basement of Granby House?
 16 A. That's right, he is, yes.
 17 Q. So were the items in the bag he disposed of earlier ever
 18 recovered?
 19 A. They weren't, no.
 20 Q. Clearly, it seems that there is a distinction drawn in
 21 his mind at least between the items that needed to be
 22 disposed of away from Granby House and these items which
 23 were dumped in the basement?
 24 A. That's correct, it appears that way, yes.
 25 Q. Having disposed of those two full bin bags, at 17.55

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1 does he leave Granby House in order to travel to the
 2 Muslim Youth Foundation?
 3 A. He does, yes.
 4 Q. {INQ020160/28}, please.
 5 The final INQ for moving footage, please. We're
 6 going to consider his activity at the Muslim Youth
 7 Foundation. {INQ020156/1}, starting at 11:34.
 8 We can see on the start slide there, Rabie Zreba is
 9 the person that he is to meet up with?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. Was that by arrangement, sergeant?
 12 A. It was, yes, there had been previous phone contact prior
 13 to that meeting.
 14 (Video played to the inquiry)
 15 Q. Who's the person circled in yellow?
 16 A. That's Mr Zreba. The call data confirms -- he is
 17 looking at his phone there -- there is communication at
 18 that time between him and Salman Abedi.
 19 Q. So making arrangements to meet is the inference?
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You couldn't keep your voice up a bit,
 21 could you? Occasionally I'm finding it a bit difficult .
 22 It is probably me being a bit deaf or something.
 23 (Video playing continued)
 24 MR DE LA POER: Sir, just so you and others are aware, the
 25 inquiry is expecting to hear from Mr Zreba next week.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 2 (Video playing continued)
 3 MR DE LA POER: Sergeant, as we're waiting for Salman Abedi
 4 to go inside, can you confirm that the investigation
 5 established that the purpose of this meeting was to make
 6 a money transfer?
 7 A. That's correct, yes, to Libya.
 8 Q. Something that Mr Zreba was able to facilitate?
 9 A. That's right, yes.
 10 (Video playing continued)
 11 Q. We see Salman Abedi was off camera for a period of time
 12 there.
 13 A. That's correct.
 14 Q. What direction would he travel from walking under the
 15 camera, do you know?
 16 A. Apologies, I don't know the layout of that building .
 17 (Video playing continued)
 18 Q. Thank you, Mr Lopez.
 19 So having concluded the time he had in Rabie Zreba's
 20 company, did Salman Abedi travel by tram to the arena
 21 for his final hostile reconnaissance visit ?
 22 A. That's correct, yes, he walked a short distance to
 23 Shudehill tram stop and got the tram just one stop into
 24 Victoria.
 25 Q. Did he arrive, as we have seen earlier in these

38

1 proceedings, at 18.31?
 2 A. That's correct, yes.
 3 Q. And was he there for just 5 minutes, leaving at 18.36?
 4 A. That's correct, yes.
 5 Q. Did he arrive back by taxi at Granby House at 6.50?
 6 A. Yes, he did.
 7 Q. So Mr Lopez, just a handful more slides, please. Going
 8 back to {INQ020160/57}.
 9 We see the penultimate departure from Granby House.
 10 On this occasion with a suitcase?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And a rucksack?
 13 A. That's correct, yes.
 14 Q. {INQ020160/61}, please, 20 minutes later.
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: This is the small rucksack again?
 16 MR DE LA POER: Indeed, thank you, sir, for that
 17 clarification . Absolutely, this is the Nike rucksack
 18 that he came into the country with?
 19 A. That's correct.
 20 Q. We can see Salman Abedi in the top slide at 19.45
 21 dragging the suitcase behind him, and a different angle,
 22 seconds later, at 19.45.44.
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.
 24 Q. If we go over the page to {INQ020160/62}, please.
 25 19.47, Salman Abedi appears from Minshull Street

39

1 South and crosses Fairfield Street. A note in red:
 2 "No longer in possession of the suitcase."
 3 Something which perhaps is clearer when you watch
 4 the moving footage.
 5 A. Yes. That's correct, he's no longer got the suitcase.
 6 Q. What that means is that at some point between the
 7 previous slide, which is 19.45, and this slide, 19.47,
 8 off camera, that suitcase has been disposed of?
 9 A. Yes, we assessed either on Ebdon Street or Minshull
 10 Street South.
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So he still has the rucksack but not the
 12 suitcase.
 13 MR DE LA POER: For the time being certainly, sir.
 14 The suitcase, as we know, was never recovered?
 15 A. That was never recovered.
 16 Q. So over the page, please, to {INQ020160/63}. Perhaps it
 17 is easier to make out on the moving footage. Was the
 18 investigation satisfied that, as the chairman just
 19 asked, the rucksack is still with Salman Abedi at this
 20 point?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. But at {INQ020160/64}, we're now 8 minutes later --
 23 forgive me, 19.47 still, and we can see the rucksack is
 24 on his back and then a helpful map indicating where that
 25 rucksack was recovered from?

40

1 A. That's correct, yes.
 2 Q. That is the rucksack which we've heard about that was
 3 recovered from the area near the Macdonald hotel?
 4 A. That's correct, yes.
 5 Q. That rucksack contained two passports, a Libyan one and
 6 British passport?
 7 A. Yes, in the name of Salman Abedi, yes.
 8 Q. And near to that rucksack, was that the area where the
 9 member of the public described finding the Galaxy mobile
 10 telephone?
 11 A. Yes, the Macdonald hotel, from the waste ground where we
 12 recovered the rucksack, is approximately 50 yards.
 13 Q. 50 yards or so?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. So the inference being that at the same time that the
 16 rucksack was disposed of, the phone was also disposed
 17 of?
 18 A. That would make sense, yes.
 19 Q. So having disposed of those items, did Salman Abedi then
 20 catch a taxi to Piccadilly Station?
 21 A. He caught a taxi from Piccadilly Station.
 22 Q. At Piccadilly Station, back to Granby House?
 23 A. That's correct, yes.
 24 Q. So arriving back at 20.00 hours?
 25 A. Yes.

41

1 Q. Does the taxi that took him from Piccadilly through to
 2 Granby House wait outside?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Such that if we look at {INQ020160/71}, as Salman Abedi
 5 is leaving Granby House, just 6 minutes later, he's
 6 going back to the same taxi that he picked up at
 7 Piccadilly?
 8 A. That's correct, yes.
 9 Q. Is the driver of that taxi a man by the name of
 10 Tariq Nadeem?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Again, the inquiry expects to hear from Mr Nadeem next
 13 week.
 14 Where did Mr Nadeem drive Salman Abedi to?
 15 A. He drove him towards the arena, but en route they
 16 stopped at a cashpoint, where Salman Abedi withdrew £50
 17 in cash. He's then taken on and he gets out of the taxi
 18 near Shudehill tram station.
 19 Q. We're going to watch that now, please, Mr Lopez. Back
 20 to the same footage, {INQ020156/1}, starting, please, at
 21 29:09.
 22 (Video played to the inquiry)
 23 I think we've there seen the summary that you have
 24 just given us. We're going to pick up where that
 25 slide ...

42

1 (Video playing continued)
 2 Sergeant, the final departure from Granby House?
 3 A. It is, yes.
 4 Q. Wearing the Karrimor Bobcat rucksack, which, as we know,
 5 contains his device?
 6 A. That's correct, yes.
 7 Q. Is that Mr Nadeem's taxi?
 8 A. I believe so, yes, it is.
 9 Q. Does it follow then that we don't have footage of
 10 Salman Abedi getting into the taxi?
 11 A. No, it appears to be just off that camera view.
 12 Q. So how he arranges himself and that bag is not captured
 13 by CCTV?
 14 A. No, it's not, no.
 15 Q. But here, as you described for us a moment ago, we can
 16 see he's getting out of the taxi, and the rucksack, it's
 17 clear, had remained on his back during the journey?
 18 A. Yes, that's right.
 19 (Video playing continued)
 20 Q. We see the rucksack is not removed in order to get back
 21 into the taxi.
 22 A. No, it's not.
 23 (Video playing continued)
 24 Q. Just so everybody understands where we are going with
 25 this, we'll take it up to the point of arrival at

43

1 Victoria Station, sir, having viewed the subsequent
 2 footage several times already.
 3 (Video playing continued)
 4 Q. Has Salman Abedi just appeared from the right of the
 5 shot as the circle indicates?
 6 A. Yes, that's correct.
 7 (Video playing continued)
 8 Q. It's 20.16 as that shot appeared. We see indicated that
 9 he is on the platform for some minutes?
 10 A. That's correct, he is, yes.
 11 Q. Is he captured making or trying to make a number of
 12 phone calls?
 13 A. He is, yes.
 14 (Video playing continued)
 15 Q. He appears to have the handset to his ear at this point;
 16 is that right?
 17 A. That's right.
 18 Q. And can you confirm that the last call from that Alcatel
 19 handset was at 20.23.55?
 20 A. Yes, that's correct.
 21 Q. Lasting a period of 4 minutes and 12 seconds?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Meaning that that call terminated at about the time,
 24 within a second or two, of him boarding this tram?
 25 A. That's correct, yes.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I expect I've already been told, that
 2 phone call was to?
 3 MR DE LA POER: Libya.
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 5 MR DE LA POER: Thank you, Mr Lopez. We can see from the
 6 next still, a shot we're all now very familiar with, the
 7 arrival at the Victoria complex for the final time.
 8 So if we just summarise together, please, sergeant,
 9 22 May, as we have seen it. We don't need to provide
 10 a summary of what happens subsequently.
 11 Does Salman Abedi dispose of a number of items
 12 in the course of the day?
 13 A. He does.
 14 Q. Including a black bag away from Granby House, two black
 15 bin liners in the basement of Granby House, and then the
 16 rucksack containing his passports, the Galaxy mobile
 17 phone and the Kangol suitcase, those latter three
 18 categories all away from Granby House?
 19 A. That's correct.
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And none of the contents of the black
 21 bags have been recovered?
 22 A. The black bags that were in the bin at the basement of
 23 Granby House, we recovered those and there was a number
 24 of exhibits pertinent to our investigation within those
 25 bags.

1 The black bag he disposed of away from Granby Row we
 2 did not recover.
 3 MR DE LA POER: And you did, of course, recover the phone,
 4 the passports, the rucksack, but not the suitcase?
 5 A. There was also a Timberland sort of manbag he disposed
 6 of on the Wyre Street waste ground.
 7 Q. So in addition in disposing of those items, does he also
 8 conduct that final act of hostile reconnaissance that we
 9 watched up to and after?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. Does he make money arrangements with Rabie Zreba?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Make a final phone call just before arriving at the
 14 arena to Libya?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And then his final journey to the arena in order to
 17 carry out his murderous attack?
 18 A. That's correct, yes.
 19 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much indeed, sergeant. Those
 20 are all the questions that I have for you.
 21 Sir, we don't have any indication from core
 22 participants of any questions for this officer.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Were statements taken from the
 24 assistants at Screwfix?
 25 A. Yes, they were, sir.

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Could I see them at some stage?
 2 A. Yes, certainly.
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 4 I think the idea is now to break off.
 5 MR DE LA POER: Yes, sir.
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: When are we restarting?
 7 MR HORWELL: I am told that it's very likely Mr Barraclough
 8 will now be within the building.
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much for that. Let me
 10 confirm, there's a very good reason why he was unable to
 11 be here to start of which I have been informed and I'm
 12 grateful for that.
 13 MR DE LA POER: I know Mr Horwell will want an opportunity
 14 to speak to Mr Barraclough.
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Shall we have a 30-minute break? 11.25.
 16 MR HORWELL: Thank you very much, sir.
 17 (10.56 am)
 18 (A short break)
 19 (11.26 am)
 20 DCS SIMON BARRACLOUGH (continued)
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Barraclough, for coming
 22 back so promptly today.
 23 MR GREANEY: Sir, I believe that Mr Weatherby had wanted to
 24 say something before the break, but there was a problem
 25 with his microphone. My understanding is that that has

1 now been resolved, so I hope that Mr Weatherby will now
 2 be able to rejoin us.
 3 MR WEATHERBY: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes, thank you. We can't see you yet.
 5 MR WEATHERBY: Before I ask questions of Mr Barraclough,
 6 I did actually want to ask a question arising out of
 7 matters for the previous witness. However, I'm sure
 8 I can deal with it by a submission later, so I don't
 9 think anything will be lost and I don't think it's
 10 necessary to ask him to come back into the witness box.
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If you want to state the question,
 12 we can make sure you get the answer.
 13 MR WEATHERBY: It was around the early morning trip on
 14 20 May to the Rusholme area. It didn't come across
 15 clearly. It may have come across clearly to everybody
 16 else, but it didn't come across clearly to me exactly
 17 the geography. The fact is that the taxi appears to
 18 have dropped Mr Abedi off within about 250 metres of
 19 Devell House, but he plainly didn't go to Devell House
 20 because he would have been seen on the CCTV. I'm happy
 21 to deal with that by way of submission or assistance on
 22 the facts later on if that's convenient.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If there is any more information about
 24 where he went -- I did notice at the time as well, but
 25 if there's any more information about where he went

1 rather than Devell House, of course we will supply that
 2 information to you.
 3 MR WEATHERBY: Yes, indeed, but the point I was going to
 4 make through the officer is they've obviously conducted
 5 a very thorough investigation of that and in fact there
 6 isn't any evidence of how he got back to the flat, so
 7 what he was doing or how he got back to the flat at that
 8 point. That's what I was going to try to adduce in
 9 evidence, but I'm sure I can deal with that in
 10 submission.
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll make sure that's checked up,
 12 thank you.
 13 MR WEATHERBY: Thank you.
 14 Questions from MR WEATHERBY (continued)
 15 MR WEATHERBY: Mr Barraclough, I don't have very much more
 16 for you and I hope I can deal with it simply through two
 17 TIE documents relating to Alzoubare and
 18 Mr Abdalraouf Ali. It may be convenient — I'm not in
 19 any way trying to stop you saying whatever to the
 20 questions I'm about to ask you, but it may be on some of
 21 it you can simply accept what I say subject to checking
 22 the documents. That's a matter for you when I ask the
 23 questions.
 24 A. Yes, Mr Weatherby.
 25 Q. Final section, and I promise to be swift with it.

1 The investigation looked at Mr Alzoubare and
 2 Mr Abdalraouf Ali particularly with respect to their
 3 relationship with Abdalraouf Abdallah; is that right?
 4 A. Not particularly in relation to that relationship. It
 5 was completely across the piece around all of their
 6 activities.
 7 Q. Okay. I'm sure that's right. I'm going to ask you
 8 primarily about their interactions with Mr Abdallah and
 9 what the approach of the investigation was to it.
 10 Just for everybody watching, Mr Abdallah is the man
 11 who has recently been released on licence with respect
 12 to the 9.5-year sentence for terrorism offences,
 13 effectively grooming young men to fight for IS in Syria;
 14 is that right?
 15 A. Yes, that's right.
 16 Q. Abdalraouf Ali is Abdalraouf Abdallah's brother-in-law
 17 and Mr Alzoubare is Mr Abdalraouf Ali's cousin; yes?
 18 A. I'm not 100% sure about that. I would describe
 19 Mr Alzoubare as Mr Ali's cousin, but I need to check
 20 that.
 21 Q. If I didn't check that that's what I meant to say. He
 22 is Abdalraouf Ali's cousin?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. We've already mentioned them both in the discussion we
 25 had yesterday. Mr Alzoubare is linked to matters that

1 occurred at Devell House and both Mr Alzoubare and
 2 Mr Ali were present at the meeting in Moss Side that we
 3 considered yesterday. And when you have time, that's
 4 the matter that you're going to do some further checking
 5 for us on. That's the meeting with the "boy did good
 6 at the arena" quote that I put to you yesterday.
 7 Just on that, can you confirm that in both of the
 8 documents that I have referred to, the TIEs for Mr Ali
 9 and Mr Alzoubare, exactly the same account of that
 10 Moss Side meeting is in both of those documents as I put
 11 to you yesterday?
 12 A. I don't know whether that has any meaning to be honest
 13 because it is a single account where there are some
 14 difficulties in relation to that account.
 15 Q. Okay. You're going to come back to us.
 16 A. And that account is from that single source and is then
 17 repeated in both documents merely because it's from the
 18 single source. So the fact that it's duplicated doesn't
 19 necessarily add value to it, I'm afraid.
 20 Q. Right. Well, that's fair enough. The reality is that
 21 the answer to my question is: yes, it's recounted in
 22 both of those documents; is that right?
 23 A. Yes, it is reported in both those documents.
 24 Q. Thank you. I'll park that because, of course, when
 25 you have an opportunity, you will be looking at that

1 again.
 2 In relation to Abdalraouf Ali and Mr Alzoubare in
 3 fact, again in both these documents, an assessment is
 4 made about the approach that was being taken at the time
 5 these reports were written. I want to just read to you
 6 a section from page 10 of Mr Ali's report. I don't know
 7 whether you have it there in front of you.
 8 A. I do, actually, but please forgive me, I haven't had
 9 a chance to read both reports in full, so again there's
 10 35 pages of very close and dense information.
 11 Q. That's why I'm approaching it in the way that
 12 I indicated earlier. I will put some questions to you
 13 and I'm absolutely happy, and I hope you will, check and
 14 come back to us if anything that I say is objectionable
 15 or wrong. So I'm aware, and the chair, I'm sure, is
 16 aware, that you have not had a recent opportunity to
 17 look at these.
 18 Just for the record, I don't want this on the
 19 screen, it's {INQ030783/10}.
 20 I'm going to read a few lines under the heading
 21 "Prison visits" and the first paragraph after that.
 22 That recounts Abdalraouf Abdallah's conviction and
 23 where he was in prison at various times. Then the last
 24 four lines of that paragraph —
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm somewhat unhappy about this. Could

1 we stop the feed for a moment on this? Is it possible
2 to do that?

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 25 MR GREANEY: We can now resume the feed.

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1 Mr Weatherby, would you bear with us just for
 2 a moment or two while we check that that has been
 3 achieved?
 4 (Pause)
 5 Mr Weatherby, you can now resume your questioning.
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And thank you for the time which we've
 7 taken to clear up the extent of the questions and where
 8 they are at the moment. Thank you very much.
 9 MR WEATHERBY: Mr Barraclough, Mr Alzoubare, {INQ030783/14}
 10 of the TIE report. Can you accept from me and check
 11 later perhaps that Mr Alzoubare attended a number of
 12 prison visits with Mr Abdallah during the course of
 13 2017, I think it was four visits : 25 January,
 14 13 February, 6 March and 19 April?
 15 A. Yes, I believe 6 March — I don't... No, I'm sorry,
 16 you're absolutely right, yes. That's right.
 17 Q. Thank you very much. Then the next page {INQ030783/15}.
 18 There's a lot of phone contact between Mr Alzoubare and
 19 Mr Abdallah. I don't want to refer to all of it, I just
 20 want to refer to some specific important dates. First
 21 of all, Mr Abdallah was using an illicit or illegal
 22 phone in prison, wasn't he?
 23 A. Yes, I believe so.
 24 Q. On 20 May, 2 days before the bombing, there were four
 25 calls from Mr Abdallah to Mr Alzoubare's phone lasting a

1 total of 39 minutes, approximately. Would you accept
 2 that and maybe check it later?
 3 A. I do accept that. Again, I'm not able to comment on the
 4 context or the investigation around that.
 5 Q. Thank you. I'm not asking you to, thank you.
 6 21 May. Three calls between Mr Abdallah and
 7 Mr Alzoubare lasting 20 minutes approximately?
 8 A. On 21 May?
 9 Q. Yes.
 10 A. Yes, I think one is an actual text message, isn't it?
 11 Q. No, there is a text message as well, but there's --
 12 A. I'm sorry, yes, you're right.
 13 Q. Then on 22 May, there is a call at approximately 8.30
 14 in the evening, which lasts for about 38 minutes, so it
 15 concludes approximately an hour and a half before the
 16 bomb is detonated; yes?
 17 A. Yes, that would appear to be the case.
 18 Q. Thank you. Contact between Mr Alzoubare and the Abedi
 19 brothers. The document describes a "long-standing
 20 associate". It says:
 21 "Mr Alzoubare is a long-standing associate of both
 22 Salman and Hashem Abedi."
 23 And I don't think you'll find that controversial?
 24 A. No.
 25 Q. It refers to substantial contact between Mr Alzoubare

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1 going back at least to 2015 and contact on certain key
 2 dates in 2017. Can you agree with that?
 3 A. I'm sure that's the case, yes.
 4 Q. Mr Alzoubare speaks and messages with Mr Salman Abedi
 5 whilst Salman Abedi was in Libya on 15 May; do you agree
 6 with that?
 7 A. From recollection, I agree, but I'd have to check round
 8 the details of that.
 9 Q. Thank you.
 10 He sends, during the course of that, I think
 11 messaging, he sends Mr Elmehdi's number to Salman Abedi
 12 at Salman Abedi's request?
 13 A. I believe that's correct, yes.
 14 Q. He provided Mr Taghdi, who we discussed yesterday, with
 15 Mr Abedi's Libyan number the following day on 16 May?
 16 A. Yes, I think that's right.
 17 Q. The document describes Mr Alzoubare as a close associate
 18 of Mr Elmehdi and Mr Alzoubare's phone when interrogated
 19 was found to contain images of Mr Elmehdi with military
 20 weapons; yes?
 21 A. Again, I would have to check the document, but if you
 22 say that's in the document, I'm sure that's right.
 23 Q. Thank you. Just to remind ourselves or those listening,
 24 Mr Alzoubare is seen at Devell House a number of times
 25 and he was at what I have described as the meeting

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1 in the small hours of 23 May in the car park. I think
 2 you'll remember, I put to you that he was the one who
 3 put the bin across the gate to allow Mr Elmehdi's car
 4 in.
 5 A. You did indeed, yes.
 6 Q. Then finally on Mr Alzoubare, some time after Mr Taghdi
 7 visited the Micra, on the mid-afternoon of 23 May,
 8 before the meeting in Moss Side, there were 12 calls
 9 between him, Mr Alzoubare, and Mr Taghdi.
 10 {INQ030783/13} of the document. Again, you may want to
 11 check that later rather than...
 12 A. I understand. If you're saying that's in the document,
 13 we'll certainly check, thank you.
 14 Q. Thank you very much.
 15 On to Mr Ali. There was frequent communication
 16 between Mr Ali and Mr Abdullah via the illicit prison
 17 phone, wasn't there?
 18 A. Would you refer me to the page?
 19 Q. {INQ030783/11} of the document. I'm just putting it in
 20 broad terms. There was frequent communication between
 21 the two?
 22 A. Again, I believe that to be correct.
 23 Q. Indeed, quite a number of visits both to Altcourse and
 24 Belmarsh. That's at {INQ030783/10} of the document.
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And significant contact between Mr Ali and phones
 2 attributed to Salman and Hashem Abedi up until the
 3 afternoon of 14 April, which of course is the day before
 4 they left for Libya. That's {INQ030783/9} of the
 5 document.
 6 A. Yes. Again, that will need context.
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Ali is Abdallah's cousin; is that
 8 right?
 9 MR WEATHERBY: No, brother-in-law.
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 11 A. Mr Alzoubare is the cousin of Mr Ali.
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And Ali is the brother-in-law of
 13 Abdallah?
 14 A. Yes, sir.
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 16 MR WEATHERBY: Mr Ali had contact with Mr Elmehdi and also
 17 the Sadigh brothers. Pages {INQ030783/9} and
 18 {INQ030783/12} of the document.
 19 A. Again, I'm sure you're right, Mr Weatherby.
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We will check all these and it would be
 21 helpful for me to have them on a document which confirms
 22 what the contacts are and when.
 23 MR WEATHERBY: We'll do that.
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 25 MR WEATHERBY: Finally in terms of his connections, again

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1 he was at — I think you confirmed this yesterday — the
 2 meeting in Moss Side which we've already covered. The
 3 reference for that is {INQ030783/7}.

4 Two points of context with Mr Ali. His electronic
 5 devices were seized and on one of them it shows him
 6 firing a gun in Libya, a military gun, in 2011.
 7 {INQ030783/13} of the document.

8 (Pause)

9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Perhaps we'll check that when you've had
 10 proper time to look.

11 MR WEATHERBY: Finally from me, when his phone was seized,
 12 it was found that he'd done a factory reset of it on
 13 25 May. That's {INQ030783/7} of the document.

14 A. Yes, I think that's right.

15 Q. In fact, he gave some false information about that,
 16 saying that he'd only had it from that date or about
 17 that date; is that right?

18 A. Again, I'm sure that's right.

19 MR WEATHERBY: It's in the investigation document,
 20 {INQ030783/7}, and that can be checked.

21 Mr Barraclough, thank you very much.

22 MR GREANEY: Mr Jamieson has some questions on behalf of the
 23 families he represents.

24 Questions from MR JAMIESON

25 MR JAMIESON: Very limited questions, I may say, after

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1 Mr Weatherby's careful examination.

2 Before I ask them, I am asked, please, to make one
 3 thing clear. It has been obvious through the evidence
 4 that there is no bright line between chapter 8 and
 5 chapter 13 and indeed I think it's likely to be the
 6 position of the families in due course that close
 7 consideration of more historic matters than are going to
 8 be covered in chapter 13 is going to be necessary to
 9 understand the import or not of some of the events.

10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I quite understand that. There is
 11 a bright line in terms of what they're talking about.
 12 So this is talking about the events which actually lead
 13 up to or contribute to the murders taking place. The
 14 other is to do with radicalisation, which covers
 15 obviously a much broader topic than that.

16 MR JAMIESON: Yes. If I may say, all of my questions are
 17 going to be in relation to the facts in the lead-up.
 18 The reason I'm asked to make it clear is because you
 19 know Mr Cooper is not here this week because he's in the
 20 Court of Appeal. He will be asking questions when it
 21 comes to chapter 13 and he's anxious that I make plain
 22 that when he does so, it may refer back to some of these
 23 events, so I have done so.

24 Mr Barraclough, just a few things. I'm not going to
 25 number them because the chair already thinks that

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1 I can't count to 3, so I am not going to do that, but
 2 just a number of —

3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You could always try and practice.

4 MR JAMIESON: I'm not going to come back. I think the
 5 transcript may show that there were three questions on
 6 the last occasion, but there it is.

7 Just a handful of topics. The first thing I want to
 8 ask you about is, and really the unifying theme, is
 9 facts that the families would like to understand in
 10 context: Mr Elmehdi, Mr Alzilitni, and the Micra.

11 I think you have a bundle with nine documents in it
 12 in hard copy. I hope so.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I'd just like to remind you of something you've looked
 15 at already. It's coming to you now.

16 (Handed)

17 In the first tab, there is the TIE report for
 18 Mr Elmehdi. For reference, but please not to go up on
 19 the screen, that is {INQ030796/1}. Could you just look
 20 at {INQ030796/6} of that document, at the bottom under
 21 the heading of "Inconsistencies". This is something
 22 you have looked at already, all right? What I just want
 23 to establish with you is opportunities, what the
 24 evidence may suggest, times at which Mr Elmehdi and
 25 Mr Alzilitni have looked into the car and what may or

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1 may not have changed about the contents of the car
 2 between those two points. It's probably not a very
 3 clear way of expressing it.

4 A. I understand.

5 Q. You'll remember on the first day of your evidence that
 6 we watched that animation of what was presented at the
 7 trial of Hashem Abedi to be the journey of the Micra to
 8 Devell House. Mr Weatherby asked you about a call at
 9 1.13 in the morning. I can say I've been back and
 10 checked that animation. That call is on the animation
 11 and the case that was presented at Hashem Abedi's trial
 12 is that call was taking place at almost the same moment
 13 that the items were coming out of the taxi and going
 14 into the Micra.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But if we just look at what was said in interview by
 17 Mr Elmehdi and Mr Blidi about whether or not Mr Elmehdi
 18 had looked in the car at around the time it had come
 19 into the car park, what Mr Blidi said was Mr Elmehdi had
 20 said to him that although Mr Blidi only found out about
 21 it later, Elmehdi had assisted in the Micra coming into
 22 the car park and would be worried about being seen on
 23 CCTV.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Mr Elmehdi didn't accept that, but he did accept, if

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1 just look at the bottom of this page -- it's the last
 2 two lines:
 3 "Question: When did you notice the car was in the
 4 car park?
 5 "Answer: The day I went to tell Blidi."
 6 Which he puts at the day after, or just after,
 7 Salman Abedi went to Libya 2 or 3 days after. The
 8 precise date isn't important, but if I say "in April",
 9 that's what he seems to be saying.
 10 A. Yes, possibly.
 11 Q. That's what he seems to be saying. I'm not suggesting
 12 it's true, but that's what he seems to be saying.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Just again to make something clear, no CCTV is available
 15 from that time to resolve that difference?
 16 A. No, it's not.
 17 Q. However, you do have CCTV from 21 May, which shows, as
 18 you went through with Mr Weatherby, Mr Elmehdi
 19 approaching the car and seeming to look in it --
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. -- to the passenger side and to the rear? Again, I'm
 22 just going to remind you, that's Mr Elmehdi. I'm going
 23 to remind you of some evidence that you gave in relation
 24 to Mr Alzilitni yesterday, again with Mr Weatherby's
 25 questions. Page 193 of the transcript. It doesn't need

1 to come up, but for reference, starting at line 5
 2 {Day46/193:5}.
 3 What was adduced through you is that there's
 4 a telephone call from Mr Elmehdi to Mr Alzilitni and
 5 then after that, Mr Alzilitni on 7 May goes and looks at
 6 the Micra and appears to try the door handle. 7 May.
 7 The next reference is page 196 of the transcript,
 8 line 2 {Day46/196:2}. On 21 May in the early hours,
 9 Mr Alzilitni is caught on CCTV going back to the Micra,
 10 and that's the occasion when he spends some time walking
 11 round it on a number of occasions.
 12 The point after all that lead-up is: we've watched
 13 with the chair this morning the CCTV of Salman Abedi's
 14 trip to the Micra on the 19th. Putting this as
 15 neutrally and factually as we can, when he returned from
 16 that trip to the Micra, the suitcase that had seemed
 17 light and empty before was heavy?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And you cannot say precisely what Mr Elmehdi or
 20 Mr Alzilitni would have seen looking into the Micra, if
 21 indeed they did?
 22 A. No, of course.
 23 Q. And I'm not going to ask you to. But if somebody had
 24 looked into the Micra, there was no parcel shelf,
 25 certainly by the time you came to look at it on 2 June?

1 A. I think that's right, yes.
 2 Q. If that's right, there would have been no impediment in
 3 looking into it and so --
 4 A. I'm only saying -- I'm pausing because I don't know
 5 exactly whether there was any form of covering over what
 6 was in the back. So I think I'd have to check that, if
 7 I may.
 8 Q. Absolutely, please do. If I may say, what these
 9 questions proceed on is a consideration of the
 10 photographs and the animations, but please do check.
 11 A. Of course.
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Would you be able to find that out?
 13 A. Yes, sir. Just by way of explanation, part of the
 14 reason why we prepared the animation for the purposes of
 15 the trial was that the photographs of the car are really
 16 quite hard to follow.
 17 MR JAMIESON: They are and there are very many of them.
 18 A. Exactly. So if I may check, sir?
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Please do. You have quite a lot of
 20 things to check.
 21 MR JAMIESON: I'm trying not to add to your list. I hope
 22 the importance of that chronology may be apparent or may
 23 not.
 24 A. The importance of the chronology is recognised, as are
 25 all of these matters that have been raised. This is

1 precisely why all of these issues are raised within the
 2 TIE document.
 3 Q. Yes.
 4 A. So they form part of the investigation. They've
 5 actually formed part of our suspicion, our reasonable
 6 suspicion, in relation to the investigation itself. But
 7 clearly, in those documents there are lots of contexts
 8 and lots of conclusions that are reached as well.
 9 Q. If I may say so, I'm trying very hard not to ask you to
 10 say anything about conclusions, but I know that what I'm
 11 asking you to say now does not come as news to you.
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. And it's fair to say that, as a result of these matters
 14 and others, Mr Elmehdi's status was changed to suspect?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. But I'm not suggesting anything arises from that, I'm
 17 simply recognising that this is not new to you, as I ask
 18 you these matters.
 19 A. No, it's not.
 20 Q. The only other matter from Mr Elmehdi that it's probably
 21 important to adduce is that we heard about two arrests
 22 of his within the relevant period: one, the trip to the
 23 prison when there was an attempt to pass tramadol,
 24 he was arrested then, 17 May I think.
 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And he was arrested on 3 June. It's right, isn't it --
 2 and if you would look, please, at the second tab in that
 3 bundle, there's an extract from your combined
 4 appendices. On each of those occasions, devices were
 5 seized and on each of those occasions devices were
 6 attributed as belonging to or having been used by him.
 7 Within your combined appendices -- I will give the
 8 reference, I don't ask that it comes up,
 9 {INQ034649/264} -- there is an exhibit DAC/79, an
 10 E System laptop. If that were traced through, it would
 11 be seen that that was seized on 3 June with the raid of
 12 the flat in Devell House, which I'm not going to
 13 identify.
 14 That analysis or police analysis attributed that
 15 item to Mr Elmehdi. I'm not going to go through the
 16 detail of it, but we can see it contained categories of
 17 mindset material, which included images of known
 18 terrorists, images of pro-ISIS material, images of
 19 casualties in battle, images of weapons and images of
 20 dead bodies.
 21 A. Yes, that's correct.
 22 Q. Similarly, with the prison tramadol arrest, if I can
 23 call it that, if you would skip through, you only have
 24 an extract from your appendices but it's
 25 {INQ034649/277}. It should be very much towards the end

1 of that entry.
 2 Confusingly in the middle of the page, the number is
 3 23, but the INQ number in the bottom right is 277.
 4 Do you have it?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Of that arrest, KT/01, which was an iPhone, was seized
 7 and ultimately attributed to Mr Elmehdi. That also had
 8 a quantity of mindset material, although it's fair to
 9 point out, a lesser quantity than had been on the
 10 laptop?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. I simply wanted to elicit that fact from you, thank you.
 13 Those are all the questions in relation to
 14 Mr Elmehdi.
 15 In relation to Ramadan Abedi, it may just be worth
 16 giving a bit of precision to his travel history in the
 17 context of what you have said already about traces
 18 between him that may or may not exist to the Micra. I'm
 19 not going to ask you any more about that, just the
 20 travel history.
 21 If you look, please, at what should be behind the
 22 sixth tab in the bundle that you have, the reference for
 23 the transcript, sir, is {INQ030269/1}, which is the
 24 Ramadan Abedi travel report. I'm going to ask just to
 25 look at the second page of that, {INQ030269/2}. It

1 should be a list of flights. Do you have that?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Thank you. About a third of the way down the page,
 4 there's a line that says:
 5 "Intelligence summary profile."
 6 I'm using that as a marker. Underneath it, those
 7 are the flights that Ramadan Abedi took from Manchester
 8 to Amsterdam. And if we looked down the list, we'd see
 9 a connecting flight to Tripoli. We can confirm, can't
 10 we, that on 15 April that flight departed Manchester at
 11 7.25 in the evening?
 12 A. Sorry, 5.25.
 13 Q. Yes, 17.25. And in the normal run of things it's
 14 necessary to be at airports before flights take off in
 15 order to board them.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: This is in relation to his possible
 18 contact with the Micra?
 19 MR JAMIESON: Yes.
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And the Micra was purchased?
 21 MR JAMIESON: Late on 13 April. Sir, you have precisely the
 22 point.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's the opportunity to have driven the
 24 Micra?
 25 MR JAMIESON: Indeed so.

1 Late on the 13th, it's purchased. Late on the 14th,
 2 into the early hours of the 15th, it's being moved. And
 3 just to complete the picture, if we may, because
 4 15 April, that's him leaving the jurisdiction. If you
 5 look down just to the next line, we see when he arrived
 6 in the jurisdiction, 6 April, so 10 days.
 7 The previous trip, the previous time that
 8 Mr Ramadan Abedi had been in the United Kingdom, you can
 9 see, just the line underneath and the line underneath
 10 that, was between April and July of 2016.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. So that's when he'd been in the jurisdiction and the
 13 chair has the point, so I don't need to emphasise it.
 14 It may just be worth revisiting a small piece of
 15 evidence that you gave yesterday about the message that
 16 Ramadan Abedi had sent to his sister Rabaa in the
 17 aftermath, which I'll read again.
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can you tell me where you're reading
 19 from?
 20 MR JAMIESON: I am reading from paragraph 587 and
 21 {INQ035317/215} of this officer's statement.
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 23 MR JAMIESON: "Allah is the predominant. I did my best.
 24 One month ago I went and returned them back when I found
 25 out that their thinking is wrong. She then went and

1 gave him the passports. She told me he is going for
 2 Umrah. I did not know anything about him until he
 3 travelled 4 days ago.”
 4 The aspect of that that I want to concentrate on is:
 5 “One month ago I went and returned them back when
 6 I found out that their thinking is wrong.”
 7 Whether or not that is an accurate sentence is for
 8 Mr Ramadan Abedi to answer, but on its face, if
 9 accurate, it would suggest that he had an awareness that
 10 the inference is his son’s thinking was wrong at the
 11 time he returned to Manchester. And if that is right,
 12 he would have had that awareness during the window of
 13 time that it seems as if his DNA traces have been left
 14 in the vehicle.
 15 A. Quite possibly, yes.
 16 Q. Indeed, he is travelling with his sons on that plane out
 17 of Manchester within the day that they have moved the
 18 items —
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. — to Devell House.
 21 Just to complete the picture in terms of Ramadan
 22 Abedi, again it’s something I’m asked to clarify. For
 23 his trip, Ramadan Abedi, to Manchester, no CCTV is
 24 available from that time?
 25 A. To Manchester on?

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1 Q. In April.
 2 A. Okay.
 3 Q. I’m asking, is that right or not?
 4 A. In what respect CCTV? No CCTV in relation to his
 5 movements?
 6 Q. That’s really what I’m asking.
 7 A. I’m quite sure there is a capture in relation to airport
 8 arrival.
 9 Q. Fine.
 10 A. I’m not sure where that would take us.
 11 Q. No.
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: This is Ramadan we’re talking about?
 13 MR JAMIESON: It is, sir.
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: When you were looking at the activities
 15 that we’ve seen, he doesn’t turn up on it and presumably
 16 you haven’t been chasing round Manchester doing the sort
 17 of thing you’ve done in relation to Salman Abedi?
 18 A. I think it would have been a completely fruitless task.
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It may have been a fruitless task, it
 20 also takes a huge amount of time to do it.
 21 A. In fairness, if we’d had any indication that it had been
 22 there, we would have recovered it.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 24 MR JAMIESON: I make myself plain: I am not suggesting that
 25 you should have done that, I’m simply highlighting the

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1 fact we know when he arrived, we know when he left.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. There is no — the investigation has not gathered any
 4 CCTV that would help us with where he went in between
 5 that?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. And the other point is, as I understand it, the only
 8 telephone number attributed to Ramadan Abedi is a Libyan
 9 number and so we have no cell site for his time in the
 10 United Kingdom as well.
 11 A. That’s my recollection, but I would have to check that.
 12 Q. If it assists you, there’s just a very quick — again,
 13 to try and limit your workload. If you look behind
 14 tab 7 in that bundle in front of you, {CPS000189/1},
 15 again I’m not asking for it to go up, and that is the
 16 Abedi family tree and telephone attribution. If you
 17 went on to {CPS000189/3}, you’d see listed in forename,
 18 alphabetical order, the telephone numbers attributed to
 19 various relevant people. There’s a number towards the
 20 bottom of the list for Ramadan Abedi that begins with
 21 a 7. It’s a Libyan number, as I understand it, and no
 22 other.
 23 A. That may be the case, but I’m sorry to be a little
 24 pedantic about this, this will be — it may to a degree
 25 be cropped for the prosecution trial.

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1 Q. The point you’re making is the information that’s in
 2 this document is pertinent to Hashem Abedi’s trial?
 3 A. Yes, that’s right.
 4 Q. And it may not be —
 5 A. So even if that’s recorded as just a Libyan number,
 6 I would imagine he would have had access to some form of
 7 telephone communication.
 8 Q. Quite. I was trying to spare you extra work, but if in
 9 fact it proves to be the case that there is identified
 10 a number that he had access to or may have used in the
 11 United Kingdom, I think we’d be very interested to know
 12 that.
 13 A. I’m sure that work has been done.
 14 Q. I’m sure it is has as well and I haven’t seen anything
 15 that suggests it’s true.
 16 The final topic is this, and it’s a short matter.
 17 You mentioned, right at the start of your evidence when
 18 Mr Greaney was asking you questions, the genesis of the
 19 HOLMES database and about the importance of information
 20 from different investigations being searchable, being
 21 available, in simple terms, in case it becomes relevant
 22 to something else later. Although that learning arose
 23 in the context of what I might call, in no way
 24 a pejorative way, general crime, is the importance of
 25 the availability of information at least as important

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1 when it comes to counter-terrorism?
 2 A. Yes, completely.
 3 Q. Because — and this is not new learning, can you confirm
 4 this is not new learning? — subjects that may begin on
 5 the fringes of particular investigations may come very
 6 much to the centre later?
 7 A. Yes, that's right.
 8 Q. With that build-up, please, and with an eye to
 9 chapter 14, may I please just identify with you and draw
 10 together some of the species of information relevant to
 11 Salman and Hashem Abedi that your criminal investigation
 12 has uncovered. I don't think there's anything
 13 controversial in this list and it's certainly not
 14 a closed list.
 15 We have Ramadan Abedi's port stop on
 16 17 November 2011 at which time his phones and devices
 17 were downloaded.
 18 We have Operation Oliban, the investigation into the
 19 activities of Mr Abdalraouf Abdallah —
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. — in 2014. That case continued until his prosecution
 22 and conviction in May 2016.
 23 We have Ismail Abedi's port stop on 3 September 2015
 24 and the subsequent search of his social media accounts
 25 that you've given evidence about.

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And then far less significant in terms of quantity of
 3 material but still, Operation Traverso, the KLF
 4 Haffiyam(?) and the single image of Salman Abedi. That
 5 was in January 2017?
 6 A. Yes. Just to draw a distinction that might be
 7 helpful —
 8 Q. Yes, please.
 9 A. — HOLMES is not necessarily all of the picture for the
 10 databases. Some of this information would have been
 11 captured in other forms.
 12 Q. Yes.
 13 A. So some of the things you've referred to would not
 14 necessarily be a cross HOLMES check. A HOLMES check is
 15 clearly for every single investigation that's ever been
 16 conducted on HOLMES, that check is made.
 17 Q. You have pre-empted the last set of questions I was
 18 going to ask. I'm not asking for the operational
 19 knowledge of which database or where it goes. I'm not
 20 suggesting it would all go on HOLMES. But was all of
 21 that material held on searchable databases of one sort
 22 or another?
 23 A. Yes, it was, for the purposes of Operation Manteline.
 24 MR JAMIESON: Thank you. Those are all my questions.
 25 UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER: Sir, on the basis that I adopt what

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1 Mr Jamieson sad at the start of his questions, I have
 2 none.
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.
 4 Are there any other questions?
 5 MR GREANEY: Sir, given that we know that Mr Gozem is
 6 viewing the feed, I was going to check whether he had
 7 any questions before inviting Mr Horwell, who I know
 8 does have questions to ask.
 9 Mr Gozem, do you have questions?
 10 MR GOZEM: No, I don't, thank you very much.
 11 MR GREANEY: Mr Horwell, I know, does have questions.
 12 Questions from MR HORWELL
 13 MR HORWELL: Mr Barraclough, I will easily finish before
 14 lunch. There are several topics I wish to cover.
 15 Can I just return to the evidence you gave on Monday
 16 morning concerning the scale of this investigation and
 17 to remind everyone of the basic elements of that: 1,000
 18 police officers, police staff, and operatives from the
 19 National Crime Agency; 23 arrests; 42 premises searched,
 20 18 vehicles searched; 930 media devices; 4,000
 21 statements; 17,000 exhibits; 16,000 actions; and 20,000
 22 documents. One of the largest investigations within
 23 this country?
 24 A. That's correct, yes.
 25 Q. Pointing out the obvious, does such an intensive

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1 investigation provide considerable scope for red
 2 herrings and coincidences?
 3 A. Yes, it does, I'm afraid.
 4 Q. And is that normal?
 5 A. It is normal, but of course it still means they have to
 6 be investigated thoroughly.
 7 Q. A point that you were seeking to make a little earlier,
 8 the suspicions that have been referred to by
 9 Mr Weatherby in the main come from police documents and
 10 interviews?
 11 A. They all come from police documents and interviews.
 12 Q. So his suspicions were (inaudible: distorted)
 13 suspicions?
 14 A. Yes, that's right.
 15 Q. And you have investigated them as best as you were able?
 16 A. To the point where we can go, at the moment, no further.
 17 Q. Right. Throughout the course of your evidence, it is
 18 clear that because of the detail that has been placed
 19 before you, you have been unable to answer many of the
 20 questions.
 21 A. In detail, yes.
 22 Q. And you have no doubt come here to do your best to help?
 23 A. Yes, absolutely.
 24 Q. As I have made clear, Greater Manchester Police will
 25 respond to those questions you have been unable to

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1 answer in writing at a later stage.
 2 A. And in detail, yes.
 3 Q. In order to demonstrate the difficulties inherent in
 4 selecting small pieces of evidence without looking at
 5 the wider context, I just want to ask you about four of
 6 the topics you have been asked about.
 7 Could we go first, Mr Lopez, to the Devell House
 8 SoE, or at least one of them, and this is
 9 {INQ035397/270}.

10 This is one of the pages that Mr Weatherby showed
 11 you; I am sure you'll remember, Mr Barraclough.
 12 If we look just at the images and the descriptions
 13 first :

14 "The [latter two] are seen to put their hands around
 15 their face and mouths, faces, with their heads down."
 16 The point being made here is that it is likely ,
 17 extremely likely , that they would have known there was
 18 a video camera?
 19 A. Oh yes, I would say so.
 20 Q. Hiding their faces, and Mr Weatherby's point was this
 21 was 24 minutes after the explosion.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. An hour and 24 minutes after the explosion, I'm sorry.
 24 So is this a cause for believing that they had knowledge
 25 of who perpetrated the attack?

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1 A. I would never make that presumption and certainly not
 2 based on an image like this.
 3 Q. No. That is one image from a document that is 270 pages
 4 long?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And just on the topic of face covering, is that
 7 something that you would consider unusual, bearing in
 8 mind the evidence of which you are now aware linking
 9 that address to drugs?
 10 A. No. But I'm not sure that applies here.
 11 Q. I'm not suggesting that, Mr Barraclough, but generally.
 12 A. Yes. That's correct.
 13 Q. Could we go to {INQ035397/228}, please?
 14 I'm not suggesting that this has anything to do with
 15 drugs, but it's on the topic of face covering,
 16 Mr Barraclough. We can see at the bottom of that page,
 17 Blidi exits the lift and goes through the door and turns
 18 right towards the main pedestrian exit.
 19 Next page, please, {INQ035397/229}. Blidi entering
 20 Devell House via the main pedestrian door carrying two
 21 clear plastic bags. As he is walking, he keeps his head
 22 forward as though to hide his face from the CCTV camera
 23 with the peak of his baseball cap.
 24 At the bottom, Blidi enters the lift .
 25 Next page, please. {INQ035397/230}. This is

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1 another individual entering the lift , he goes through
 2 the door and exits Devell House, and at the bottom, same
 3 individual walks down the back pathway, the whole time
 4 in view he has his left hand moving around his face as
 5 though shielding it from the CCTV cameras.
 6 That was on 21 May?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And obviously before the attack. As for suspicious
 9 behaviour, there are moments within this very large
 10 sequence of events of suspicious activity?
 11 A. Yes, that's correct.
 12 Q. Property being taken out of boots and left by the flats?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Items thrown down from the flats to those bringing
 15 property?
 16 A. Yes, I'm sure that's correct.
 17 Q. You have told us that there was a prosecution following
 18 drugs-related exhibits that were found either within
 19 Devell House or in motor vehicles.
 20 A. Yes, that's correct.
 21 Q. There is an ongoing investigation?
 22 A. Yes, there is.
 23 Q. And arrests were made in connection with that
 24 investigation only this month?
 25 A. Yes, at the beginning of this month.

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1 Q. Is there evidence to show that drugs were kept in motor
 2 vehicles parked in Devell House?
 3 A. Yes, absolutely, and that's been the result of a trial
 4 and the convictions that were presented to me by
 5 Mr Greaney.
 6 Q. In at least one of the interviews of those who were
 7 shown on the CCTV images to be taking an interest in the
 8 Micra, was the explanation given, and no doubt by others
 9 as well, that there was a belief this was a stash car?
 10 A. Yes, that's correct, that was given.
 11 Q. Because, let us not forget, the Micra was stationary
 12 in that car park for 5 weeks before the attack.
 13 A. Yes, that's right.
 14 Q. And so an object of interest?
 15 A. It would have been, yes.
 16 Q. Another topic. This is to do with Taghdi and his cell
 17 site analysis on 21 May. As Mr Weatherby explained,
 18 Taghdi was interviewed on 6 June 2017 and therefore at
 19 a very early stage of this enquiry?
 20 A. Yes, that's right.
 21 Q. And it was a no-comment interview, but one of the
 22 questions was that on 21 May, between 18.27 and 18.33,
 23 his mobile telephone connected with a mast or a cell
 24 site, and to use the words expressed in the interview,
 25 that was very close to Granby House?

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1 A. Yes, that's right.
 2 Q. Then Mr Weatherby introduced one of the images from the
 3 Granby House Salman Abedi SoE. Could we go to that now,
 4 please? {INQ020163/42}.
 5 Therefore within a minute before the cell site was
 6 accessed by the mobile of Taghdi, we have Salman Abedi
 7 leaving Granby House?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. I say a minute before, it could have been seconds. The
 10 image was left there, but if we were to look at the
 11 subsequent images, and I'm not at the moment suggesting
 12 that we should, they show Salman Abedi going to a bus,
 13 getting on the bus on his own, going to
 14 Piccadilly Gardens, getting on to a tram on his own,
 15 going to Victoria Station, alighting the tram again on
 16 his own, and this is the occasion on which he carried
 17 out a hostile reconnaissance in the City Room.
 18 A. Yes, that's right.
 19 Q. It happens to be the occasion where he sat on the wall
 20 close to the steps and another image shows him walking
 21 up those steps to the mezzanine floor.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. All of that on his own, leaving on his own and then
 24 returning to Granby House on his own?
 25 A. Yes, that's right.

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1 Q. Is there any evidence that he met or had any interaction
 2 with Taghdi at all?
 3 A. There is no evidence.
 4 Q. Mr Barraclough, it is again obvious, but you must have
 5 been very anxious to discover if he had had interaction
 6 with anyone else?
 7 A. Yes, of course we were and that formed part of the
 8 investigation.
 9 Q. You said, I think it was yesterday, words to the effect
 10 that Salman Abedi made a deliberate point of keeping
 11 himself away from his home address.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And the reason for that in your view?
 14 A. In order not to be discovered, so in order that his
 15 presence in the UK from the 18th was not discovered and
 16 therefore potentially reportable.
 17 Q. Are you aware of his having any personal connection, any
 18 meeting with anyone during the 5 days he was in this
 19 country?
 20 A. There is no evidence to say he had.
 21 Q. The third topic, please, and this is again concerning
 22 Blidi. An officer's report was put to you and this page
 23 was shown and I'll show it again but only this page,
 24 please. It's {INQ030735/4}.
 25 It's the top half of that page, please.

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1 I'm not going to go through the detail, but it shows
 2 Blidi in a Mercedes travelling along Granby Row, parking
 3 in Granby Row, then driving off. Then parking again
 4 close to Granby Row — this was on 19 May — and then
 5 Blidi on foot walking past the entrance of Granby House.
 6 Blidi speaking to a motorcyclist parked opposite the
 7 entrance to Granby House. Blidi again walking past the
 8 entrance to Granby House, but this time carrying a white
 9 plastic bag. And then it so happens that within a few
 10 minutes, Abedi arrived by taxi, went straight into
 11 Granby House.
 12 Then very shortly after that, less than a minute,
 13 we have Blidi walking past Granby House on the opposite
 14 side of the road. He then met a Deliveroo scooter, so
 15 this is the second occasion on which he has met somebody
 16 on a motorcycle. He's then seen again carrying a white
 17 plastic bag, getting into his car and driving off.
 18 Blidi parking in that area, meeting two individuals
 19 on motorcycles and having in his possession a white
 20 plastic bag. That, no doubt of itself, caused some
 21 suspicion, Mr Barraclough?
 22 A. Yes, of course it did. Nobody likes to see coincidences
 23 and a coincidence in itself causes suspicion. But
 24 I think if you move on to the explanation of the
 25 officer —

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1 Q. That's what I was going to come to, because in the
 2 three-line paragraph that is below the times and
 3 observations, we can see these comments:
 4 "Consistent with drug dealing activity [which is
 5 what you said yesterday] but his presence around the
 6 entrance to Granby House at the same time that
 7 Salman Abedi arrives and, although this appears to be
 8 more than a coincidence, there is actually no evidence
 9 of any direct/indirect contact between Blidi and
 10 Salman Abedi at this time."
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. Are those your views too?
 13 A. Yes, they are.
 14 Q. Fourth point again concerning Blidi and his connection
 15 to two tickets to the Ariana Grande concert. Greater
 16 Manchester Police took a witness statement from
 17 Vanessa Thompson.
 18 A. Yes, that's correct.
 19 Q. I'm not going to ask it to be put on the screen, but
 20 I happily give the reference. It's {INQ004904/1}.
 21 She described how she had bought two tickets for one
 22 of her daughters for that concert for Christmas. She
 23 ordered them in October of 2016, received them on
 24 6 November 2016, placed them in a Christmas card. Her
 25 daughter was not that impressed with the tickets because

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1 she had seen Ariana Grande before. Not even clear if
 2 she received them on Christmas Day, but from
 3 Christmas Day, Vanessa Thompson has no idea what
 4 happened to those tickets. She never saw them again.
 5 Mr Barraclough, she explains how she accidentally
 6 threw away the present from a godfather of one of the
 7 children and she believes she may have thrown away this
 8 present as well at the same time on Christmas Day when
 9 clearing out all of the Christmas wrapping paper and so
 10 on.
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. Clearly you can't remember all
 12 that statement, but you may remember the gist of it.
 13 A. Absolutely, sir .
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Perhaps we'll all take it from
 15 Mr Horwell, and you can check it later and see whether
 16 he has got it correct in the same way that you are
 17 checking others.
 18 A. It sounds correct. It's something that I recall .
 19 MR HORWELL: Did you feel that was a matter for further
 20 investigation?
 21 A. Of course. So the whole — sorry, in relation to?
 22 Q. The tickets?
 23 A. As far as we can in relation to tickets .
 24 Q. Did you have any reason to disbelieve that explanation?
 25 A. None whatsoever, no. This was a witness who was

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1 approached about this without prior knowledge of what
 2 the issue was.
 3 Q. Just some very minor points. Coming back to Taghdi and
 4 Mr Weatherby's question to you that there was evidence
 5 that Taghdi had received military training .
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Is this one of the few matters you have been able to
 8 research since yesterday?
 9 A. It is, yes. I've asked the question.
 10 Q. Where does that evidence come from that Taghdi had
 11 received military training?
 12 A. My understanding is it comes from a press report in the
 13 BBC.
 14 Q. Is there any evidence?
 15 A. No.
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And sometimes you can't always get to
 17 know what the reporter's sources are for information.
 18 A. Mr Taghdi was asked and his response was, "You're
 19 talking about my father", who was actually killed in
 20 2011 in the Libyan uprising .
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right.
 22 MR HORWELL: Looking at the various suspicions or conspiracy
 23 theories that were placed before you, is there any
 24 reason to believe Salman Abedi needed any assistance
 25 during those last 5 days?

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1 A. There is no reason to believe that that was the case and
 2 despite our suspicions and despite investigating ,
 3 I believe, every line of inquiry that we possibly could,
 4 we have not found evidence that would suggest that's
 5 happened.
 6 Q. Thank you.
 7 Finally, this: this will be a matter to which no
 8 doubt —
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can I just expand on that? Forgive me.
 10 You're in a slightly odd position here but you're
 11 really here telling us the amount of the investigation
 12 you went into.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: The suspicions that arose during the
 15 course of that investigation .
 16 A. Yes.
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And then whatever evidence you gathered
 18 was put before the Crown Prosecution Service and senior
 19 leading counsel to decide who should be prosecuted.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And they made that decision.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If there was evidence, which in their
 24 estimation and in your estimation, would justify them
 25 being put on trial, bearing in mind the test for that,

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1 would you have done that?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Have you made as many enquiries as
 4 you've been able to make so far?
 5 A. I believe so, yes, sir .
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: There are other enquiries you wish to
 7 make?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If you get the opportunity to do those,
 10 will they be done by Greater Manchester Police?
 11 A. Yes, they will .
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And the case will remain open?
 13 A. Always, yes.
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Always. Thank you.
 15 MR HORWELL: Mr Barraclough, finally this: this is
 16 undoubtedly a matter to which we will be returning in
 17 later chapters, but there have been some references to
 18 images found on digital devices and information found on
 19 digital devices, photographs, videos and the like .
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. They are undoubtedly, some of them, offensive,
 22 disgusting and deplorable.
 23 A. Yes, absolutely .
 24 Q. But are they relatively commonplace, sadly, in an
 25 investigation of this nature?

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1 A. Unfortunately, they are, yes.
 2 MR HORWELL: Sir, that is all I ask, thank you.
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm grateful. Have you questions?
 4 MR GREANEY: I do, sir, a very small number.
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Just before you do, we had a time when
 6 we cut the link and then we discussed things and perhaps
 7 more freely than we would have done otherwise.
 8 MR GREANEY: We did.
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I just want to know what the effect
 10 of — could the press hear what was being said?
 11 MR GREANEY: The press will have been able to hear what was
 12 said.
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm perfectly happy about that, but is
 14 there a restriction order on anything that was said?
 15 MR GREANEY: Sir, there will need to be a restriction order
 16 in respect of what was said during that period.
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. I hope that nothing has been
 18 published about what was said in the absence or gone out
 19 since in the absence of the feed being cut. For the
 20 avoidance of doubt, I make a restriction order now
 21 covering those matters which were talked about while the
 22 feed was cut. The whole aim of actually stopping it was
 23 to ensure that something which perhaps at this stage,
 24 without further discussion, should not go in the public
 25 domain was done.

1 MR GREANEY: Indeed, sir, although there was passing
 2 reference to the content of those four lines, but those
 3 four lines were not at any stage read out. So whether
 4 there was in any event anything of interest to report ...
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm obviously perfectly happy to hear
 6 representation from the press at any time about it, I'm
 7 just trying to prevent anything happening which can't be
 8 turned back, as it were.
 9 MR GREANEY: Mr Gardham is, I know, present in the building.
 10 No doubt if he wishes to say anything, he'll come into
 11 court.
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And any other member of the press who
 13 would wish to raise it with me.
 14 Further questions from MR GREANEY
 15 MR GREANEY: Mr Barraclough, there is just a single topic
 16 that I would like to ask you about, please. It arises
 17 because it has become clear to the inquiry legal team
 18 that there remains some public concern that prior to the
 19 22 May attack, messages were posted on social media that
 20 foretold of the arena attack, so I hope it's clear to
 21 you what I want to explore.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. First of all, to deal with that concern, you did
 24 of course address on Tuesday when you were giving
 25 evidence three separate tweets from the same source,

1 apparently timed at 6.24 pm, 6.28 pm and 6.32 pm on
 2 22 May 2017.
 3 A. Yes, that's correct.
 4 Q. So as we established at that stage, on their face,
 5 pre-attack.
 6 A. On the face of it, yes.
 7 Q. Each referencing the arena and threatening in tone?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And one of them referencing Islamic State?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. But as you were able to explain to us, the work of
 12 a specialist established the account on which those
 13 tweets appeared had been created after the attack, not
 14 before?
 15 A. That's correct, yes.
 16 Q. So that the tweets were posted after the attack?
 17 A. They were.
 18 Q. And, as you have said, were the work of a malicious
 19 character who has not been traced?
 20 A. That's correct.
 21 Q. But had plainly been able to manipulate the timing of
 22 the posts?
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.
 24 Q. Secondly, what we did not address, the two of us, on
 25 Tuesday is the fact that a further tweet on the face of

1 it from a separate Twitter user also came to the
 2 attention of the inquiry.
 3 A. That's correct, yes.
 4 Q. On its face, that tweet was timed at 3.42 pm on
 5 21 May 2017.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. It threatened an attack at the Ariana Grande concert the
 8 following night in the name of Islam?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And so was of obvious concern to you?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Is it, however, the position that, again, work by
 13 a police specialist indicated that this was a fake post?
 14 A. Yes, it was.
 15 Q. And had not in fact been posted pre-attack?
 16 A. No, that's correct.
 17 Q. Furthermore, I believe you'll be able to confirm that
 18 the work of that specialist tended to establish that
 19 there was a link between the person who had created that
 20 fake tweet dated on its face 21 May and the person who
 21 had posted the other three tweets to which we've made
 22 reference?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. So it comes to this, and you did in fact say this on
 25 Tuesday, but it bears repetition. At paragraph 494 of

1 your main witness statement, you said with clarity:
 2 "At no stage has evidence of a social media post or
 3 other electronic signal having been published which
 4 foretold of a terrorist attack in Manchester."
 5 A. That is still correct.
 6 MR GREANEY: So hopefully that will have assuaged the public
 7 concern that existed.
 8 Sir, that is in fact, with thanks to Mr Barraclough,
 9 as far as we can take it evidentially today, although,
 10 sir, as you know, there is further work behind the
 11 scenes that both you and the inquiry legal team have to
 12 complete this afternoon.
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Barraclough, I'm extremely grateful.
 14 You've been in the witness box for a very long time.
 15 You have unsurprisingly been asked a large number of
 16 questions which you've been unable to answer and there
 17 is absolutely no criticism of you, I hope you'll accept,
 18 for that fact. It's always been expected that you would
 19 need to go away and research it and there would be
 20 nothing worse than for you to give us an answer that
 21 turned out to be inaccurate, so we prefer it to be
 22 checked, and no doubt you have further work to do, so
 23 I hope you can find people who will help you with that.
 24 It's been a long time in the witness box, so I'm very
 25 grateful.

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1 A. Thank you, sir.
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And for going through so extensively
 3 what went on in the inquiry, thank you.
 4 We are going to be looking at where the inquiry is
 5 going in timetable terms this afternoon, which we will
 6 convey to CPs in due course. The timescale is slightly
 7 alarming at the moment and it may be that I will be
 8 asking CPs to maybe look at some of the witnesses that
 9 they've asked for and see whether these are actually
 10 needed. That's not to stop people having witnesses who
 11 are -- we can all look at things a second time. We've
 12 obviously -- chapter 7 took longer than may have been
 13 expected, but I don't think anyone would say, and I hope
 14 they wouldn't, that we were wasting our time with what
 15 we were doing. But it may be other parts of the
 16 inquiry's work have been rather more well trodden than
 17 chapter 7 and things may be rather clearer, but we will
 18 see and the inquiry will be getting back to you with
 19 a proposed timetable and to see whether things can be
 20 shortened at all and, if so, where.
 21 MR GREANEY: Sir, next week we will continue with, and
 22 I hope, conclude chapter 8, and as you've just stated,
 23 we will also be addressing, before we break for the
 24 Christmas break, the timetable for chapter 9 and
 25 onwards.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll try and get something out so
 2 people can have a think about it beforehand. You might
 3 have been going to say something about witnesses next
 4 week and we may have a rather -- things may stop and
 5 start a bit, and hopefully people will bear with us.
 6 MR GREANEY: Quite right. Through no one's fault, it will
 7 be, I predict, much more stop/start, with probably some
 8 earlier finishes than we've become used to.
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So if you want to, bring a book with
 10 you. Thank you very much.
 11 (12.56 pm)
 12 (The inquiry adjourned until 9.30 am on
 13 Monday, 14 December 2020)

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