

# OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 53

January 19, 2021

Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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1 Tuesday, 19 January 2021  
 2 (10.00 am)  
 3 DETECTIVE INSPECTOR MIKE RUSSELL (continued)  
 4 Questions from MR DE LA POER (continued)  
 5 MR DE LA POER: We are going to resume today the evidence of  
 6 Detective Inspector Mike Russell. Before I do, I'm  
 7 going to give the same warning that I gave yesterday  
 8 about this evidence in the light of the possibility that  
 9 we have people who are joining us today that didn't view  
 10 the evidence yesterday.  
 11 The sequence of events we are going to consider now  
 12 and tomorrow shows images after the explosion. This  
 13 will include images of parts of the City Room.  
 14 Considerable care has been taken to apply redactions of  
 15 anything overtly distressing, and the aim has been to  
 16 conceal any images of physical injuries and any images  
 17 of those who lost their lives. Additionally, any image  
 18 showing a person who appears to have been under the age  
 19 of 18 at the time has also been redacted to the extent  
 20 necessary to avoid their identification.  
 21 In addition to viewing images, we will be playing  
 22 audio. There will be no 999 calls today. The audio  
 23 will consist of calls between emergency services and  
 24 calls within emergency services between individuals.  
 25 We will be interposing that audio within the stills

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1 from the CCTV. There will be no video footage played  
 2 today.  
 3 It is important to stress that in the judgement of  
 4 the inquiry legal team, the audio is capable of being  
 5 highly distressing, notwithstanding efforts that have  
 6 been made to avoid, where possible, the most distressing  
 7 material. We urge anyone watching to ensure that they  
 8 are in an appropriate setting to receive this material  
 9 and have considered, particularly in the circumstances  
 10 of lockdown, what support structures are in place for  
 11 them.  
 12 We again remind everybody that the NHS hub provides  
 13 support to anyone directly affected by the attack and  
 14 details of how the hub can be contacted are on the  
 15 inquiry website.  
 16 Detective inspector, we will begin today, just to  
 17 return ourselves to the chronology, with the last slide  
 18 of yesterday. That is to say, {INQ035612/54}.  
 19 We had reached a point of 22.38.10, which captures  
 20 Carl Roach, who has come down from the area of the  
 21 raised footbridge and is speaking to a number of members  
 22 of Northern Rail staff; is that correct?  
 23 A. Yes, it is.  
 24 Q. So taking us forward from 22.38.10, we're going to  
 25 begin, please, with some audio product, which appears on

2

1 your page 62 {INQ035612/62} -- no need to bring up  
 2 a still, Mr Mintar, we are going to instead play  
 3 a contact involving Ian Randall and Jeanette McMurdo.  
 4 Can you introduce those two people to us, please?  
 5 A. They are GMP communications, Ian Randall being the force  
 6 duty supervisor on the evening.  
 7 Q. And Jeanette McMurdo?  
 8 A. As I understand it, works in communications.  
 9 Q. Thank you. This is contact which took place at 22.38.34  
 10 and following. It's 34 seconds and the reference is  
 11 {INQ018839\_C2/1}.  
 12 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 13 Can you confirm that what we just heard, amongst  
 14 other things, is that Mr Randall used the phrase "open  
 15 a Silver"?  
 16 A. Yes, he did.  
 17 Q. We'll hear from him what he meant by that, but you know  
 18 from your work with the investigation that later this  
 19 evening, Mr Randall does open the Silver room at GMP HQ?  
 20 A. Yes, he does.  
 21 Q. Next we are going to hear a piece of audio at 22.38.48.  
 22 Can you introduce us, please, to who we will be hearing  
 23 from so far as has been able to be ascertained at this  
 24 stage?  
 25 A. This is audio from North West Ambulance Service and it

3

1 involves Patrick Ennis and Jackie Carney from the trauma  
 2 cell.  
 3 Q. So contact from Mr Ennis. Am I right in understanding  
 4 this is the first audio we have for Mr Ennis?  
 5 A. Yes, that's my understanding.  
 6 Q. It's 59 seconds. It commences at 22.38.48. Mr Mintar,  
 7 the reference is {INQ015338/1}.  
 8 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 9 We're going to listen to two further pieces of  
 10 audio. These, the first of these is, I think, probably  
 11 the longest piece of audio that we will listen to in  
 12 your presentation. It's 12 minutes and 30 seconds.  
 13 We have an approximate time of 22.37 for the start of  
 14 this; is that right?  
 15 A. Yes, it is.  
 16 Q. So slightly before the two calls that we've just heard.  
 17 Who are the participants, please, in this conversation?  
 18 A. This is audio between North West Ambulance Service and  
 19 North West Fire Control. From North West Fire Control,  
 20 we believe it to be Jo Haslam speaking, but NWSAS haven't  
 21 been able to identify their member of staff yet.  
 22 Q. So far as this audio is concerned, there are a number of  
 23 periods of silence, is that right --  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. -- whilst the respective call handlers input matters

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1 into their system and consult colleagues. I'm going to  
 2 ask Mr Mintar at a particular moment to pause it so  
 3 I can introduce one aspect of it that I'm going to ask  
 4 people to listen out for. It is a long clip, but it  
 5 captures the contact between NWSA and NWFC at an early  
 6 stage, so we're going to listen to it all.  
 7 The reference is {INQ004323/1}, please, and I'll let  
 8 you know when I want you to pause it.  
 9 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 10 Can I ask you to pause it there for a moment?  
 11 I have been told there may be a difficulty with  
 12 Mr Cooper accessing...  
 13 MR COOPER: Thank you, Mr de la Poer. I'm now on the  
 14 system. Forgive me for interrupting.  
 15 MR DE LA POER: Mr Cooper, it's precisely the sort of  
 16 interruption that we welcome because it's very important  
 17 that everybody who needs to access this hearing does so.  
 18 I'm very pleased that you've been able to join and I'm  
 19 sure you won't mind us continuing from where we'd got  
 20 to.  
 21 MR COOPER: Of course not.  
 22 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Cooper.  
 23 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 24 Pause it there, please. We are now going to hear  
 25 a short section where Ms Haslam is speaking to her

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1 colleagues in the room as it appears. The transcript  
 2 for this at the moment indicates background  
 3 conversations, "Explosion", and then, "I've put it down  
 4 as 'bomb'". I invite everyone to listen out for that  
 5 and make their own minds up, or sir, you will make your  
 6 own mind up about precisely what is said to the extent  
 7 it can be discerned. Of course, when we come to the  
 8 evidence we will have the opportunity to play this  
 9 section again if necessary.  
 10 Mr Mintar, if you could please play on.  
 11 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 12 Thank you, Mr Mintar.  
 13 If ever there was a time to bear in mind that time  
 14 is passing, it's for this call, isn't it?  
 15 A. Yes, 12 minutes long, yes.  
 16 Q. So in fact that call concludes some time after 22.49?  
 17 A. Correct.  
 18 Q. And as we'll see, an awful lot occurs, some of which is  
 19 being reported in real time as the various controls  
 20 learn of new information?  
 21 A. Yes, that's right.  
 22 Q. The final piece of audio in this sequence involves  
 23 Ian Carter. Can you introduce us to who he is, please?  
 24 A. Ian Carter is a GMP communicator.  
 25 Q. This takes place at 22.37.08, so during the very start

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1 of the call that we have just heard. It's 36 seconds  
 2 long and it is {INQ018839\_C1/1}, please.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 Mr Mintar, I don't want you to put anything up on  
 5 screen at this stage, but inspector, can I just ask you  
 6 to consider blue page reference 64?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. We had previously tracked the movements of BTP officer  
 9 Matthew Martin, who stopped to tend to people as he  
 10 arrived in Station Approach. On those stills, which  
 11 we're not going to show, do you agree that they show  
 12 that he stops to care for an injured person on the  
 13 footbridge?  
 14 A. Yes, he does.  
 15 Q. And in fact, he was not alone in doing so, a number of  
 16 people stopped to help a cluster of injured people as  
 17 they made their way to the City Room?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. But at 22.39.06 he moves on to enter the City Room?  
 20 A. Yes, that's right.  
 21 Q. Next we are going to hear some audio from NWSA Control.  
 22 Have we yet been able to identify the speakers?  
 23 A. No, not at this time.  
 24 Q. It takes place at 22.39.14. Can you agree that?  
 25 A. Yes, I can.

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1 Q. It is 17 seconds long. Mr Mintar, {INQ015025/1},  
 2 please.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 So at almost exactly the same time that GMP is  
 5 sending a similar message, so were NWSA?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. Effectively a call out over the Airwave system for --  
 8 A. Free patrols.  
 9 Q. -- patrols to attend?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Mr Mintar, we can now put this on the screen, page 57,  
 12 black page 57 of the sequence of events {INQ035612/57}.  
 13 Here we have two images in quick succession of each  
 14 other of the footbridge; is that right?  
 15 A. Yes, it is.  
 16 Q. We see a Northern Rail employee carrying a first aid  
 17 bag?  
 18 A. That's right.  
 19 Q. And we also see a BTP officer, PC Edwards, on his way to  
 20 the City Room also?  
 21 A. Yes, that's right.  
 22 Q. We're going to return to the audio as those two men are  
 23 making their way to the City Room. We are going to go  
 24 back to GMP, please. Can you introduce this call for  
 25 us?

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1 A. This call is a call between Ian Randall, the force duty  
2 supervisor, and he's updating Mr Nawaz, the GMP Silver.  
3 Q. So that was Superintendent Arif Nawaz?  
4 A. That's correct.  
5 Q. Who was the night duty Silver that evening?  
6 A. That's correct, yes.  
7 Q. Can you confirm the time that this telephone call made  
8 by Mr Randall takes place?  
9 A. 22.39.28.  
10 Q. And its duration, please?  
11 A. Its duration is 2 minutes and 2 seconds long.  
12 Q. Thank you. {INQ018839\_C3/1}, please.  
13 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
14 Next we are going to hear a call from  
15 North West Fire Control to GMFRS. What time did that  
16 take place?  
17 A. 22.40 hours.  
18 Q. So during the call that we just heard within GMP?  
19 A. Yes, that's correct.  
20 Q. It is 2 minutes, 23 seconds. Who do you believe the  
21 speakers to be?  
22 A. Station Manager Andy Berry, who was the NILO on the  
23 evening, and from North West Fire Control,  
24 Michelle Gregson.  
25 Q. And we should remind ourselves that this call takes

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1 place whilst Jo Haslam from North West Fire Control is  
2 conducting that lengthy call with NWAS?  
3 A. Yes, that's correct.  
4 Q. So 22.40 hours exactly is the start of it. Mr Mintar,  
5 {INQ004449/1}, please.  
6 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
7 We're going to return to the scene now, please,  
8 Mr Mintar, {INQ035612/58}.  
9 At about the same time that that contact is taking  
10 place that we've just heard, can you confirm that two  
11 Northern Rail employees are captured on the station  
12 concourse with very large green bags?  
13 A. Yes, that's correct.  
14 Q. The timestamp for that image is 22.39.44; is that  
15 correct?  
16 A. Yes, it is.  
17 Q. We consider now {INQ035612/59} and what's taking place  
18 outside the arena. We're still within the first  
19 10 minutes. At 22.40 do we see another BTP officer, in  
20 this case Sergeant Wilcock, entering the roller  
21 entrance?  
22 A. Yes, that's correct.  
23 Q. Back to the platform at {INQ035612/60}, please. We can  
24 see that in the foreground what appears to be a member  
25 of the public is helping a Northern Rail employee with

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1 a large bag or certainly he's in the vicinity, he may be  
2 dragging a black bag?  
3 A. Yes, I think he's pulling a suitcase.  
4 Q. That's my mistake, but we can see those two large bags  
5 there. What the legend reveals is that items are  
6 removed from those on the concourse?  
7 A. That's correct.  
8 Q. We're going to see, aren't we, that those bags are then  
9 transported up to the City Room?  
10 A. That's right.  
11 Q. We'll return now to the City Room and the Fifty Pence  
12 staircase at {INQ035612/61}, please, where we can see  
13 PC Trow, who entered via the Trinity Way roller is now  
14 leaving the City Room.  
15 A. He is.  
16 Q. He's on his way to collect first aid equipment, is he?  
17 A. He is, and we will see him return later with it.  
18 Q. I'm going to now move to GMP and a piece of audio. What  
19 is it that we're going to hear?  
20 A. This is a transmission from the operation firearms  
21 commander, PC Edward Richardson, who is updating the  
22 force duty officer.  
23 Q. From this we are able to determine, aren't we, from the  
24 content that PC Richardson is in the vicinity of the  
25 arena at this point?

11

1 A. Yes, it would appear to be his first arrival on the  
2 scene.  
3 Q. The timestamp is 22.40.25. 38 seconds.  
4 {INQ024445\_C1/1}, please.  
5 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
6 There was a lengthy period of absolute silence.  
7 That is what has been captured on the recording, isn't  
8 it?  
9 A. It is a poor quality recording, yes.  
10 Q. So people shouldn't consider that their own equipment is  
11 defective, that clip consists of PC Richardson speaking  
12 briefly at the beginning. There's then a period of  
13 silence, we then hear the timestamp being verbalised and  
14 then we have a further report from PC Richardson?  
15 A. That's correct.  
16 Q. {INQ035612/62}, please. Do we here capture the arena  
17 concourse outside the City Room where we can see two new  
18 names for the purpose of your evidence, yesterday and  
19 today, both ETUK medics?  
20 A. That's correct.  
21 Q. That's Ms Marianne Gibson and Ms Robina Jones?  
22 A. Yes, that's right.  
23 Q. At 22.40.47 at {INQ035612/63}, please, do we have  
24 another view from within the arena complex?  
25 A. We do.

12

1 Q. And this is Police Sergeant Wilcock who we saw earlier  
 2 entering from Trinity Way?  
 3 A. That's right.  
 4 Q. {INQ035612/64}, please. Do we capture here PC Trow, who  
 5 was going down the Fifty Pence exit when last we saw  
 6 him, running down the Trinity Way link tunnel?  
 7 A. Yes, we do.  
 8 Q. 22.40.47.  
 9 Mr Mintar, please do not put this image up, but can  
 10 I ask you to consider blue page 76, please, inspector.  
 11 Just can you agree that what this image captures at  
 12 22.40.59, so we are at the conclusion of that first  
 13 10-minute period -- we can see PC Corke on the raised  
 14 footbridge with a large red first aid kit bag on his way  
 15 to the City Room?  
 16 A. Yes, we can.  
 17 Q. So on any view, and people can count them as we've  
 18 tracked them, the first 10 minutes involved a lot of  
 19 activity from BTP officers, many of whom made it to the  
 20 City Room and some of whom then left the City Room to go  
 21 and collect equipment?  
 22 A. Yes, that's right.  
 23 Q. Moving forward to the next 10-minute sequence, over the  
 24 page, please, at {INQ035612/66}, we return to that view  
 25 just outside the City Room where we see arena medic

13

1 Ken O'Connor just about to enter.  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. The time, 22.41.04.  
 4 At {INQ035612/67}, please, is this the first CCTV  
 5 capture of a GMP armed response vehicle?  
 6 A. Yes, it is.  
 7 Q. 22.41.27, so very shortly after Mr Richardson's  
 8 broadcast?  
 9 A. That's right.  
 10 Q. And we can see that it is on Station Approach, turning  
 11 down Hunts Bank?  
 12 A. Yes, we can.  
 13 Q. Do we see it at {INQ035612/68} tracked down Hunts Bank  
 14 on to Victoria Street?  
 15 A. Yes, we do.  
 16 Q. Right behind that vehicle, {INQ035612/69}, do we see  
 17 a second GMP armed response vehicle on Station Approach?  
 18 A. That's right.  
 19 Q. So as those two GMP armed response vehicles are arriving  
 20 at the arena, we are going to consider now, please, two  
 21 pieces of audio, first involving BTP and NWAS and then  
 22 an internal call within NWAS. Can you introduce the  
 23 first of them for us, please, inspector?  
 24 A. Yes, as I understand it, this call is BTP to  
 25 NWAS Control, although it hasn't been confirmed who the

14

1 audio actually contains at the moment.  
 2 Q. The time for this call, please?  
 3 A. It's 22.41.42.  
 4 Q. Is its duration a minute and a half?  
 5 A. Yes, it is.  
 6 Q. So BTP Control to NWAS Control. {INQ015877\_C2}, please.  
 7 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 8 Next, the call that I indicated, internal to NWAS.  
 9 Can you introduce this for us, please?  
 10 A. Yes. This is a call at 22.42.02, it lasts for 3 minutes  
 11 18 seconds. A call from Jackie Carney from the trauma  
 12 cell to Michael Daley, who's a MERIT doctor.  
 13 Q. Will we see that Dr Daley was one of the first from NWAS  
 14 to arrive at the scene?  
 15 A. Yes, that's right.  
 16 Q. That is {INQ015357A/1}, please.  
 17 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 18 In fact, Mr Mintar, can you pause it so that I can  
 19 provide some reassurance? There are a number of  
 20 occasions, sir, during this call when we will hear  
 21 a beep. That beep has been applied by the inquiry legal  
 22 team and Greater Manchester Police in order to redact  
 23 personal information, so people should not be concerned  
 24 about that. That is how we intend it to be in order to  
 25 preserve the privacy as appropriate of the individuals

15

1 involved. Just so everybody knows, there will be  
 2 a number of such beeps during this call. Thank you very  
 3 much indeed, Mr Mintar.  
 4 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 5 As we shall see, within fewer than 20 minutes of  
 6 that call, Dr Daley is at the scene?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. I'm going to return now, please, to the station  
 9 concourse, {INQ035612/70}, where we will see those first  
 10 aid bags provided by the Northern Rail staff being  
 11 carried up the staircase.  
 12 A. That's right.  
 13 Q. 22.41.58. Back to the Trinity Way link tunnel at  
 14 {INQ035612/71}. We see that PC Trow has now retrieved  
 15 what appears to be a red rucksack.  
 16 A. Yes, he has.  
 17 Q. Containing first aid equipment?  
 18 A. Yes, that's right.  
 19 Q. We can move forward, please, to {INQ035612/74}.  
 20 Entrance doors to the City Room; is that correct?  
 21 A. Yes, that's right.  
 22 Q. Do we see there an ETUK medic Ryan Billington about to  
 23 enter the City Room?  
 24 A. Yes, we do.  
 25 Q. {INQ035612/75}, please. Is this within the arena

16

1 complex?  
 2 A. Yes, it is.  
 3 Q. Near the Trinity Way entrance?  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. Do we see two firearms officers identified in the legend  
 6 making their way up to the arena concourse?  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. So at 22.42.44, and in the seconds immediately prior,  
 9 two GMP firearms officers within the arena complex?  
 10 A. That's right.  
 11 Q. {INQ035612/77}, please. Do we capture PC Trow  
 12 re-entering the City Room at 22.42.50?  
 13 A. Yes, that's right.  
 14 Q. We can see more clearly that red bag that he has.  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. So two firearms officers in the image but one previously  
 17 entering the arena complex. If we now go to  
 18 {INQ035612/78} do we see two more firearms officers?  
 19 A. Yes, we do.  
 20 Q. This time approaching the City Room from the railway  
 21 station entrance --  
 22 A. That's right.  
 23 Q. -- at 22.42.52? And picked out in that white box do we  
 24 also see PC Carl Roach, who we know travelled down from  
 25 the footbridge to go and collect a first aid bag?

17

1 A. Yes, you can, you can see him gesturing to the officers  
 2 as well the direction they should travel in.  
 3 Q. And those officers moving at speed?  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. {INQ035612/79}, just following those. I think that  
 6 there is an error with the pagination here. Thank you  
 7 very much, Mr Mintar.  
 8 So at page 79 do we see those two firearms officers  
 9 and PC Roach?  
 10 A. Yes, we do.  
 11 Q. Making their way towards the City Room. We are not  
 12 going to bring up {INQ035612/80}, but can you confirm  
 13 for us that those Northern Rail staff are carrying that  
 14 large first aid bag over the footbridge, about to enter  
 15 the City Room at 22.43.15?  
 16 A. Yes, I can.  
 17 Q. At the time that is happening we are now going to listen  
 18 to a further radio transmission. Can you identify for  
 19 us who is involved and which organisation they are from?  
 20 A. These are Greater Manchester Police firearms officers  
 21 and this is a further update from Edward Richardson. It  
 22 also involves other firearms officers, Lee Moore,  
 23 David Downes, Lee McGovern and Mr Sexton, who is the  
 24 force duty officer.  
 25 Q. So we have Inspector Sexton, the FDO, and among other

18

1 speakers, PC Edward Richardson, the OFC that night?  
 2 A. That's right, yes.  
 3 Q. The operational firearms commander. This is 1 minute  
 4 and 1 second, at 22.43.17, and the reference  
 5 {INQ018839\_C4/1}, please.  
 6 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 7 Did we hear, picking out a couple of the details  
 8 there, that at the start the speaker says they've been  
 9 informed by a BTP officer and might that be a reference  
 10 to PC Carl Roach --  
 11 A. Yes, potentially.  
 12 Q. -- running in with those two officers?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. That certainly would be consistent with that.  
 15 Secondly, did we also hear the words  
 16 "Operation Plato, Operation Plato"?  
 17 A. We did.  
 18 Q. Was the speaker there, and I appreciate you haven't got  
 19 this in front of you, so if you can't recollect it --  
 20 but I think it was PC Lee Moore?  
 21 A. That is my understanding also.  
 22 Q. That is your understanding. So that is not emanating  
 23 from the force duty officer but rather one of the  
 24 firearms officers on the ground?  
 25 A. That's correct.

19

1 Q. {INQ035612/81}. Whilst that call is taking place, do  
 2 we have at 22.43.20 an armed response vehicle from GMP  
 3 on Hunts Bank?  
 4 A. Yes, we do.  
 5 Q. At {INQ035612/82}, we have one of the speakers on that  
 6 audio, PC Edward Richardson?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. 22.43.21, so seconds behind those first two GMP officers  
 9 that we saw come in from the Trinity Way side?  
 10 A. That's right.  
 11 Q. So by 22.43.21, we have four officers armed within the  
 12 arena complex?  
 13 A. Yes, we do.  
 14 Q. And two more coming towards the City Room from the  
 15 Station Approach side?  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. I'm going to move away from firearms officers just now  
 18 and consider another piece of audio. Please can you  
 19 introduce this for us?  
 20 A. As I understand it, this is internal audio from North  
 21 West Ambulance Service, a tactical call to Nicola Pratt  
 22 to Kevin Mulcahy.  
 23 Q. NWS Control, as you understand it, to NWS Tactical?  
 24 A. That's as I understand it, although I wasn't very clear,  
 25 I do apologise.

20

1 Q. Not at all. The time this call begins, please?  
 2 A. This begins at 22.43.24.  
 3 Q. And its duration?  
 4 A. 2 minutes and 11 seconds.  
 5 Q. And should we be listening out for, among other things,  
 6 mention of Operation Plato?  
 7 A. Yes, we should.  
 8 Q. {INQ015339/1}.  
 9 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 10 Just before I'm going to invite the chairman to  
 11 consider taking a break, as we reach the conclusion of  
 12 the hour, we're going to just return to some more images  
 13 from the scene. {INQ035612/84}, please.  
 14 Do we here capture those first two firearms officers  
 15 that we saw, who entered from the Trinity Way side?  
 16 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 17 Q. At 22.43.32. If we go over the page, {INQ035612/85}, do  
 18 we see that almost at exactly the same time we have two  
 19 firearms officers who came from Station Approach about  
 20 to enter the City Room?  
 21 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 22 Q. So within seconds of this timestamp, 22.43.35, we have  
 23 two firearms officers at least at the doors of the  
 24 City Room?  
 25 A. That's correct.

21

1 MR DE LA POER: Sir, we've been going for a few seconds  
 2 short of an hour. May I invite you to consider taking  
 3 a 15-minute break at this stage?  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes, 15 minutes. Back at 11.15, please.  
 5 (11.00 am)  
 6 (A short break)  
 7 (11.15 am)  
 8 MR DE LA POER: Sir, we were just considering the firearms  
 9 officers converging on the City Room from two  
 10 directions. We're now going to come to a radio  
 11 transmission, this is a BTP radio transmission. Who  
 12 do you understand the speakers to be?  
 13 A. As I understand it, it's BTP Control. We have  
 14 Sally Mackillop, PC Jason Hague, Carl Roach, Gary Welch,  
 15 Neil Wildridge and David Cawley.  
 16 Q. If we remind ourselves, that PC Roach was the officer we  
 17 saw accompanying two of those firearm officers from the  
 18 Station Approach side?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. {INQ015877\_C3/1}. Just before that's played, can we  
 21 confirm the time of this recording?  
 22 A. Yes, the time of this recording is approximately  
 23 22.43.46.  
 24 Q. So at the time that those firearms officers are  
 25 converging?

22

1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. Thank you, Mr Mintar, if we can play it, please.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 So two things to pick out there that I hope was  
 5 tolerably clear. Firstly, a BTP officer proposing the  
 6 Fishdock car park as a rendezvous point?  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. And also a request that that area is checked out for  
 9 "secondary devices"?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. We'll return to the interior now, please, of the arena  
 12 complex, {INQ035612/87}.  
 13 A camera angle that we'd seen seconds earlier which  
 14 involved the first two firearms officers to get inside  
 15 the complex. Following those two are two further  
 16 officers, is that right --  
 17 A. Yes, that's right.  
 18 Q. -- at 22.44.06? And the officer with the box obscuring  
 19 his facial features is the OFC, PC Richardson?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. I just pause to indicate, so there's no mystery about  
 22 it, that as the text in that box indicated, that's the  
 23 subject of a restriction order made by the chairman in  
 24 July of last year.  
 25 So we'll move back to the audio, please. Blue

23

1 page 104 for you, inspector. Are we here about to hear  
 2 more from NWAS?  
 3 A. Yes, we are.  
 4 Q. Do we know who the speakers are at this stage?  
 5 A. We know that one of the speakers is Michael Walczak.  
 6 We are not confirmed on who he is speaking to.  
 7 Q. What time does this transmission take place, please?  
 8 A. 22.44.11.  
 9 Q. It's 18 seconds and it's {INQ023893/1}.  
 10 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 11 Returning to our sequence of events at  
 12 {INQ035612/89}, do we have the recorded arrival of  
 13 Inspector Michael Smith?  
 14 A. Yes, we do.  
 15 Q. That's at 22.44.31. Did Inspector Smith take up the  
 16 Bronze role for GMP?  
 17 A. Yes, he did.  
 18 Q. And we make clear that that is the operational role as  
 19 far as the unarmed assets are concerned?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. He is in company with Police Sergeant McGowan?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. Over the page at {INQ035612/90}, do we see, at the same  
 24 time as Inspector Smith is arriving on Station Approach,  
 25 a further firearms response vehicle pulls up in the same

24

1 area?  
 2 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 3 Q. And two further firearms officers within that building?  
 4 A. Yes, that's right.  
 5 Q. Forgive me, within that vehicle.  
 6 Staying with firearms officers but going back to the  
 7 vicinity of the City Room, {INQ035612/91}. What do we  
 8 see in this image?  
 9 A. These are two firearms officers entering the City Room  
 10 who have come from Victoria Train Station earlier on.  
 11 Q. So these are the officers who we saw coming up from  
 12 Station Approach?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. So they have at this point, 22.44.37, ascended the  
 15 raised walkway, entered the City Room?  
 16 A. And come through the other side.  
 17 Q. Passed all the way through it and have emerged on the  
 18 arena side?  
 19 A. That's right, on to the concourse.  
 20 Q. And in fact, as we will see shortly, that's the same  
 21 area that their colleagues who approached from  
 22 Trinity Way are in?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. {INQ035612/92}, please. At about at the same time,  
 25 22.44.43, do we see a GMP TAU carrier vehicle arrive?

25

1 A. We do.  
 2 Q. Help us with TAU?  
 3 A. Tactical aid unit.  
 4 Q. What is the function of the tactical aid unit?  
 5 A. A tactical aid unit is a group of officers, there would  
 6 be a sergeant and usually at least six officers,  
 7 although the numbers can vary, and they're a public  
 8 order function, a specialist resource for executing  
 9 warrants and supporting large scale events.  
 10 Q. So in a carrier and we'll see shortly who those officers  
 11 are, but I think that there's a short hiatus between the  
 12 time of this still and when they finally enter the  
 13 station --  
 14 A. That's correct, yes.  
 15 Q. -- as indicated in the legend.  
 16 Back to Inspector Smith, please, at {INQ035612/93},  
 17 the Bronze Commander for GMP. Do we see him here on  
 18 Station Approach shortly to enter the station?  
 19 A. Yes, that's right.  
 20 Q. {INQ035612/95}, staying with Inspector Smith. Do we see  
 21 at 22.45 Inspector Smith briefly checking on some of the  
 22 injured at the entrance to the station?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. Before he goes in?  
 25 A. That's correct.

26

1 Q. {INQ035612/96}, please. We've got a GMP TAU personnel  
 2 carrier on Trinity Way?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. {INQ035612/97}, please. Those first two firearms  
 5 officers that we saw now on the arena concourse?  
 6 A. That's right.  
 7 Q. Shortly to meet up with their colleagues who'd entered  
 8 from Station Approach?  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. 22.45.35 is the timestamp of that.  
 11 About 20 seconds later, we're going to have another  
 12 piece of audio moving away from GMP and firearms back to  
 13 NWAS, please. Can you help us with who we understand  
 14 the speakers to be?  
 15 A. Yes. From my understanding, it's Chloe Hewitt and from  
 16 NWAS Control, Julia Tomlinson. This took place at  
 17 22.45.55. It lasts for 47 seconds.  
 18 Q. Mr Mintar, {INQ015335/1}, please.  
 19 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 20 Do we hear there, inspector, in real time the  
 21 declaration of a major incident by NWAS?  
 22 A. Yes, I believe so.  
 23 Q. The time is seconds after 22.45.55?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can you just help me? Who was it who

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1 was making that decision and saying it?  
 2 MR DE LA POER: Sir, would you just bear with me a moment?  
 3 I can answer that fairly readily.  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You can do it later if necessary.  
 5 MR DE LA POER: It won't take me more than a couple of  
 6 seconds, sir.  
 7 (Pause)  
 8 The call was between health control, Chloe Hewitt,  
 9 and NWAS Control, Julia Tomlinson, and it is at the  
 10 Julia Tomlinson end of the call that Ms Tomlinson can be  
 11 heard speaking to her colleague in these terms:  
 12 "Nicola, have we declared this or is it still  
 13 standby?"  
 14 Then there was a reply from her colleague Nicola and  
 15 then Ms Tomlinson can be heard to say:  
 16 "If we haven't declared this, then it is still  
 17 standby until we get things on the scene, is it?"  
 18 And then there is a reply from Nicola:  
 19 "Yeah, might just declare it."  
 20 To which Ms Tomlinson declares:  
 21 "Yeah, we will call it declared as from now,  
 22 22.42.46."  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's really helpful, thank you very  
 24 much.  
 25 MR DE LA POER: We'll return to {INQ035612/98} of the

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1 sequence of events now, back to the firearms officers  
 2 who are making their way towards the City Room, those  
 3 that haven't yet reached it. Do we here see in a single  
 4 file the OFC, PC Richardson, and his colleague PC Lewis  
 5 in the concourse area?  
 6 A. Yes, we do.  
 7 Q. 22.45.41. We can move over that piece of audio there at  
 8 {INQ035612/116}, we've just heard that, that's  
 9 a duplication. We're going to go back to  
 10 Inspector Smith in the station at {INQ035612/99},  
 11 please.  
 12 We see here that Inspector Smith has just entered  
 13 the station and appears to be on his radio or telephone.  
 14 A. Yes, I think it's his radio.  
 15 Q. 22.45.56.  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. Just behind him, {INQ035612/100}, please, the sergeant  
 18 that he was paired with that night, PC McGowan?  
 19 A. Sergeant McGowan, yes.  
 20 Q. Sorry, Sergeant McGowan, thank you.  
 21 Back to firearms at {INQ035612/101}, please. Do we  
 22 see that the two pairs who had entered via the  
 23 Trinity Way side have now come together?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. And all four of those firearms officers are very close

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1 to the City Room?  
 2 A. That's right.  
 3 Q. 22.46.04. They appear to be moving at speed?  
 4 A. They do.  
 5 Q. From firearms now back to NWAS, are we now going to hear  
 6 another transmission from Advanced Paramedic  
 7 Paddy Ennis?  
 8 A. Yes, we are.  
 9 Q. Do we know who it was that he was speaking to?  
 10 A. The only information that we have at the moment is that  
 11 it is someone at NWAS Control, but they haven't  
 12 confirmed who it is.  
 13 Q. 22.46.17, 1 minute and 22 seconds. Both of those  
 14 correct?  
 15 A. Yes, that's right.  
 16 Q. Our reference, {INQ015047/1}.  
 17 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 18 So inspector, at about the time that internally NWAS  
 19 have decided to declare a major incident, Mr Ennis  
 20 talking about a major incident standby. He is on the  
 21 ground, so to speak?  
 22 A. Yes, I believe so.  
 23 Q. But clearly, and we know from the CCTV, not yet able to  
 24 fully gauge the extent of the incident he is confronted  
 25 with?

30

1 A. That's correct.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can you help me? Had he been in the  
 3 City Room by then, Mr Ennis?  
 4 MR DE LA POER: No, he had not.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 6 MR DE LA POER: In fact, I don't think we have yet seen him  
 7 on CCTV. Am I right about that?  
 8 A. I think he's on Hunts Bank at that time and we have him  
 9 captured in a separate sequence of events. I think he's  
 10 just arrived in that period of time.  
 11 Q. We will come to footage showing Mr Ennis entering the  
 12 station complex shortly, I think. But certainly not in  
 13 a position to fully comprehend, but even so, indicating  
 14 major incident standby?  
 15 A. That's correct, and he's definitely not in the City Room  
 16 at that time because Mr Smith from Greater Manchester  
 17 Police arrives in there first and we haven't seen him  
 18 enter yet.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much for that.  
 20 MR DE LA POER: So can I just illustrate precisely what we  
 21 as the inquiry legal team would hope would happen during  
 22 our process. Arising from your query, we're extremely  
 23 grateful to NWAS, who have contacted us, as I have been  
 24 on my feet, indicating that the Nicola in the call that  
 25 we heard before last involving NWAS is Nicola Pratt.

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1 And it was she who made the declaration, so just  
 2 a surname to add to the information we had previously.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm very grateful to NWAS for dealing  
 4 with that so promptly. That's very helpful, thank you.  
 5 MR DE LA POER: So from Mr Ennis back to the interior of the  
 6 station complex. Can we go to {INQ035612/102}, please.  
 7 You, who know this sequence of events so well,  
 8 inspector, will be able to confirm this, that -- we'll  
 9 see this camera angle much later in the sequence, won't  
 10 we, and the appearance of the station concourse at that  
 11 stage is very different to how we see it now?  
 12 A. Yes, it is.  
 13 Q. But for now, at 22.46.20, do we see the coming together  
 14 of firearms officers with Inspector Smith?  
 15 A. Yes, there's an interaction there. It's brief, but it  
 16 does take place.  
 17 Q. Staying with firearms officers, {INQ035612/103}, please.  
 18 We've now returned to the concourse side of the  
 19 City Room, is that right?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. 22.46.24. We remind ourselves that there had been four  
 22 firearms officers approaching from the Trinity Way side.  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. And it appears that those, or at least three of those,  
 25 have now met up with the two who passed through the

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1 City Room?  
 2 A. Yes, that's my understanding.  
 3 Q. We'll move now, please, to BTP and what is occurring  
 4 there, in particular from their control room.  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. And who will be the speaker, please, as you understand  
 7 it?  
 8 A. From BTP, we know that Ben Dawson is certainly one of  
 9 the speakers.  
 10 Q. And he was the FIM that night?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. The force incident manager?  
 13 A. That's right.  
 14 Q. Is that in some ways an equivalent role to the force  
 15 duty officer?  
 16 A. Yes, as I understand it it is.  
 17 Q. We also know from BTP, and we'll hear it in evidence,  
 18 that there is an SDO as well?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Was he in London at the time, is that  
 21 correct, did we hear? He operated from London?  
 22 A. That's right.  
 23 MR DE LA POER: That's correct sir, yes.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 25 MR DE LA POER: So from the FIM, Ben Dawson, at 22.46.30,

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1 lasting 31 seconds, can we please play {INQ015877\_C4/1}?  
 2 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 3 Am I right in recalling that the other speaker who  
 4 we'll hear from later is Police Sergeant Cawley?  
 5 A. I believe so.  
 6 Q. Also from British Transport Police, because this is an  
 7 internal communication, isn't it?  
 8 A. Yes, correct.  
 9 Q. Returning, please, to Inspector Smith, {INQ035612/104}.  
 10 At the time that the BTP FIM is requesting a METHANE  
 11 message, we can see that the GMP Bronze Commander,  
 12 Inspector Smith, is ascending the staircase?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. He's doing so, as the legend describes, at a run?  
 15 A. That's right.  
 16 Q. {INQ035612/105}. Staying with GMP, what do we see in  
 17 this image, please?  
 18 A. We see a firearms officers who had been in the station,  
 19 collecting a large first aid kit from his vehicle.  
 20 Q. Over the page at {INQ035612/106}, returning to  
 21 Inspector Smith, do we see that, as indicated in the  
 22 text, at 22.47.06, he is speaking to PC Martin of BTP?  
 23 A. Sergeant McGowan, I think it was, wasn't it?  
 24 Q. Forgive me. Can we see Inspector Smith in that box, but  
 25 it's Sergeant McGowan?

34

1 A. I apologise, yes, that's correct.  
 2 Q. And then do we see at the conclusion of what is quite  
 3 a short conversation, PS McGowan and PC Martin then walk  
 4 together towards the City Room?  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. We've already mentioned the tactical aid unit. Are we,  
 7 at {INQ035612/107}, going to see some officers from one  
 8 of those vehicle carriers?  
 9 A. We are, but I do not believe these officers are from the  
 10 tactical aid unit.  
 11 Q. Not from the tactical aid unit?  
 12 A. No, I think they've arrived in a carrier, but they  
 13 aren't actually from the tactical aid unit.  
 14 Q. Right. Certainly transported there in numbers?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And they're identified there. PC Whittell and  
 17 PC Ho—McKenna?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. And significantly for the work your team did in relation  
 20 to identifying the movements of those who died, do  
 21 we have body—worn footage from PC Whittell's body—worn  
 22 video?  
 23 A. Yes, we do.  
 24 Q. And the image shows the Fifty Pence Piece, as it is  
 25 sometimes referred to?

35

1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. Staying with GMP but moving to the audio, as those  
 3 officers are converging at the foot of the Fifty Pence  
 4 staircase, do we have an important radio transmission  
 5 involving the FDO?  
 6 A. We do.  
 7 Q. It'll be for the chairman to judge the significance, but  
 8 what might be thought to be significant of this one that  
 9 we're about to hear?  
 10 A. This is the force duty officer's declaration of  
 11 Operation Plato.  
 12 Q. Is the timing of this recording at 22.47.25?  
 13 A. Yes, it is.  
 14 Q. And is it 51 seconds long?  
 15 A. Yes, it is.  
 16 Q. So, please, Mr Mintar, can we play {INQ018839\_C5/1}?  
 17 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 18 We will ask Inspector Sexton in due course, so I'm  
 19 not asking you to comment directly on what he might say  
 20 about it, but is it unmistakably the case that he  
 21 certainly has in mind the possibility of whether there  
 22 was more than one person involved?  
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 24 Q. At the time that that broadcast is taking place, or that  
 25 conversation between the FDO and I think it was

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1 Christopher Charlton of GMP --  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. -- was there also a contact between GMP Control and  
 4 North West Fire Control?  
 5 A. Yes, there was.  
 6 Q. Who do we understand the participants in that to be?  
 7 A. From North West Fire Control we understand it to be  
 8 David Ellis , and from GMP we believe it's Lisa Brooks,  
 9 but this is yet to be confirmed.  
 10 Q. Is the time of the start of this conversation 22.47.30?  
 11 A. Yes, it is.  
 12 Q. Duration, 1 minute and 20 seconds?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. Mr Mintar, {INQ004331\_C2/1}.  
 15 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 16 Inspector, a conversation involving Mr Ellis from  
 17 North West Fire Control?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. And is the information that he's conveying there  
 20 consistent with what we heard Andy Berry, the NILO, say,  
 21 namely a muster point at Philips Park Fire Station, four  
 22 pumps?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. We will return to the scene, please, {INQ035612/108},  
 25 and the GMP Bronze Commander for unarmed assets.

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1 22.47.26. Is Inspector Smith about to enter the  
 2 City Room for the first time?  
 3 A. That's correct, he's on the Victoria footbridge walking  
 4 in the direction of the City Room.  
 5 Q. We are approximately 16 and a half minutes  
 6 post--explosion?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. Returning to those GMP officers we last saw in the  
 9 Fifty Pence Piece, {INQ035612/109}, do we see  
 10 PCs Ho--McKenna and Whittell enter from the Fifty Pence  
 11 staircase?  
 12 A. Yes, we do.  
 13 Q. At {INQ035612/110} do we see firearms officers?  
 14 A. We do.  
 15 Q. And is one of them carrying what appears to be a first  
 16 aid pack?  
 17 A. Which is the red bag on his back.  
 18 Q. And that camera captures an area of the station  
 19 concourse?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. And is it near one of the entrances to the station,  
 22 which will be just to the right?  
 23 A. That's right, just to the right of screen.  
 24 Q. We're going to go to {INQ035612/111}, please. Does this  
 25 capture more GMP officers who have arrived in a carrier?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. We can see the four of them picked out there, moving  
 3 through the station concourse?  
 4 A. That's right.  
 5 Q. {INQ035612/112}. This is PC McGowan and PC Martin of  
 6 GMP and BTP respectively entering the City Room?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. 22.47.46. We know, don't we, from {INQ035612/113} that  
 9 Inspector Smith is just behind them?  
 10 A. That's right, and this is Mr Smith entering the  
 11 City Room now.  
 12 Q. As Mr Smith enters the City Room, we will return to  
 13 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and  
 14 North West Fire Control, please, for some audio.  
 15 Can you introduce for us, please, the speakers?  
 16 A. We have Station Manager Andy Berry from  
 17 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, and from  
 18 North West Fire Control it's Dean Casey.  
 19 Q. 22.48.00 is the start of this, so almost exactly  
 20 contemporaneous to Inspector Smith entering the  
 21 City Room?  
 22 A. Correct.  
 23 Q. 2 minutes 43 seconds is the duration. {INQ004367/1},  
 24 please.  
 25 (Audio played to the inquiry)

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1 Mr Mintar, can we return to our sequence of events,  
 2 please, {INQ035612/114}?  
 3 An image from within the City Room, which shows  
 4 Inspector Smith speaking to two firearms officers?  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. {INQ035612/115}, please. Seconds later do we see  
 7 further firearms officers -- I think we've seen these  
 8 two before because one of them has the red rucksack --  
 9 making their way at speed to the City Room?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Carrying first aid equipment?  
 12 A. Correct.  
 13 Q. We're going to listen to an update from the OFC now from  
 14 GMP, blue page 139, inspector. But can I just say this,  
 15 that in the background of this call, the evacuation  
 16 system can be heard, that is the audible message which  
 17 played for a substantial period of time in the City Room  
 18 and other areas. I am conscious that hearing that may  
 19 be particularly distressing for those that heard that on  
 20 22 May, so I give a warning now and just pause for  
 21 a moment for people to switch off their audio if they  
 22 wish to or to step away from the way in which they are  
 23 accessing this clip. It will last 1 minute and  
 24 38 seconds. The time is 22.48.09. I'll just pause for  
 25 a few seconds longer so people can make arrangements if

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1 they wish to.  
 2 As I say, in 1 minute and 38 seconds, the clip will  
 3 have concluded, and perhaps you can just confirm for us  
 4 who the speakers are?  
 5 A. This is an update from the operational firearms  
 6 commander PC Richardson to the force duty officer,  
 7 Dale Sexton. It involves those two officers,  
 8 Ian Randall and Martin Dunn, all from Greater Manchester  
 9 Police.  
 10 Q. Mr Randall, we remind ourselves, is the FDS?  
 11 A. Yes, force duty supervisor.  
 12 Q. A role that he has described as the FDO's bag man?  
 13 A. He did say that earlier on, yes. Can I just say, it is  
 14 a more important role than that. I think he was being  
 15 flippant.  
 16 Q. I'm quite certain that it is and I know that our experts  
 17 will be able to assist us with that and indeed  
 18 Mr Randall will no doubt be able to help us precisely  
 19 with what his duties were.  
 20 {INQ024326\_C2/1}.  
 21 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 22 There are a number of voices, as we know, being  
 23 heard there. Is the reason why this audio sounds as it  
 24 did because it's taken from Inspector Sexton's  
 25 dictaphone?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. Which means it's not only capturing the conversation  
 3 he's having, but it's also capturing a conversation  
 4 others are having, including Mr Randall?  
 5 A. That's absolutely right.  
 6 Q. So perhaps to some degree at least it gives us insight  
 7 into the activity around Inspector Sexton?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. Just one matter of clarification. We heard mentioned  
 10 from the OFC, PC Richardson, of three ARVs; can you tell  
 11 us what those are?  
 12 A. Armed response vehicles.  
 13 Q. ARV, as we have seen in the documents.  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Staying with firearms but back to the scene, please,  
 16 {INQ035612/117}. So we've got a helpful note to try and  
 17 help us understand who it is that we might be looking at  
 18 in terms of people we've seen before. One of the  
 19 officers is obscured by the redaction but can you  
 20 confirm that there are two armed officers in this image?  
 21 A. I can.  
 22 Q. And bearing in mind that they have the helmets on that  
 23 they do, can we exclude these two officers as being the  
 24 two that we saw enter from Station Approach?  
 25 A. We can indeed, yes.

42

1 Q. Because they had different headgear on?  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. So it would appear that these two officers are two  
 4 officers who passed through the City Room, having  
 5 approached from the Trinity side?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. We stay with them to {INQ035612/119}, please. Do we see  
 8 that those officers who had emerged from the City Room  
 9 appear to meet up with the two officers, one of whom is  
 10 carrying the first aid kit?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. So we've now, at 22.48.45, got four armed GMP officers  
 13 outside the City Room on the station side.  
 14 A. Yes, on the footbridge.  
 15 Q. Concurrent with that, we're going to go now to NWAS and  
 16 a broadcast from Helen Mottram; is that correct?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. A radio transmission. Ms Mottram attended the scene,  
 19 didn't she?  
 20 A. She did, that's correct.  
 21 Q. On behalf of NWAS and played a role in the casualty  
 22 clearing station?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. Do we know to whom Ms Mottram is speaking?  
 25 A. We do not.

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1 Q. But it is an internal NWAS conversation?  
 2 A. It is.  
 3 Q. 22.48.46, 2 minutes and 6 seconds, and the reference  
 4 {INQ015122/1}.  
 5 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 6 Returning to the scene, please, {INQ035612/122}.  
 7 Inspector, do we see further liaison here between  
 8 Inspector Michael Smith on behalf of GMP and with a BTP  
 9 officer?  
 10 A. We do.  
 11 Q. That officer being Police Sergeant Peter Wilcock. It's  
 12 not entirely clear where this image is taken from.  
 13 Can you confirm its location?  
 14 A. This is in the City Room. The camera's been damaged,  
 15 which is why it's blurred.  
 16 Q. But your team has been able to pick out those three  
 17 individuals?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. We're going to go back to the tactical aid unit at  
 20 {INQ035612/123}, please, just to illustrate one small  
 21 point. Do we see the white box picks out what is  
 22 believed to be a first aid box which was being  
 23 transported by one of those officers towards the  
 24 City Room?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. And we can see that there are a number of officers  
 2 within that group?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. {INQ035612/124}, staying with the theme of first aid, do  
 5 we see this officer near the Trinity roller with a first  
 6 aid kit bag?  
 7 A. Yes, we do.  
 8 Q. That officer seems to walk in the direction, top right,  
 9 of where there are people congregated?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. {INQ035612/126}, please. We return to those TAU  
 12 officers who have now congregated together at the foot  
 13 of the staircase?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. 22.49.34. Then, and here coming back to the chairman's  
 16 point earlier about Mr Ennis and his location,  
 17 {INQ035612/128}, please.  
 18 Is this where Mr Ennis, that is to say Advanced  
 19 Paramedic Ennis, first enters the Victoria Station  
 20 complex?  
 21 A. It is.  
 22 Q. That's time stamped at 22.49.43?  
 23 A. That's right.  
 24 Q. We can see that he is carrying a bag.  
 25 A. He is.

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1 Q. As he is entering the station complex, {INQ035612/129},  
 2 do we see that Inspector Smith has passed through the  
 3 City Room?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. And is within the arena concourse?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. Returning to Mr Ennis at {INQ035612/130}, do we see he  
 8 there is in close proximity to a GMP officer?  
 9 A. He is.  
 10 Q. So at the time that Mr Ennis is entering the station,  
 11 we're going to hear two further broadcasts. I'm in fact  
 12 going to play them in reverse order as they appear, so  
 13 I'll give you the reference number. We'll do the first  
 14 one first because that's timed as starting earlier and  
 15 it stays with NWAS. Who do we have speaking on this  
 16 one, please?  
 17 A. So you're doing the NWAS one first, Mr de la Poer?  
 18 Q. Yes.  
 19 A. This is a radio transmission between Daniel Smith at  
 20 NWAS and NWAS Control, although we don't know who it is  
 21 within NWAS Control.  
 22 Q. And that's consultant paramedic Dan Smith, is that  
 23 right?  
 24 A. As I understand it, yes.  
 25 Q. And we know from subsequent images that he dons the

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1 tabard of the operational commander or Bronze for NWAS?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. For a period at least?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. So this is timed at 22.50.08, so it is almost exactly  
 6 contemporaneous with Mr Ennis entering the station, and  
 7 the reference is {INQ015056/1}.  
 8 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 9 Mr Smith there indicating he's going to go directly  
 10 to the scene?  
 11 A. Yes, that's right.  
 12 Q. And we know from subsequent images that fewer than  
 13 10 minutes after that broadcast, he is within the  
 14 station complex?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. Moving away from NWAS to the top entry, please, on blue  
 17 page 156, do we have a GMP transmission?  
 18 A. We do. This is from Mr Smith, Michael Smith, and he's  
 19 updating control with what is happening from his point  
 20 of view.  
 21 Q. This is approximately contemporaneous at 22.50.14 with  
 22 the image we just saw where he is at or around the arena  
 23 side of the City Room?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. So {INQ018644\_C2/1}, please.

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1 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 2 Did we hear him say these words to the effect that  
 3 he wants every NWAS in here?  
 4 A. "Directly in here."  
 5 Q. "Directly in here." Speaking of NWAS, at the time of  
 6 that broadcast -- can we go to {INQ035612/132}, please?  
 7 Does this capture Mr Ennis, who's finished speaking to  
 8 the GMP officer, now beginning his journey to the  
 9 City Room?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. Which I think he does directly, although he does pause  
 12 briefly along the way.  
 13 A. That's right.  
 14 Q. That's 22.50.22. We're going to play, timed as starting  
 15 at the time of the image that we've just seen, some  
 16 audio. Can I give the same warning that I gave before,  
 17 namely that there is in the background of this audio the  
 18 sound of the evacuation system.  
 19 Can you confirm, please, that it is Mr Ennis?  
 20 A. It is.  
 21 Q. And is he speaking to NWAS Control?  
 22 A. He is.  
 23 Q. For anyone who wishes to step away or switch off their  
 24 audio, it is 1 minute 10 seconds in duration; is that  
 25 right?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. {INQ032872/1}.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 Staying with Mr Ennis, please, {INQ035612/133}.  
 5 At the time of that broadcast or as it is finishing,  
 6 is he captured speaking to some BTP officers?  
 7 A. That's correct. There's also some GMP officers there as  
 8 well, so you have GMP and BTP officers with him.  
 9 Q. Yes, I think it's the same GMP officer, PC Grace Barker,  
 10 who he spoke to just inside the entrance?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. Back to the City Room, please, and Inspector Smith,  
 13 {INQ035612/134}. Do we see a grouping of officers at  
 14 22.50.51, including the GMP Bronze?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. To bring us to the conclusion of the period up to  
 17 20 minutes after the explosion, can we go to  
 18 {INQ035612/135}, please? It just captures the  
 19 conclusion of that period and what is happening on the  
 20 footbridge. What do we see there, please?  
 21 A. This is Sergeant McGowan. He's actually moving away  
 22 from the City Room at this moment, back to the stairs  
 23 that lead down to the concourse, the station concourse.  
 24 Q. So at about the time that Mr Ennis is starting to work  
 25 his way towards the City Room?

1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. At the very end of that first 20 minutes, which we've  
 3 dealt with in very substantial detail and that won't be  
 4 necessary for the entirety of this timeline, can we  
 5 please have the second contact between the OCB and the  
 6 Silver Commander, namely Superintendent Arif Nawaz?  
 7 What time did that call begin, please?  
 8 A. 22.50.59.  
 9 Q. Who is the speaker from the OCB, please?  
 10 A. It's the FDO, Dale Sexton.  
 11 Q. We remind ourselves that Mr Randall spoke to  
 12 Superintendent Nawaz at 22.39?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. And this is now the FDO, approximately 11 or 12 minutes  
 15 later, speaking to Superintendent Nawaz again?  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. {INQ018855\_C2/1}.  
 18 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 19 At the time that that call is taking place between  
 20 the FDO and the night Silver, was there another call  
 21 occurring between GMP Control and NWS Control?  
 22 A. That's correct, yes.  
 23 Q. Is that consistent with fitting in to a sequence arising  
 24 from Inspector Smith's call?  
 25 A. Absolutely, yes.

1 Q. So we know that Inspector Smith made the call and  
 2 mentioned "ambulance" and "directly", as we have  
 3 covered, and then at 22.51.01 does this call begin?  
 4 A. It does.  
 5 Q. {INQ015139/1}, please.  
 6 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 7 Sir, we've been going for a further hour. Would now  
 8 be a convenient moment for another 15-minute break? And  
 9 as I seek your ruling on that, sir, can I just indicate  
 10 what my plan would be provisionally for the remainder of  
 11 the morning session? If you were in agreement with the  
 12 idea that we would break until 12.30, I would then  
 13 propose that we do a 30-minute session and break for  
 14 lunch at our conventional time for an hour.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right. I'm perfectly happy to do that.  
 16 I just wanted to say something. Mr de la Poer, it's  
 17 apparent, even at this stage, that getting this sequence  
 18 of events together has been a huge amount of effort and  
 19 work for which we are all very grateful to GMP that they  
 20 have done that. So thank you very much.  
 21 It does occur to me that as people are listening to  
 22 it, there may be some people believe or think there may  
 23 be an error here or there and it would obviously,  
 24 I think, assist if, as we go along, if any CP considers  
 25 that there is an error in the events sequence that they

1 notify us and it can be checked as we go along, if that  
 2 would be of assistance.  
 3 MR DE LA POER: Absolutely, sir. It's precisely the --  
 4 you've expressed the sentiment that I hope I conveyed  
 5 yesterday when I confirmed with Inspector Russell that  
 6 this is very much the start, this is where we start  
 7 chapter 10 from, and we have no doubt that there will be  
 8 further information that core participants can assist us  
 9 with. We had one such example from NWS moments ago and  
 10 I acknowledge also that they have, and I'm in  
 11 consultation with Inspector Russell about this point,  
 12 that there may be a name wrong in a later slide, so  
 13 we're going to be able to adjust that before we even get  
 14 to it. So that, if I may say so, sir, is exactly the  
 15 sort of assistance and cooperation that we would be  
 16 extremely grateful for from all core participants.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Obviously we're going to go through the  
 18 evidence with the witnesses, so these things can be  
 19 corrected then, but if people notice what they think may  
 20 be a mistake or can give further information then I'm  
 21 sure we'd all be very grateful, the sooner they did that  
 22 the better, so Inspector Russell and his team can be  
 23 checking that out.  
 24 I'm perfectly happy with your proposal. We'll  
 25 adjourn until 12.30 and then have another half hour

1 before we have lunch.  
 2 (12.18 pm)  
 3 (A short break)  
 4 (12.30 pm)  
 5 MR DE LA POER: We will resume with our sequence of events,  
 6 returning to Mr Ennis. {INQ035612/136}, please.  
 7 Inspector, two parts to this photograph. Firstly,  
 8 can you confirm it captures Advanced Paramedic  
 9 Patrick Ennis ascending the stairs with a BTP officer?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. And secondly, do we see that Sergeant McGowan has  
 12 reached the bottom of the staircase and is liaising with  
 13 the TAU officers?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. Next, {INQ035612/137}. Picked out within the City Room  
 16 is Inspector Smith using his radio.  
 17 A. That's right.  
 18 Q. 22.51.31. Do we also see that in the bottom legend,  
 19 although we can't see the image, members of ShowSec  
 20 staff are providing assistance?  
 21 A. They are.  
 22 Q. Returning to Mr Ennis, who we know is at about this time  
 23 ascending the staircase, can you confirm, please, that  
 24 there is a radio transmission at 22.51.36, involving  
 25 him?

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1 A. That's correct, and it's Mr Ennis providing control with  
 2 an update.  
 3 Q. With an update, using that phrase, perhaps a sitrep, as  
 4 we have heard before, situation report?  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. {INQ032873/1}, please.  
 7 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 8 So querying whether they have the update report.  
 9 We'll return to Mr Ennis shortly, but before we do, can  
 10 we go back, please, to the TAU officers with  
 11 Sergeant McGowan, {INQ035612/138}. Do we see  
 12 a significant number of GMP officers congregated at the  
 13 war memorial entrance?  
 14 A. Yes, we do.  
 15 Q. We're now going to move to a sequence of three radio  
 16 transmissions, all of which take place at about the same  
 17 time; is that correct?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. Is that time at or around 22.52?  
 20 A. That's right.  
 21 Q. So our first two begin at exactly 22.52.00, and our  
 22 third, which we'll come back to in a moment, at  
 23 22.52.26?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. The first involves who, please?

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1 A. Joanne Haslam from North West Fire Control informing  
 2 Dean Nankivell of the incident, who is from  
 3 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.  
 4 Q. If we cast our minds back to the most recent call that  
 5 we heard involving Andy Berry, does he specifically ask  
 6 for Dean Nankivell to be contacted?  
 7 A. He does.  
 8 Q. This is a 3-minute 57-second contact between North West  
 9 Fire Control, Joanne Haslam, and GMFRS group manager,  
 10 Dean Nankivell. {INQ004364/1}.  
 11 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 12 So we remind ourselves, no doubt recognising  
 13 Ms Haslam's voice, that she was the participant in the  
 14 12.5-minute call with NAWAS, a call that she refers to  
 15 in the course of the audio we've just heard; is that  
 16 right?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. And that call finished just a couple of minutes before  
 19 she makes this call to Group Manager Nankivell?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. Remaining with the Fire Service, is there, exactly  
 22 contemporaneous to that call, a call involving  
 23 Andy Berry?  
 24 A. There is, that's right.  
 25 Q. This one, a slightly shorter call. To whom was he

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1 speaking?  
 2 A. He was speaking to Vanessa Ennis at North West Fire  
 3 Control.  
 4 Q. {INQ004426/1}, please.  
 5 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 6 The third in our sequence here, does that involve  
 7 GMP?  
 8 A. It does.  
 9 Q. Does this call that we're about to hear take place  
 10 during the currency of the period that Mr Berry was  
 11 speaking to Ms Ennis at North West Fire Control?  
 12 A. Yes, it does.  
 13 Q. It's an 11-second radio transmission, commencing at  
 14 22.52.2; is that right?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. And who are the participants, please?  
 17 A. It's Chief Inspector, at the time, Mark Dexter updating  
 18 or requesting Rachel Buckle attend the force control  
 19 room. I will have to check for you, Mr de la Poer, on  
 20 what Talk Group he is speaking.  
 21 Q. All right. You perhaps can do that, thank you very much  
 22 indeed. Ms Buckle was a chief inspector at the time,  
 23 is that right?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. And what was her role as you understand it at this point

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1 of the evening?  
 2 A. As I understand it, she was to be tactical firearms  
 3 commander.  
 4 Q. But in the event, did she in fact give way to her  
 5 superior, who was a specialist tactical firearms  
 6 commander?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. And that was Superintendent Thompson, as I recall it?  
 9 A. That's right, yes.  
 10 Q. We'll hear now from Chief Inspector, as he was, Mark  
 11 Dexter. {INQ024326\_C4/1}.  
 12 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 13 It's difficult to make out, but do we hear  
 14 Chief Inspector Dexter using the phrase, "I'll be ground  
 15 assigned"?  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. Do you understand that to be a reference to the ground  
 18 assigned tactical firearms commander?  
 19 A. I do, and I think that particular recording is from the  
 20 dictaphone.  
 21 Q. That's from —  
 22 A. Mr Sexton.  
 23 Q. Mr Sexton's dictaphone?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. So we just, to avoid confusion — Inspector Sexton,

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1 based as he was within the OCB, activated, as we know,  
 2 his dictaphone at around 10.45; is that right?  
 3 A. That's correct, yes.  
 4 Q. And Chief Inspector Dexter, who takes up the role of  
 5 ground assigned tactical firearms commander, he  
 6 activates his dictaphone but not until about 25 past 11;  
 7 is that right?  
 8 A. That's correct, yes.  
 9 Q. So that is Mr Sexton's dictaphone that we just heard?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Mr Mintar, I do not want this page displayed, but can  
 12 you confirm, inspector, that at black page 140, we have  
 13 captured on the footbridge Advanced Paramedic Ennis, who  
 14 is making his way to the City Room and who pauses  
 15 briefly to check on the welfare of two people who are  
 16 injured?  
 17 A. Yes, he does.  
 18 Q. Page 141 can be displayed, please {INQ035612/141},  
 19 a shot within the City Room. Does this capture  
 20 Inspector Smith imminently leaving the City Room?  
 21 A. He just runs to the other side of the doors.  
 22 Q. So just outside —  
 23 A. Just outside the City Room.  
 24 Q. — the external perimeter of the City Room?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. The time is 22.52.45 and of course at this time that is  
 2 in close proximity to Mr Ennis?  
 3 A. Correct.  
 4 Q. Who we see on {INQ035612/142}, 22.52.48, Advanced  
 5 Paramedic Ennis about to enter the City Room?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. {INQ035612/143}. We see that happen. It's an important  
 8 time in our timeline. 22.53.01. Mr Ennis has entered  
 9 the City Room; is that correct?  
 10 A. Yes, he has.  
 11 Q. And he is in company with the GMP Bronze Commander,  
 12 Inspector Smith?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. We just pause to reflect on where it is in our timeline  
 15 we are. This is 22 minutes post—explosion?  
 16 A. Yes, that's right.  
 17 Q. {INQ035612/144} we can deal with briefly as it  
 18 illustrates more GMP officers making their way towards  
 19 the City Room.  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. Some of our core participants will recognise the names  
 22 of Sergeant Anwyl and PC McLaughlin, who play a role  
 23 with some of those affected.  
 24 A. They do indeed.  
 25 Q. We're going to return now to the firearms, please. It's

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1 a piece of audio involving PC Richardson; is that  
 2 correct?  
 3 A. Yes, it is.  
 4 Q. And to whom is he speaking?  
 5 A. He is speaking to Dale Sexton, the force duty officer.  
 6 Q. The time of this recording, please?  
 7 A. 22.53.21.  
 8 Q. {INQ024326\_C5/1}, please.  
 9 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 10 Thank you, Mr Mintar.  
 11 Again, not for display, but inspector, can you  
 12 confirm, black page 145, that captured within the  
 13 City Room is Inspector Smith walking towards the centre  
 14 of it whilst Mr Ennis approaches a casualty?  
 15 A. Yes, I can.  
 16 Q. At the time that Inspector Smith is walking, as we have  
 17 just heard, in the City Room, does he also make  
 18 a broadcast?  
 19 A. He does.  
 20 Q. To whom is he speaking?  
 21 A. He's providing an update to the Central Manchester Talk  
 22 Group.  
 23 Q. So this is internal to GMP?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. Is the time of that 22.53.49?

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1 A. Yes, it is.  
 2 Q. Mr Mintar, please play {INQ018644\_C3/1}.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 At the time that Mr Smith is contacting GMP Control,  
 5 is there also contact within NWAS —  
 6 A. Yes, internally, yes.  
 7 Q. — that we're about to hear? I'm not meaning to suggest  
 8 it's the only contact, but it's the transmission that  
 9 we're going to hear now, 22.53.54. Who is involved in  
 10 this, please?  
 11 A. It's the trauma cell and Julia Tomlinson from  
 12 NWAS Control.  
 13 Q. I think we've heard Ms Tomlinson's voice before.  
 14 A. Yes, we have.  
 15 Q. {INQ015365/1}, please.  
 16 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 17 Is the contents of that call consistent at least  
 18 with a reference to Dr Michael Daley?  
 19 A. Yes, it is.  
 20 Q. Mr Mintar, not for display, please, but page 146 of the  
 21 sequence of events, inspector. Does that capture the  
 22 arrival of more firearms officers?  
 23 A. Yes, it does.  
 24 Q. These particular specialist firearms officers referred  
 25 to as CTSFOs?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. What does that acronym stand for, please?  
 3 A. Counter—terrorism specialist firearm officer.  
 4 Q. I think we're to see that there are three in that  
 5 vehicle in due course.  
 6 A. Yes, that's right.  
 7 Q. Again, no need for display, but at 22.54.19, does the  
 8 City Room CCTV capture Inspector Smith speaking to two  
 9 BTP officers?  
 10 A. Yes, it does.  
 11 Q. We can put up, please, {INQ035612/148}, which returns us  
 12 only in fact a short time since we were last looking at  
 13 this image to the foot of the staircase, where our TAU  
 14 officers are.  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. I think that particular unit was led by Police  
 17 Sergeant Hare?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. Kam Hare?  
 20 A. That's right.  
 21 Q. Who again is an important name when it comes to somebody  
 22 who took a very active role within the City Room?  
 23 A. Yes, he did.  
 24 Q. Just to draw attention to one aspect of that, do we see  
 25 towards the bottom centre of the photograph a GMP

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1 firearm officer apparently on guard at the foot of that  
 2 staircase?  
 3 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 4 Q. By this point — we just heard a few moments ago  
 5 Mr Ennis contact NWAS Control to see if they had an  
 6 update from him. I think we're about to get that update  
 7 now, aren't we?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. The time is 22.54.20; is that right?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. And we know from the CCTV that at the time Mr Ennis  
 12 provides this update to NWAS Control, he is inside the  
 13 City Room?  
 14 A. Yes, he is.  
 15 Q. So {INQ015070/1}, please.  
 16 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 17 So just to cross—refer that to something we heard  
 18 from Mr Ennis earlier, about 6 minutes previously, as  
 19 he was arriving in the vicinity, is it right that he  
 20 broadcast a major incident standby at a time before he'd  
 21 got out of his vehicle, it would seem, or certainly not  
 22 entered the complex?  
 23 A. Certainly not entered the complex.  
 24 Q. So quite independently of the declaration which has  
 25 already taken place within NWAS, Mr Ennis is declaring

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1 a major incident at this point?  
 2 A. Yes, he does.  
 3 Q. We're going to go to Station Approach now, please,  
 4 {INQ035612/150}. This is an image which shows part of  
 5 the response by GMP, is that right —  
 6 A. Yes, it is.  
 7 Q. — in terms of securing the scene?  
 8 A. That's right.  
 9 Q. And this is the beginnings of what comes to be referred  
 10 to as the outer cordon; is that right?  
 11 A. Yes, that's right.  
 12 Q. And we can see two GMP officers and the police tape  
 13 visible at the bottom of that shot.  
 14 {INQ035612/151}, please, returning to Sergeant Hare  
 15 and his tactical aid unit. 22.55.18, on the raised  
 16 footbridge, do we see a significant number of GMP  
 17 officers about to enter the City Room?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. As that is occurring, we're going to go back to the OCB  
 20 and Inspector Sexton. To whom is this radio  
 21 transmission?  
 22 A. It's a GMP officer called Angelo Depono.  
 23 Q. And what role did they have?  
 24 A. I would have to check that for you, but I believe it was  
 25 a firearms officer on the night.

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1 Q. An internal radio transmission, 22.55.32, very short.  
 2 {INQ024326\_C6/1}, please.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 Subject matter, because it was very short, relates  
 5 to the evacuation?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. Next we'll return to the City Room and an image of  
 8 Inspector Smith. {INQ035612/153}, please.  
 9 Here he is being captured using his police radio;  
 10 is that right?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. At the time that he's doing so, we've now got a sequence  
 13 of broadcasts. I think given the time we'll just listen  
 14 to the first one, if we may, which will run us up to  
 15 1 o'clock or thereabouts. Does that first one that  
 16 we're going to listen to in this sequence involve GMP?  
 17 A. Yes, it does.  
 18 Q. Who are the speakers, please?  
 19 A. So we have Mr Sexton again and Ian Randall.  
 20 Q. So the FDO and the FDS, and a discussion caught within  
 21 the OCB; is that right?  
 22 A. Yes, it's again from the dictaphone. That's why we can  
 23 hear both Sexton and Randall on it.  
 24 Q. Do we also have, as the note indicates, a call involving  
 25 Nat Dalby?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. And who is Nat Dalby, please?  
 3 A. The detective inspector on the night.  
 4 Q. So 22.56.29, 1 minute 12 seconds, {INQ024326\_C7/1}.  
 5 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 6 A lot to unpack there before we perhaps break off.  
 7 Firstly, a call involving Ms Dalby, as we have heard.  
 8 Mention within that call is of a Detective  
 9 Superintendent Denise Worth?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. What was her role at that time?  
 12 A. She's the senior detective on cover in Greater  
 13 Manchester Police on that evening.  
 14 Q. And both Ms Dalby and Detective Superintendent Worth  
 15 subsequently can be seen attending the scene, can't  
 16 they?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. Do we also hear from Inspector Sexton a request to  
 19 somebody in the room to answer his phone?  
 20 A. Yes, we do.  
 21 Q. And a discussion involving a number of names being  
 22 mentioned, in particular ACC Ford. Who is that, please?  
 23 A. Assistant Chief Constable Debbie Ford.  
 24 Q. Did ACC Ford assume the Gold Commander role?  
 25 A. Yes, she did.

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1 Q. As well as the strategic firearms commander?  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. And a reference to a name already familiar to us today,  
 4 Superintendent Nawaz?  
 5 A. That's right.  
 6 Q. Who, as we know, was at that time Silver Commander?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. And finally, a reference again from Mr Randall, is this  
 9 right, to "setting Silver up"?  
 10 A. That's right.  
 11 MR DE LA POER: Thank you very much indeed,  
 12 Inspector Russell.  
 13 Sir, would that be a convenient moment for our break  
 14 for an hour?  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes. We'll break until 2 o'clock.  
 16 Thank you very much.  
 17 (1.00 pm)  
 18 (The lunch adjournment)  
 19 (2.00 pm)  
 20 (Delay in proceedings)  
 21 (2.15 pm)  
 22 MR DE LA POER: Can I apologise, sir, to you and everybody  
 23 watching for the delay in our restart. We were just  
 24 addressing an issue, but we are ready to commence now,  
 25 please.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you very much.  
 2 MR DE LA POER: Inspector, when we broke for lunch we were  
 3 dealing with a sequence of four audio segments; is that  
 4 correct.  
 5 A. Yes, that's right.  
 6 Q. We had listened to the first of that, which took place  
 7 at 22.56.29, between the FDO and a police officer  
 8 Nat Dalby; is that right?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. And also that included some audio of a conversation  
 11 between Inspector Sexton and the FDS?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. We are now going to move to a different organisation,  
 14 this time as between NNAS.  
 15 A. That's right, yes.  
 16 Q. This call takes place shortly after that other call  
 17 began, 22.56.46; is that right?  
 18 A. Yes, it is.  
 19 Q. Who do we understand to be involved?  
 20 A. We believe it to be Nicola Pratt speaking to  
 21 Annemarie Rooney.  
 22 Q. Is Ms Rooney known to have taken up the Silver or  
 23 tactical commander's role?  
 24 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 25 Q. Nicola Pratt, is that a woman we've referred to earlier

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1 as, thanks to the helpful information from NWS, being  
 2 the person responsible for the major incident  
 3 declaration?  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. Thank you very much indeed. It's quite a lengthy call,  
 6 but it's an important one, 6 minutes 9 seconds. Can we  
 7 please play {INQ015381/1}.  
 8 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 9 Inspector, amongst a number of matters discussed,  
 10 was there a name John Butler mentioned in the course of  
 11 that?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. And I think that's particularly pertinent because whilst  
 14 he is being spoken about by Ms Pratt and Ms Rooney, was  
 15 he himself participating in some internal NWS  
 16 correspondence?  
 17 A. Yes, he was.  
 18 Q. That was at 22.56.55, is that right?  
 19 A. Yes, it is.  
 20 Q. With whom was he speaking?  
 21 A. Jo Leonard Cooper, also from NWS.  
 22 Q. And the reference for this very short communication,  
 23 {INQ015507\_C1/1}, please.  
 24 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 25 The final contact in this sequence, this also

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1 involves NWS but also involves North West Fire Control;  
 2 is that right?  
 3 A. Yes, it is.  
 4 Q. Who do we understand from North West Fire Control is  
 5 speaking?  
 6 A. Rochelle Fallon.  
 7 Q. Do we yet have a name for NWS?  
 8 A. No, we do not.  
 9 Q. This takes place 5 seconds after the call that we just  
 10 heard commence at 22.57; is that right?  
 11 A. Yes, it is.  
 12 Q. It's 3 minutes 45 seconds and the reference is  
 13 {INQ029808/1}. The speakers, I remind everyone,  
 14 North West Fire Control and NWS Control.  
 15 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 16 Inspector Russell, I described that as one of four.  
 17 In fact, if we move forward to blue page 189, at about  
 18 the time that that is taking place, 22.57.22, is there  
 19 also an internal communication within GMP?  
 20 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 21 Q. This is 21 seconds. Who are the speakers?  
 22 A. Jamie Eaglestone(?) and Mark Hilton.  
 23 Q. The reference is {INQ018458\_C1/1}.  
 24 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 25 We hear within that a reference to attendance at the

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1 booking office?  
 2 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 3 Q. Thank you. I'm going to return now to the scene. We  
 4 don't need to put this image up, but can I invite your  
 5 attention to black page 155, please, just to confirm  
 6 that captured on the CCTV we heard earlier about the  
 7 arrival of the CTSFOs, those are specialist  
 8 counter-terrorism firearms officers. Are those three  
 9 officers captured at 22.57.34 within the building?  
 10 A. Yes, they are.  
 11 Q. When I say the building, I mean the arena building.  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. Back then to the City Room, please, {INQ035612/156}.  
 14 What is shown within the visible part of this image,  
 15 a further liaison between GMP Bronze, Inspector  
 16 Michael Smith, and BTP Sergeant Wilcock.  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. And not visible within the photograph as it appears in  
 19 this version, but otherwise visible, are there five ETUK  
 20 medics --  
 21 A. Yes, there are.  
 22 Q. -- captured within the shot?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. -- in its unedited form?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. We don't need to put this up, but at 22.57.53, your  
 2 black page 157, do officers from GMP force their way  
 3 into the Beer House bar on the Victoria Station  
 4 concourse?  
 5 A. Yes, they do.  
 6 Q. And from that location, do they harvest first aid  
 7 equipment?  
 8 A. Yes, they do.  
 9 Q. Staying with the City Room, {INQ035612/158}, please. Do  
 10 we see captured here at 22.57.59 Inspector Smith  
 11 speaking with Advanced Paramedic Ennis?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. And arena medic, that is to say employee of ETUK,  
 14 Ryan Billington?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. Again, Mr Billington played a prominent role, didn't he,  
 17 in the care for some of the people within the City Room?  
 18 A. Yes, he did.  
 19 Q. We're going to go back to the station concourse now,  
 20 directly to {INQ035612/160}, please. We've got a second  
 21 group of TAU officers entering at this time.  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. So further adding to the number of GMP officers within  
 24 the building?  
 25 A. That's right.

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1 Q. Just outside the station at {INQ035612/162}, on Station  
 2 Approach, we can see, 22.58.28, an NAWAS ambulance  
 3 arriving just outside the war memorial entrance?  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. So another significant moment. Mr Ennis is already on  
 6 site, but this is the first ambulance that arrives?  
 7 A. That's right.  
 8 Q. Stepping away from NAWAS and back to GMP, at about the  
 9 time that that ambulance is arriving, blue page 200, is  
 10 there an internal firearms—related radio transmission?  
 11 A. Yes, there is.  
 12 Q. Who are the participants with that?  
 13 A. Mr Dexter, Mark Dexter, and Peter Fox from Greater  
 14 Manchester Police.  
 15 Q. So the time of that, can you confirm for us, please?  
 16 A. 22.58.38.  
 17 Q. It's a 32—second transmission {INQ018839\_C6/1}, please.  
 18 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 19 So in that slightly indistinct at times  
 20 transmission, do we hear Chief Inspector Dexter  
 21 confirming himself in the role of ground assigned  
 22 tactical firearms commander?  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. Or confirming that he will take that role, and  
 25 a reference again to Chief Inspector Buckle as being

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1 control room TFC?  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. But as we've already covered, there was a decision taken  
 4 for her not to take up that role until her superior  
 5 arrived and he took it up?  
 6 A. That's right.  
 7 Q. Back to the City Room, contemporaneous with that  
 8 internal GMP transmission, {INQ035612/165}, please. Do  
 9 we see the conversation between Mr Ennis and  
 10 Mr Billington has continued —  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. — as shown here?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. {INQ035612/167}, please. A different part of the room  
 15 just seconds later. Do we see that Inspector Smith is  
 16 liaising with another GMP police sergeant, Police  
 17 Sergeant Linney?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. {INQ035612/169}, please. Is captured within this image,  
 20 inspector, the arrival of Dr Michael Daley?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. So the time of that, 22.59.25, and as we said, within  
 23 20 minutes of the contact that he had had with  
 24 NAWAS Control earlier in the evening?  
 25 A. Yes, that's right.

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1 Q. At the time that Dr Daley is seen to be arriving, is he  
 2 also in company with Consultant Paramedic Daniel Smith?  
 3 A. Yes, he is.  
 4 Q. As the legend indicates, did Mr Smith take up the role,  
 5 as we have said a number of times now, of NAWAS  
 6 operational commander?  
 7 A. Yes, he does.  
 8 Q. Is what we're going to see now, over a sequence which  
 9 will be interspersed with other images, a coming  
 10 together of these two NAWAS employees with Mr Ennis?  
 11 A. That's right.  
 12 Q. So we'll bear that in mind. We don't need to put up  
 13 page 170, so not to display, but can you confirm that  
 14 at the time that Mr Smith and Dr Daley are entering the  
 15 station, Advanced Paramedic Ennis is leaving the  
 16 City Room?  
 17 A. Yes, he is.  
 18 Q. That's 22.59.46?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. In fact, at {INQ035612/171}, I described them as  
 21 entering, in fact Dr Daley and Consultant  
 22 Paramedic Smith are both still speaking to people in the  
 23 entrance of the war memorial access to the station.  
 24 A. That's right.  
 25 Q. At {INQ035612/172}, do we see they are captured entering

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1 the Victoria Station concourse?  
 2 A. Yes, that's right.  
 3 Q. Next to arrive from NAWAS, and we'll bear in mind that at  
 4 the moment we look at this slide there are three members  
 5 of NAWAS within the building — can we go to  
 6 {INQ035612/173}, please.  
 7 We see shown here the arrival of Derek Poland?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. He arrives in a plain motor vehicle?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. Sticking with NAWAS for the time being but going to  
 12 NAWAS Control, blue page 211, inspector, as Mr Poland is  
 13 disembarking from his vehicle, is there an internal  
 14 NAWAS Control message?  
 15 A. Yes, there is.  
 16 Q. What time does that take place?  
 17 A. 23.00.27.  
 18 Q. Mr Mintar, I wonder, please, therefore can you play  
 19 {INQ015093/1}.

(Pause)

20 Can I ask you to stop that? Thank you very much  
 21 indeed. Can I just ask you to check whether the audio  
 22 is working on that? I had expected to hear sound by  
 23 this point. Perhaps we can just take it back. It may  
 24 be that this particular file is defective and, if so, we  
 25

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1 will look to address that and I apologise to everyone  
 2 who is following this, but if we could just check on the  
 3 technology side. I'll give the reference again just in  
 4 case it needs to be reloaded. {INQ015093/1}, please.  
 5 What I'm expecting is an NAWAS control message to all  
 6 crews, requesting mobilisation to Hunts Bank. Play it  
 7 through to the end just in case it's the editing of it  
 8 that we are being misled by.  
 9 (Pause)  
 10 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 11 Thank you very much indeed, we've got that now.  
 12 So Inspector Russell, just summarising the position  
 13 so far as NAWAS is concerned, we've seen the arrival of  
 14 Advanced Paramedic Ennis. We've also seen the arrival  
 15 of Dr Daley and Consultant Paramedic Smith, and  
 16 Derek Poland was, last we saw, just outside the war  
 17 memorial entrance.  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. So we're going to now look at {INQ035612/176}, please,  
 20 which is approximately contemporaneous to that image  
 21 that we saw of Mr Poland. A different view of Station  
 22 Approach; is that right?  
 23 A. Yes, it is, yes.  
 24 Q. And in this are captured three further paramedics?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. We can see a note in the description that care has been  
 2 taken by your team to ensure that Mr Poland has not been  
 3 double counted.  
 4 A. That's correct, yes, just to highlight the fact that  
 5 they are three new members of staff who have arrived.  
 6 Q. 23.00.29, three NAWAS staff within the building and four  
 7 outside?  
 8 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 9 Q. Next, please, {INQ035612/177}. Does this image capture  
 10 Advanced Paramedic Ennis on his way down to the station  
 11 concourse?  
 12 A. Yes, it does.  
 13 Q. {INQ035612/178}. As Mr Ennis is making his way down, do  
 14 we see those three paramedics we saw earlier on Station  
 15 Approach now inside the station building?  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. On {INQ035612/179}, please, do we see those three  
 18 paramedics together with Dan Smith?  
 19 A. Yes, we do.  
 20 Q. And also indicated is PS McGowan?  
 21 A. That's correct.  
 22 Q. He is a GMP officer, is that right?  
 23 A. That's right.  
 24 Q. And he's the officer who was paired with Inspector Smith  
 25 for much of the night?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. And finally, just out of view, Dr Daley?  
 3 A. That's right.  
 4 Q. The time, 23.00.50.  
 5 {INQ035612/181}, please. This brings us, inspector,  
 6 to the end of the period 30 minutes after the explosion.  
 7 This image is focused at the bottom of the staircase,  
 8 is that right?  
 9 A. Yes, it is.  
 10 Q. And we see that firearms officer who we've seen  
 11 previously, who was stationed there, in conversation  
 12 with other police officers?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. Seconds after that was captured, {INQ035612/182},  
 15 please. Do we here see at the top Mr Ennis' descent to  
 16 the station concourse?  
 17 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 18 Q. And in the bottom shot, do we see that congregation of  
 19 NAWAS paramedics?  
 20 A. That's right.  
 21 Q. I think they're identified in previous shots so far as  
 22 that has been possible to do.  
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 24 Q. But in particular, we know that Dan Smith is amongst  
 25 them, as is Dr Daley?

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1 A. That's right.  
 2 Q. Just 15 or so seconds later, {INQ035612/183}, do we see  
 3 that, just to the very left of that top shot, Mr Ennis  
 4 has joined that group?  
 5 A. Yes, he has.  
 6 Q. He is plainly, from the footage, can you confirm, in  
 7 conversation with the operational commander, Dan Smith  
 8 and Dr Daley?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Also present, as indicated here, is Mr Poland?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. We don't need to linger on it, but the bottom shot shows  
 13 a number of police officers making their way up the  
 14 staircase towards the City Room?  
 15 A. Yes, that's right.  
 16 Q. {INQ035612/184}, please, back to the City Room. This  
 17 time a shot capturing Inspector Smith going up on to the  
 18 mezzanine level.  
 19 A. That's right.  
 20 Q. As the legend indicates, he was just there for a brief  
 21 period of time?  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. We are not going to have an image at this stage for the  
 24 next part we're going to deal with, but very much in  
 25 accordance with the chairman's wish and indeed the

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1 inquiry legal team's wish, are you aware of contact from  
 2 NWAS about a number of matters? We are about to deal  
 3 with the first of them.  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. Were you asked to check the footage to be able to  
 6 confirm something not captured within the sequence of  
 7 events?  
 8 A. Yes, that's right, sir.  
 9 Q. Were you able to confirm that during the meeting  
 10 involving Patrick Ennis and Dan Smith and others,  
 11 Mr Smith makes gestures?  
 12 A. Yes, that's right.  
 13 Q. And do those gestures appear to be directed to the area  
 14 in which we know the casualty clearing station was  
 15 established?  
 16 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 17 Q. It will plainly be for Mr Smith to explain what he had  
 18 in mind, but that is what can be seen on the CCTV  
 19 footage?  
 20 A. It is, yes.  
 21 Q. Bearing in mind, and very much in accordance with the  
 22 approach that your team has taken, bearing in mind NWAS  
 23 regard this as an important occasion, and by that  
 24 I don't mean to imply that the inquiry legal team  
 25 doesn't, will you amend the sequence of events to add

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1 that to it?  
 2 A. Yes, we've already captured the images and we will  
 3 produce them in evidence.  
 4 Q. So they will be added to this and no doubt to the  
 5 sequence of events for key NWAS personnel?  
 6 A. Yes, absolutely.  
 7 Q. Thank you very much indeed.  
 8 We're going to stay with NWAS for the time being.  
 9 {INQ035612/189}, please. In this shot of the war  
 10 memorial entrance, do we see Mr Smith and Mr Poland?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. The timestamp being 23.02.51, as corrected?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. As those two men are, as we see them, moving forward to  
 15 {INQ035612/229}, bottom right—hand corner, was there  
 16 a conversation captured within the OCB?  
 17 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 18 Q. So by that I mean an internal conversation involving GMP  
 19 personnel?  
 20 A. That's right, yes.  
 21 Q. Who were those personnel?  
 22 A. We have the FDO Dale Sexton and Dave Myerscough from  
 23 GMP.  
 24 Q. Is the approximate time of this 23.02.12?  
 25 A. Yes, it is.

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1 Q. Can we please play {INQ024326\_C9/1}.  
 2 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 3 Can we just set that in conversation in context with  
 4 something we've already heard? Did we hear earlier on  
 5 Inspector Sexton's dictaphone the fact that he wanted  
 6 somebody to come up, describing a movement within the  
 7 room, to answer his phone?  
 8 A. Yes, we did.  
 9 Q. Do we know from other evidence that Mr Myerscough, who  
 10 we hear speaking there, did in fact answer the FDO's  
 11 line?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. Back to the second of the matters that NWAS have invited  
 14 us and you to check, approximate time — and no doubt  
 15 we'll capture the stills — 23.03.23, was there another  
 16 occasion when Mr Smith was identified as making  
 17 gestures?  
 18 A. Yes, that's right.  
 19 Q. Was he gesturing in the direction where we know the  
 20 ambulance loading point was?  
 21 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 22 Q. Again, as I've said before, Mr Smith can come and  
 23 explain what he had in mind, but that's what is visible  
 24 on the footage, you can confirm that?  
 25 A. I can.

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1 Q. Will you take the same approach to capturing that so  
 2 that we have a slide to show it?  
 3 A. Absolutely. The stills again are captured and we will  
 4 include them in the evidence.  
 5 Q. Thank you.  
 6 {INQ035612/192}, please. We'll recall that Mr Ennis  
 7 has come down from the City Room, the time is 23.03.17.  
 8 Is he here captured speaking to Dr Daley?  
 9 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 10 Q. Is that shortly before, as we shall see, that Mr Ennis  
 11 returns to the City Room?  
 12 A. Yes, that's right.  
 13 Q. At the conclusion of that conversation, as we see at  
 14 {INQ035612/194}, does Dr Daley step outside on to  
 15 Station Approach and join the operational commander,  
 16 Mr Smith?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. There's something about Mr Smith's clothing that has  
 19 changed; is that right?  
 20 A. Yes, that's right.  
 21 Q. Can he be seen to be wearing a checked tabard?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. Is your understanding — and obviously you work for GMP  
 24 and not NWAS — that that is a commander tabard that he  
 25 has put on?

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1 A. That's my understanding of it, yes.  
 2 Q. We do not need to bring this slide up, but can I ask  
 3 you, inspector, to move forward to black page 196, just  
 4 to confirm that, having stepped briefly outside the  
 5 City Room, Inspector Smith returns and speaks to arena  
 6 medics?  
 7 A. Yes, he does.  
 8 Q. The time of that conversation, 23.03.59?  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. He's also seen to go on to the arena concourse?  
 11 A. Yes, that's right.  
 12 Q. Again, we don't need to bring this up, but at  
 13 {INQ035612/197}, do arena medics Zak Warburton and  
 14 Craig Seddon — are they seen within the City Room  
 15 assisting a casualty?  
 16 A. Yes, they are.  
 17 Q. We're moving forward to blue page 239, inspector, and  
 18 the — there's no need to show anything on screen. The  
 19 third of the three requests that we received from NWAS  
 20 relates to 23.05.02. Again, is the subject of this  
 21 Mr Smith?  
 22 A. Yes, it is.  
 23 Q. Can he be seen to gesture to a police constable  
 24 in relation to a patient or injured person that that  
 25 police constable is dealing with?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. You've been able to confirm that?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. And we can see that from that footage, can we, Mr Smith  
 5 is directing that police officer?  
 6 A. Yes, he is.  
 7 Q. Have you had an opportunity in the time that you have  
 8 had to deal with this to deal with the audio that is  
 9 captured for this?  
 10 A. We do have the audio, but we haven't got it in the  
 11 evidence for you yet, not for this particular SoE.  
 12 Q. At this moment, can you confirm that Mr Smith can be  
 13 heard to say, "Casualty clearing is there"?  
 14 A. I would have to check that for you, sir.  
 15 Q. All right, we will do that, and if that is correct,  
 16 could that please be included upon the slide that  
 17 you are going to prepare?  
 18 A. Absolutely.  
 19 Q. We're now going to go back to Mr Ennis. We don't need  
 20 to show this, but black page 200, can you please confirm  
 21 that by 23.05.08, Mr Ennis is on his way back to the  
 22 City Room?  
 23 A. Yes, he is.  
 24 Q. And he is delayed in that journey only by the fact that  
 25 he checks upon two casualties who are on the raised

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1 footbridge?  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. Is he seen to be writing something on the back of his  
 4 hand at the time?  
 5 A. He does appear to, yes.  
 6 Q. Again, no need to show this, but page 201, dealing this  
 7 time with Inspector Smith at 23.05.21. Can he be seen  
 8 speaking to a TAU officer and Sergeant McGowan?  
 9 A. Yes, he can.  
 10 Q. So in the City Room?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. Next, please, {INQ035612/202}. Consultant Paramedic  
 13 Smith —  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. — in the commander's tabard, speaking to Dr Daley;  
 16 is that right?  
 17 A. Yes, that's right.  
 18 Q. {INQ035612/203}. Whilst that conversation is going on,  
 19 on the station concourse, Mr Ennis has re-entered the  
 20 City Room?  
 21 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 22 Q. {INQ035612/204}. We can see that within seconds of  
 23 reentering the City Room, Mr Ennis approaching  
 24 a casualty?  
 25 A. Yes, he does.

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1 Q. That's timed at 23.05.52?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. Returning to Mr Smith, {INQ035612/205}, please. What do  
 4 we see in this image, please, inspector?  
 5 A. It'd be easy to mistake this image with the war  
 6 memorial, but it isn't, it's further up the Station  
 7 Approach, and it would appear to my officers that  
 8 Dan Smith is directing people up to the war memorial.  
 9 He wants them to move.  
 10 Q. We can see from the uniform a member of ShowSec staff.  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. Is that what appears to be a police officer that he's  
 13 speaking to in the foreground?  
 14 A. Yes, it is.  
 15 Q. {INQ035612/206}. We're going to go back to the  
 16 City Room. Can you help us with what is shown in this  
 17 image?  
 18 A. Yes. So in this image, we can see that  
 19 Sergeant Kam Hare approaches Patrick Ennis and appears  
 20 to lead him across the City Room.  
 21 Q. The timestamp of that?  
 22 A. 23.05.57.  
 23 Q. Then {INQ035612/207}. Do we return to the operational  
 24 commander Daniel Smith in that area down from the war  
 25 memorial entrance?

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1 A. Yes, that's correct, further up the road.  
 2 Q. I'm going to move to {INQ035612/209}, please, for some  
 3 more medical personnel. Is it right that your officers  
 4 have identified that at this point, three off-duty  
 5 doctors attended the war memorial entrance of the  
 6 station?  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. They are named there, Dr David Dolan, Dr Vyki Wijeratne,  
 9 and Dr Matthew Burrows.  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. Did they liaise with Mr Smith and Dr Daley?  
 12 A. Yes, we do.  
 13 Q. So it would now appear that there are four medical  
 14 doctors within the station?  
 15 A. It would appear so, yes, sir.  
 16 Q. {INQ035612/211}, please. We've moved forward a few  
 17 seconds, but it's the same area, isn't it, inspector?  
 18 A. Yes, it is.  
 19 Q. We can see that two of those that we've had in the  
 20 previous shot are still in the same area speaking to  
 21 each other?  
 22 A. That's right.  
 23 Q. And in addition, Mr Poland has been identified?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. Is this right, that we are about to enter a phase of the

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1 response, as captured within the CCTV, that a number of  
 2 casualties are going to be making their way from the  
 3 City Room down to the area of the war memorial entrance?  
 4 A. Yes, that's right.  
 5 Q. So that everybody knows where I'm going with this,  
 6 I don't propose to track those movements with you, so  
 7 we will be able to move through a number of these pages  
 8 relatively quickly. But we will continue to interpose  
 9 the audio and that's what we'll begin with, please, at  
 10 page 256 in blue, please. Are we with GMP at the OCB?  
 11 A. Yes, we are.  
 12 Q. The force duty officer, Inspector Sexton, speaking to  
 13 the counter-terrorism unit?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. Who was it that he spoke to?  
 16 A. It was Darren Meeks.  
 17 Q. 23.07.30. Please can we play {INQ024326\_C10/1}.  
 18 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 19 Again, slightly indistinct at times, but included  
 20 within that did we hear the FDO indicate to the  
 21 counter-terrorism unit that he declared Operation Plato?  
 22 A. Yes, we did.  
 23 Q. And indicating that the Silver room at GMP Headquarters  
 24 was being set up?  
 25 A. Yes, that's correct.

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1 Q. Before that conversation ends, blue page 262, do we have  
 2 a BTP radio transmission?  
 3 A. Yes, we do.  
 4 Q. Is this between Chief Inspector Andrea Graham?  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. And BTP Control?  
 7 A. That's right, yes.  
 8 Q. Do we know that, from the CCTV, slightly less than  
 9 an hour after this call is made, Chief Inspector Graham  
 10 is captured on CCTV?  
 11 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 12 Q. Do we know with whom she's speaking?  
 13 A. We are waiting for confirmation on that name, sir.  
 14 Q. Thank you. So 23.08.38, a 27-second contact.  
 15 {INQ015877\_C5/1}, please.  
 16 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 17 I'm going to move now, please, to black page 220.  
 18 As Chief Inspector Graham is speaking to BTP Control, do  
 19 we see that there are more ambulances arriving on  
 20 Station Approach?  
 21 A. Yes, that's right.  
 22 Q. Perhaps we can bring up, please, {INQ035612/220}, which  
 23 captures that. In fact, have your officers counted  
 24 a total of six ambulances visible within this CCTV  
 25 shot --

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. -- at 23.08.39?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. If we move forward, please, to {INQ035612/222}, do we  
 5 see that Mr Smith is captured going out to the  
 6 ambulances?  
 7 A. That's right.  
 8 Q. In the meantime, at {INQ035612/225}, in the City Room  
 9 what's taking place?  
 10 A. This is a completely redacted page, but I can confirm it  
 11 shows that Patrick Ennis is talking to arena medics  
 12 Ryan Billington and Ian Parry. And in a separate  
 13 conversation we see that Inspector Smith is talking with  
 14 other police officers.  
 15 Q. That's timed at 23.09.43?  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. Just 5 seconds later, {INQ035612/226}, please, do we see  
 18 a total of six firearms officers enter the station?  
 19 A. Yes, that's right.  
 20 Q. Are some at least carrying what appear to be first aid  
 21 packs?  
 22 A. Yes, they're the orangey-red backpacks.  
 23 Q. {INQ035612/229}, please. Do we see those firearms  
 24 officers, as indicated in the text, meet up with other  
 25 firearms officers who were already in the building?

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1 A. Yes, we do.  
 2 Q. We go back to Mr Ennis in the City Room now, please. As  
 3 those firearms officers are congregated down on the  
 4 concourse, {INQ035612/232}, please. 23.10.43. We see  
 5 Mr Ennis liaising with a GMP officer?  
 6 A. Yes, we do.  
 7 Q. Who is that?  
 8 A. That's Inspector Hawksley.  
 9 Q. Does that, inspector, bring us to the end of the period,  
 10 which is 40 minutes post-explosion?  
 11 A. Yes, it does.  
 12 Q. We don't need to display this, but on page 234 have your  
 13 team identified that, having spoken to  
 14 Inspector Hawksley, Mr Ennis walks across the City Room  
 15 and approaches a group of police officers who are  
 16 tending to a casualty?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. {INQ035612/236}. We've returned to Mr Hawksley, who's  
 19 still in the same position; is that right?  
 20 A. Yes, that's right.  
 21 Q. Is he speaking to Inspector Michael Smith and  
 22 Sergeant McGowan?  
 23 A. Yes, he is.  
 24 Q. So the sequence appears to be, as far as  
 25 Inspector Hawksley is concerned, he has a conversation

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1 with Mr Ennis and then he speaks to the GMP  
 2 Bronze Commander?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. {INQ035612/237}. Do we see that Mr Ennis, having  
 5 checked on that casualty, is then seen to be speaking to  
 6 an arena medic, Mr Billington?  
 7 A. Yes, that's right.  
 8 Q. I'm going to deal with two pieces of audio now at blue  
 9 page 282, which I anticipate will take us slightly  
 10 beyond the time that I would otherwise be inviting the  
 11 chairman to stop, but if I can be indulged in that,  
 12 we will finish the second call.  
 13 The first one, please. Who does that take place  
 14 between?  
 15 A. This again is — I think it's from the dictaphone from  
 16 Mr Sexton, and you can hear Dale Sexton and Ian Randall  
 17 in the background.  
 18 Q. I've described it as a call, in fact it's a conversation  
 19 within the OCB.  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. The time of this, please?  
 22 A. It's 23.11.47.  
 23 Q. {INQ024326\_C11/1}, please.  
 24 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 25 The FDS requesting the FDO for an update, and

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1 we have heard that. Whilst that conversation is taking  
 2 place in the OCB, was there also contact involving  
 3 North West Fire Control?  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. Who was involved in that, please?  
 6 A. My understanding is this is Ben Levy and  
 7 Michelle Gregson, both from North West Fire Control.  
 8 Q. This is a longer contact, it'll take us slightly beyond  
 9 3.15. The time of it, please?  
 10 A. 23.12.  
 11 Q. And the INQ reference is {INQ004395/1}.  
 12 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 13 Inspector Russell, before I invite the chairman to  
 14 take a 15-minute break, can I just pick up on one matter  
 15 that you said earlier; I'm sure you'll accept this  
 16 correction from me. I think you indicated that Mr Levy  
 17 was North West Fire Control. In fact —  
 18 A. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, apologies.  
 19 Q. Not at all. Group manager at the time, now an area  
 20 manager.  
 21 A. Sorry.  
 22 MR DE LA POER: No, not at all. Thank you very much indeed.  
 23 Sir, I have slightly overrun just to complete that  
 24 call, but can I invite you, please, either to break now  
 25 until 3.30 or just beyond, depending on your preference.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll break until 3.35. That gives  
 2 people more time. One more session after that?  
 3 MR DE LA POER: Yes, please, sir, and I can offer this  
 4 reassurance to you and anyone else concerned about our  
 5 progress, that we are where I had hoped we would be at  
 6 this stage and, as I've indicated a number of times, the  
 7 level of detail that we'll need to deal with will  
 8 diminish at this stage as we progress later and later  
 9 into the incident.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you very much. 3.35 then.  
 11 (3.18 pm)  
 12 (A short break)  
 13 (3.35 pm)  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr de la Poer.  
 15 MR DE LA POER: Sir, thank you.  
 16 Inspector Russell, earlier in your evidence today we  
 17 heard mention of the Fishdock car park; is that right?  
 18 A. Yes, we did.  
 19 Q. That was a transmission involving BTP, as I recall;  
 20 is that right?  
 21 A. That's right, yes.  
 22 Q. Included within that call, as we heard, was a concern as  
 23 to whether it had been searched for secondary devices?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. We're now going to hear at blue page 285 further radio

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1 traffic about the Fishdock car park, although does this  
 2 involve GMP?  
 3 A. Yes, it does.  
 4 Q. Who are the speakers please?  
 5 A. Andrew Wallace—McKay and, from communications, Dianne  
 6 Bowden.  
 7 Q. It's a 25—second call at 23.12.12; is that right?  
 8 A. Yes, it is.  
 9 Q. It's {INQ018458\_C2/1}.  
 10 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 11 Whilst that call is taking place, we are going to  
 12 move forward to black page 243 within our sequence of  
 13 events. So at about the time that communication is  
 14 taking place within GMP, GMP officer  
 15 Inspector Michael Smith is in the City Room, is that  
 16 right?  
 17 A. Yes, that's right.  
 18 Q. And he is speaking to Advanced Paramedic Patrick Ennis?  
 19 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 20 Q. We can see that in that image.  
 21 If we move forward, please, to {INQ035612/248}, do  
 22 we see that a few seconds later, Inspector Smith is now  
 23 speaking to GMP Inspector Hawksley?  
 24 A. Yes, that's right.  
 25 Q. Whilst those conversations are taking place -- can we

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1 please move forward to {INQ035612/249} -- do we have  
 2 captured here a view of Station Approach?  
 3 A. Yes, we do.  
 4 Q. And what is identified within this image, please?  
 5 A. We can see a group of NWS personnel, so towards the top  
 6 of the image. It's believed that the operational  
 7 commander Daniel Smith is there, although he is not  
 8 completely visible in this image, as you can see.  
 9 Q. And this is captured at what time?  
 10 A. 23.13.47.  
 11 Q. Thank you. Just 7 seconds later, I think we are going  
 12 to get a reverse view on {INQ035612/252}, please.  
 13 Is that correct?  
 14 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 15 Q. Their names have been mentioned a number of times, but  
 16 NWS HART paramedics Christopher Hargreaves and  
 17 Lea Vaughan, is that right, they've been identified  
 18 here?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. Both are carrying bags and are picked out in the  
 21 squares?  
 22 A. That's right.  
 23 Q. They enter the Victoria Railway Station from Station  
 24 Approach?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. We're now going to follow them through the station.  
 2 {INQ035612/254}, please. This is just 10 seconds or so  
 3 later. Have they proceeded directly to the staircase?  
 4 A. Yes, they have.  
 5 Q. At {INQ035612/257}, do we see that they are captured  
 6 shortly before they enter the City Room?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. So the time now is 23.14.56, and at {INQ035612/258}, do  
 9 we see that at 23.15.10, both of those paramedics have  
 10 entered the City Room?  
 11 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 12 Q. So at this point, as we know Mr Ennis is still there,  
 13 we have three NWS paramedics within the City Room?  
 14 A. That's right.  
 15 Q. And we are just shy, are we, of 45 minutes  
 16 post—explosion?  
 17 A. Yes, we are.  
 18 Q. {INQ035612/259}. Do we see them in conversation with  
 19 Mr Ennis?  
 20 A. Yes, we do.  
 21 Q. Do they leave the view of the camera shortly after this  
 22 shot is captured?  
 23 A. Yes, that's right.  
 24 Q. We're going to now just check in briefly with the  
 25 firearms officers from GMP. {INQ035612/260}, please.

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1 I think you can confirm from the material in italics  
 2 that this is illustrative of a manoeuvre performed in  
 3 a number of places; is that right?  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. What appears to be the case is that we have two firearms  
 6 officers who are checking various rooms off the  
 7 concourse?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. We have such an example at 23.15.20?  
 10 A. That's right.  
 11 Q. About a minute and a half or so after that, blue  
 12 page 310, inspector, do we have a radio transmission  
 13 involving the operational firearms commander?  
 14 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 15 Q. With whom is PC Richardson speaking?  
 16 A. With the force duty officer, Dale Sexton.  
 17 Q. Does that take place at 23.16.14?  
 18 A. Yes, 41.  
 19 Q. Quite right, I transposed those numbers. 23.16.41.  
 20 {INQ024326\_C12/1}, please.  
 21 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 22 Obviously, as someone who was involved in the  
 23 criminal investigation, messages to this effect will  
 24 have been of great interest to the Operation Manteline  
 25 team?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. And from your investigation, were you able to establish  
 3 that this emerged from a good faith report by a member  
 4 of the public?  
 5 A. That's right.  
 6 Q. So no criticism at all intended of that person given the  
 7 circumstances, but it was reported to the police that  
 8 there was a second male?  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. What we are hearing here is the force duty officer being  
 11 informed of that fact by the OFC?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. And we'll come to a number of transmissions, won't we,  
 14 in which concern is being expressed about the  
 15 possibility of another suspect being at large during the  
 16 response?  
 17 A. That's right.  
 18 Q. Before we come to that, can we move forward, please, to  
 19 {INQ035612/267}. If we just move away from those whose  
 20 primary role was to respond to the emergency, do we here  
 21 have a detective inspector from the major incident team  
 22 arriving --  
 23 A. That's correct.  
 24 Q. -- Neil Haywood? Would part of his role be to  
 25 consider the scene from a crime scene perspective?

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1 A. That's absolutely right.  
 2 Q. So he works complementarily and in parallel with those  
 3 responding to the emergency?  
 4 A. That's right.  
 5 Q. {INQ035612/268}. We have mention again of our three  
 6 off-duty doctors, although the image is entirely  
 7 redacted, do they appear in company with paramedic  
 8 Helen Mottram?  
 9 A. Yes, they do.  
 10 Q. We remind ourselves that Ms Mottram is one of those  
 11 we have heard on the radio traffic earlier in the  
 12 evening?  
 13 A. That's right.  
 14 Q. At {INQ035612/269}, again there is someone who's viewed  
 15 -- well, she's an entirely redacted image. At 23.17.50,  
 16 do we see that Ms Mottram is speaking to Dr David Dolan?  
 17 A. Yes, that's right.  
 18 Q. And indeed, the interpretation of your officers was that  
 19 she was giving him instruction in relation to triage?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. And that at the same time, Dr Michael Daley, about whom  
 22 we've heard quite a lot already, he is present?  
 23 A. That's right.  
 24 Q. We're going to move forward now, please, to  
 25 {INQ035612/280}. Just under 2 minutes on from that

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1 activity down around the war memorial entrance, back in  
 2 the City Room, do we see Inspector Smith and Advanced  
 3 Paramedic Ennis in conversation?  
 4 A. Yes, we do.  
 5 Q. At {INQ035612/287}, have we returned to the station  
 6 concourse and the members of NWSA captured in this shot?  
 7 A. Yes, we do.  
 8 Q. And can you confirm who has been identified, please?  
 9 A. So paramedic Joanne Hedges, Dr Michael Daley and  
 10 Dr Dolan.  
 11 Q. Do they appear between them to be dealing with a label?  
 12 A. They do.  
 13 Q. {INQ035612/288}. The same camera angle, a few seconds  
 14 on, is that right?  
 15 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 16 Q. The same people involved as described in the legend,  
 17 is that right?  
 18 A. Yes, it is.  
 19 Q. 23.20.49 is the time, and also mentioned is the off-duty  
 20 doctor, Dr Burrows?  
 21 A. That's correct.  
 22 Q. We're just going to pause here with the sequence of  
 23 events and address a matter that NWSA has drawn to our  
 24 attention, and which I think you are going to produce  
 25 further work in relation to, as you've described. We've

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1 already seen that the HART paramedics Vaughan and  
 2 Hargreaves arrived approximately 5 minutes or so before  
 3 the still that we are looking at.  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. Have you been able to check what NWSA has said about the  
 6 arrival of further members of the HART team?  
 7 A. No, I haven't, but I've asked my team to do so and we'll  
 8 provide you with an update.  
 9 Q. So let's just provide clarity around this issue. NWSA  
 10 has drawn to your attention that at 23.21 hours, and  
 11 in the seconds following, a number of members of the  
 12 HART team can be seen to be arriving?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. You're not sitting there disputing that fact?  
 15 A. Not at all.  
 16 Q. All you're saying, if I have understood you correctly,  
 17 is that that is something, as with all of these  
 18 suggestions, that your team will look at and will  
 19 produce further evidence in relation to?  
 20 A. Yes, we will capture the stills and produce them in  
 21 evidence, sir.  
 22 Q. But we mention them here so that everybody understands  
 23 where that will fit in the chronology as we go through  
 24 it?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. So moving on from that sequence, and as you say you will  
2 add to it, and I think it involves Mr Smith as well,  
3 we are going to go back, please, to GMP. We're going to  
4 go to blue page reference 346. The speakers in this  
5 radio transmission, please?  
6 A. We have the OFC Eddie Richardson, Dale Sexton,  
7 Robert Albert and Andrew Core. They are all GMP  
8 personnel.  
9 Q. It's Sergeant Andrew Core; is that right?  
10 A. As I understand it, yes.  
11 Q. And he took a role in the OCB?  
12 A. That's correct.  
13 Q. We obviously have recently heard a transmission  
14 involving Inspector Sexton and PC Richardson. Is this  
15 that we are about to hear on the same lines?  
16 A. It is, and it's captured on the dictaphone again.  
17 Q. Thank you. So at 23.23.10, as the approximate time,  
18 {INQ024326\_C13/1} in relation to a possible second male  
19 suspect.  
20 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
21 So another transmission in accordance with the terms  
22 that we previously heard?  
23 A. That's correct.  
24 Q. We're going to stay with the OCB, moving forward to  
25 page 348, please, in blue, and deal with the force duty

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1 officer line. Can you confirm, though, that the speaker  
2 is not Inspector Sexton?  
3 A. I can. It's David Myerscough.  
4 Q. With whom is Mr Myerscough speaking?  
5 A. Tony Lodge from British Transport Police.  
6 Q. Was he the senior duty officer at British Transport  
7 Police as you understand it?  
8 A. As I understand it, yes.  
9 Q. Holding the rank, as you understand it, of  
10 Chief Inspector?  
11 A. Correct.  
12 Q. The timing of this, please?  
13 A. It's 23.23.22.  
14 Q. And the reference, Mr Mintar, {INQ018834\_C1/1}.  
15 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
16 As the chair observed earlier, can you confirm your  
17 understanding is that Chief Inspector Lodge is based in  
18 London at this time?  
19 A. Correct.  
20 Q. While that conversation is going on between GMP and BTP,  
21 did Mr Smith, that is to say Dan Smith, provide a report  
22 to NWAS Control?  
23 A. He does, he passes a METHANE message.  
24 Q. Before we listen to this, can I give a warning that  
25 I have given already, namely that the evacuation system

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1 can be heard in the background of this call. The call  
2 takes 2 minutes 53 seconds, so I'll just give a moment  
3 for people to make their arrangements if they wish to,  
4 whether to switch off their audio for a period of  
5 approximately 3 minutes or to step away altogether.  
6 (Pause)  
7 Can you confirm, please, for us the time that this  
8 call starts?  
9 A. 23.23.24.  
10 Q. Mr Mintar, {INQ033111\_C1/1}, please.  
11 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
12 In case people were wondering as they received this,  
13 either by YouTube or the BlueJeans platform, whether it  
14 was their equipment, can you confirm that in fact  
15 that is a relatively muffled recording?  
16 A. It is.  
17 Q. It obviously has that sound which repeats a number of  
18 times throughout.  
19 A. It does.  
20 Q. And there are sections of complete silence during it?  
21 A. That's correct.  
22 Q. That's just how the audio has been captured. But  
23 can you also confirm that a transcript has been prepared  
24 of that, as with all of the audio that we've listened  
25 to, and that there will be an opportunity in due course

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1 for that to be considered?  
2 A. Yes, there is a transcript.  
3 Q. Thank you very much indeed.  
4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: (Inaudible: distorted) Mr de la Poer,  
5 because that was extremely difficult to follow, anyway  
6 for me, and I have no doubt for others listening.  
7 MR DE LA POER: Yes, thank you, sir, I'm not at all  
8 surprised. When I reviewed that audio, I was in  
9 a different environment to this and it was clearer to  
10 me, but I can readily see how, when we've played it as  
11 part of our hearing, that it was quite inaccessible, so  
12 I regret that very much --  
13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No, no, it is better that we hear it as  
14 it is and then we can look at transcripts when we come  
15 to look at the evidence in detail.  
16 MR DE LA POER: Yes, thank you, sir.  
17 We're going to return, please, to the scene now and  
18 GMP. Black page 302 {INQ035612/302}. Tell us what is  
19 captured here.  
20 A. So in this image we can see Station Approach and it  
21 captures the arrival of the ground assigned tactical  
22 firearms commander, Mr Dexter.  
23 Q. That's at 23.23.55?  
24 A. That's correct.  
25 Q. We are going to track him through the station now,

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1 please. {INQ035612/307}, under a minute later. We see  
 2 that there is the war memorial entrance?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. And we can see the stage at which the casualty clearing  
 5 station has reached.  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. As at 23.24.37. Do we see that Mr Dexter,  
 8 chief inspector as he was at the time, has met up with  
 9 Police Sergeant Lee Sharples?  
 10 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 11 Q. And Police Sergeant Sharples was a firearms officer who  
 12 was already present at the scene at the time of  
 13 Mr Dexter's arrival?  
 14 A. That's right.  
 15 Q. If we track them to {INQ035612/308}, do we see that they  
 16 are now captured, those two, Chief Inspector Dexter and  
 17 Police Sergeant Sharples, on the footbridge?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. As the ground assigned tactical firearms commander makes  
 20 his way to the City Room?  
 21 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 22 Q. The bottom image, 23.25.17, shows Chief Inspector Dexter  
 23 shortly before he enters the City Room?  
 24 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 25 Q. At {INQ035612/310}, do we see that Mr Dexter has arrived

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1 with Sergeant Sharples in the City Room?  
 2 A. Yes, we do.  
 3 Q. 23.25.32?  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. {INQ035612/312}. This is shot from within the  
 6 City Room, capturing the movements of Chief  
 7 Inspector Dexter?  
 8 A. Yes, it is.  
 9 Q. {INQ035612/315}. Do we see Chief Inspector Dexter has  
 10 just left the shot --  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. -- indicated by the yellow circle as the text suggests,  
 13 and Inspector Smith and Sergeant McGowan appear to have  
 14 noticed him and they are indicated in the white box?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. At {INQ035612/317}, 23.26.25, as described,  
 17 Chief Inspector Dexter appears to walk away from  
 18 Inspector Smith and goes to stand at the side of the  
 19 room?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. We're going to go to {INQ035612/320}, please. This is  
 22 seconds on. We have remained with Mr Dexter. Is he  
 23 seen there to place his bag on the floor and take off  
 24 his outer coat?  
 25 A. Yes, he is.

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1 Q. He's subsequently distinctive by the white of his  
 2 short-sleeved shirt?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. And we'll pause there with our review of what's going on  
 5 with Chief Inspector Dexter to go to page 370 in blue,  
 6 please. That image was at 23.26.59. About a minute  
 7 later is there a GMP radio transmission in relation to  
 8 the cathedral and a possible suspect?  
 9 A. Yes, there is.  
 10 Q. Is that 1 minute and 19 seconds long?  
 11 A. It is.  
 12 Q. Who participates, please?  
 13 A. Because it's caught on Mr Sexton's dictaphone, you can  
 14 hear Mr Sexton himself, Conrad Pack, David Herrington,  
 15 Andrew Core, Simon Jackson and an unknown Merseyside  
 16 armed response officer.  
 17 Q. So we'll listen to that now, please. {INQ024326\_C14/1}.  
 18 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 19 Again, as the mention is of a possible suspect, no  
 20 doubt of considerable interest to Operation Manteline,  
 21 the criminal investigation, just to help us understand  
 22 what is almost certainly clear to everybody listening to  
 23 that, did this involve the identification of, as we  
 24 heard, an Asian male in the vicinity of the cathedral?  
 25 A. It did.

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1 Q. Had he spoken to police officers and indicated that  
 2 he was on his way to Piccadilly?  
 3 A. It seems so from the information that was passed to  
 4 Mr Sexton, yes.  
 5 Q. And had he also seemed to be acting in, to use what  
 6 I hope is neutral word, an unusual way?  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. But in terms of Operation Manteline, was there any  
 9 concern that in fact he was involved in this from  
 10 a criminal perspective?  
 11 A. No, not as it turns out, no.  
 12 Q. But at the time Inspector Sexton and those he was  
 13 speaking to were not to know that?  
 14 A. No, of course not.  
 15 Q. So whilst that traffic is taking place over the Greater  
 16 Manchester Police airwaves, can we please return to  
 17 North West Fire Control and a gentleman whose name we've  
 18 heard mentioned, Carlos Meakin.  
 19 A. That's correct, yes.  
 20 Q. I think we heard him identified in an earlier call  
 21 involving Mr Levy as one of the NILOs?  
 22 A. That's right.  
 23 Q. What time does this call start, please?  
 24 A. 23.28.  
 25 Q. It involves Mr Meakin and who, please, from

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1 North West Fire Control, as you understand it?  
 2 A. Lisa Owen.  
 3 Q. {INQ004374/1}, please.  
 4 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 5 I'm going to move forward to black page 325  
 6 {INQ035612/325} and return to the scene and to  
 7 Mr Dexter. Whilst that conversation between Mr Meakin  
 8 and North West Fire Control is taking place, on the  
 9 ground in the City Room is Chief Inspector Dexter seen  
 10 to be using his mobile telephone?  
 11 A. It would appear so, yes.  
 12 Q. That's certainly the conclusion drawn by the person  
 13 who's considered the images.  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. Contemporaneous to that still, if we go to page 375 in  
 16 blue, do we in fact have a conversation between  
 17 Mr Dexter and Eddie Richardson?  
 18 A. Yes, we do.  
 19 Q. So we will listen to that, but first can you confirm the  
 20 start time?  
 21 A. 23.28.14.  
 22 Q. {INQ025479\_C1/1}.  
 23 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 24 Can we conclude from the level of background noise  
 25 that that was captured on Mr Dexter's dictaphone?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. Near him at the time, {INQ035612/329} within our  
 3 sequence of events, we're staying within the City Room,  
 4 and about the time that Mr Dexter is having that  
 5 conversation with PC Richardson, 23.29.03, do we see  
 6 that the two HART paramedics are in conversation with  
 7 Mr Ennis?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. Then if we move forward to {INQ035612/331}, can you  
 10 confirm that we return to Mr Dexter?  
 11 A. Yes, that's right.  
 12 Q. Who has collected his bag and jacket and is on his way  
 13 out of the City Room?  
 14 A. That's right, yes.  
 15 Q. We're going to track him now. {INQ035612/332}, please.  
 16 So having spent 3 or 4 minutes or so — and that's an  
 17 estimate, we've seen the timings — within the  
 18 City Room, having had the conversation with  
 19 PC Richardson, does Mr Dexter, as this image depicts,  
 20 then walk to the raised footbridge exit of the  
 21 City Room?  
 22 A. Yes, he does.  
 23 Q. Whilst he's doing so, {INQ035612/333}, is  
 24 Inspector Smith captured using his police radio?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Then at {INQ035612/337}, do we return to Chief  
 2 Inspector Dexter?  
 3 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 4 Q. Who by this point, 23.31.21, has left the City Room?  
 5 A. Yes, that's right.  
 6 Q. Do we see at the bottom of the shot, under the white  
 7 box, in fact that obscures the operational firearms  
 8 commander —  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. — PC Richardson?  
 11 A. Yes, that's right.  
 12 Q. And in fact can you confirm that in earlier stills,  
 13 which we don't need to put up, that just outside the  
 14 City Room the two men are seen together in company?  
 15 A. Yes, that's right.  
 16 Q. We can see that that is timed at 23.31.21.  
 17 Chief Inspector Dexter appears to be on the telephone.  
 18 We are going to listen now, please, to a phone call that  
 19 he made. I'm looking at page 388 in blue. Is that  
 20 a call between Chief Inspector Dexter and  
 21 Chief Inspector Buckle?  
 22 A. Yes, it is.  
 23 Q. Is it right that because of the potential mismatch of  
 24 timing it's not possible to say with certainty that this  
 25 is the telephone call that we saw in that image which

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1 occurs slightly later?  
 2 A. That's correct.  
 3 Q. And that's simply because, to calibrate the dictaphone  
 4 precisely is beyond what is possible from the available  
 5 information?  
 6 A. That's right.  
 7 Q. But the approximate time given for this is 23.30.13.  
 8 Can we please play {INQ025479\_C2/1}.  
 9 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 10 Thank you, Mr Mintar, we can stop it there.  
 11 Can I just say this, and it comes with this apology,  
 12 that we had taken steps to identify the occasions on  
 13 which that emergency recording can be heard in the  
 14 background. I wish to apologise for the fact that  
 15 I gave no warning about that and I sincerely hope that  
 16 it did not cause undue distress to people listening to  
 17 it because, as I have indicated previously, we are  
 18 sensitive to the fact that that can be particularly  
 19 distressing for some people. So I'm very sorry and  
 20 I don't propose we play any more of that footage for  
 21 now.  
 22 Can we just summarise together, please,  
 23 Inspector Russell — and I, of course, take full  
 24 responsibility for that, that is not a responsibility of  
 25 you or your team. Can you confirm that the discussion

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1 takes place between Mr Dexter and Chief Inspector Buckle  
 2 about command and control decisions?  
 3 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 4 Q. We're going to return now, please, to the City Room.  
 5 23.31.38. It's {INQ035612/339}. Do we see there  
 6 a conversation between Mr Smith and Patrick Ennis?  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. It's with some trepidation that I'm going to play this  
 9 now, but I think that this has been ensured to be clear  
 10 of such emergency announcements. Whilst that is taking  
 11 place -- we're looking at page 391 -- was there  
 12 a conversation recorded between Chief Inspector Dexter  
 13 and PC Richardson?  
 14 A. Yes, there was.  
 15 Q. Before I play it, just in case, can I warn people that  
 16 because this is from the dictaphone it may contain the  
 17 emergency announcement. We have a degree of confidence  
 18 that it doesn't. It is just 4 seconds long, but I'll  
 19 give that warning, particularly in the light of the  
 20 error that I made just a few moments ago. I will just  
 21 leave a moment for anybody who wishes to switch off  
 22 their audio. I don't expect it to be heard, but just in  
 23 case it is.  
 24 The reference number is {INQ025479\_C3/1}.  
 25 (Audio played to the inquiry)

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1 It was very brief, but did we hear the  
 2 Chief Inspector Dexter say, "Are we declaring this  
 3 warm"?  
 4 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 5 Q. We're going to move forwards now a minute or so to  
 6 {INQ035612/343}, please, of our sequence of events.  
 7 Inspector Russell, can you confirm that this is  
 8 illustrative of what we see on other occasions, but this  
 9 is just the only time that we are going to display it as  
 10 there are no casualties visible, that barriers of the  
 11 type that appear in the top image were used by police  
 12 officers and others to remove injured people from the  
 13 City Room; is that right?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. So we can see those barriers in that top right-hand  
 16 corner, and do we see in the bottom right-hand corner  
 17 the fact that on top of one of those barriers is  
 18 a cardboard display?  
 19 A. That's right, they're advertising hoardings and display  
 20 boards.  
 21 Q. And this is illustrative, as the text indicates, of  
 22 occasions on which other than this, these are used and  
 23 involved in the evacuation?  
 24 A. That's correct.  
 25 Q. {INQ035612/344}, please. We are here, just as we were

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1 in the previous photograph, just over an hour on from  
 2 the explosion; is that right?  
 3 A. Yes, that's right.  
 4 Q. At 23.32.46, do we see captured here the OFC,  
 5 PC Richardson, together with Chief Inspector Dexter?  
 6 A. Yes, we do.  
 7 Q. And the two of them had travelled together from the  
 8 City Room, hadn't they?  
 9 A. That's correct, yes.  
 10 Q. Shortly after that, we're going to move forward, please,  
 11 to page 398 in blue, to a radio transmission. Are we  
 12 here returning to the force duty officer?  
 13 A. Yes, we are, that's correct.  
 14 Q. Is Inspector Sexton communicating with somebody who is  
 15 yet to be identified from West Yorkshire?  
 16 A. Yes, we believe an armed response vehicle coming in from  
 17 West Yorkshire.  
 18 Q. The time of this, please?  
 19 A. 23.33.35.  
 20 Q. {INQ024326\_C15/1}.  
 21 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 22 We're going to return to the scene now, please, and  
 23 the area outside the Station Approach, although we won't  
 24 see that in the image. {INQ035612/348}. Can you tell  
 25 us what would have been visible but for the redaction in

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1 this image?  
 2 A. Yes. This is an image of Helen Mottram, who has  
 3 a red-coloured card, and two paramedics who are treating  
 4 an injured casualty outside the train station, and then  
 5 Helen Mottram seems to write something down on a piece  
 6 of paper.  
 7 Q. What time was that captured?  
 8 A. 23.34.08.  
 9 Q. If we move to {INQ035612/357}, we're 3 minutes further  
 10 on, but are we in the same vicinity?  
 11 A. Yes, we are.  
 12 Q. We can see Station Approach in the background of this,  
 13 but, identified by that white box, do we see the  
 14 operational commander Mr Smith and Dr Michael Daley?  
 15 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 16 Q. And they are together with paramedic Derek Poland?  
 17 A. Yes, that's right.  
 18 Q. Do we see that Mr Smith is readily identifiable still by  
 19 that tabard?  
 20 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 21 Q. If we go to {INQ035612/360}, do we see here captured the  
 22 same camera angle, a few seconds on, in which Mr Smith  
 23 is now turned towards Station Approach?  
 24 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 25 Q. And another member of NAWAS appears to have joined the

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1 conversation?  
 2 A. That's right.  
 3 Q. Mr Poland has walked to the threshold of the station?  
 4 A. That's right.  
 5 Q. {INQ035612/366} is 2 minutes on. It gives us  
 6 a different angle of the same area and do we see NWAS  
 7 paramedic Ian Devine identified?  
 8 A. Yes, we do.  
 9 Q. Minutes before that image we had Chief Inspector Dexter  
 10 out on Station Approach; is that right?  
 11 A. Yes, we did.  
 12 Q. In company with PC Richardson?  
 13 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 14 Q. We're going to move forward, please, to blue page  
 15 reference 431. We're going to return to Chief  
 16 Inspector Dexter. With whom was he speaking, please?  
 17 A. This is a phone call, albeit one-sided, with, we  
 18 believe, ACC Ford. It's one-sided because it's from the  
 19 dictaphone.  
 20 Q. But at least we capture one part of that conversation in  
 21 terms of what Chief Inspector Dexter is saying. It's  
 22 4 minutes and 9 seconds long, so I anticipate, with the  
 23 chairman's leave, this will be the final matter that we  
 24 deal with today. What is the approximate time of this,  
 25 please?

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1 A. Approximately 23.40.56.  
 2 Q. {INQ025479\_C4/1}.  
 3 (Audio played to the inquiry)  
 4 Thank you very much indeed, Mr Mintar.  
 5 That's the end of the sequence.  
 6 Sir, given that we've been going now for just under  
 7 an hour and we've reached 4.31, I wonder whether that  
 8 might be an appropriate moment to break for the day.  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes, it certainly would. Thank you very  
 10 much to both of you for what has been a marathon effort  
 11 today and thank you to the other support teams who are  
 12 responsible for putting on the audio and the video.  
 13 Thank you very much to both of you for that. And also  
 14 to NWAS for taking up my invitation to communicate any  
 15 amendments or additions that were wanted.  
 16 We will start again, hopefully, at 10.00 tomorrow  
 17 morning. We're on schedule, are we, to finish by  
 18 lunchtime, just so people know?  
 19 MR DE LA POER: We are, sir, yes.  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Thank you very much.  
 21 (4.31 pm)  
 22 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
 23 on Wednesday, 20 January 2021)  
 24  
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I N D E X

3 DETECTIVE INSPECTOR MIKE RUSSELL .....1  
 4 (continued)  
 5 Questions from MR DE LA POER (continued) .....1

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