

# OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 85

April 12, 2021

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Phone: +44 (0)20 3008 5900

Email: [transcripts@opus2.com](mailto:transcripts@opus2.com)

Website: <https://www.opus2.com>

Monday, 12 April 2021

(10.00 am)

SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Greaney.

MR GREANEY: Sir, good morning --

SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Just before we start, can I just welcome people back and hope that they have all had a reasonable Easter break before we start work again.

MR GREANEY: Thank you very much, sir.

Chapter 9 of the inquiry oral evidence hearings is entitled --

MR COOPER: I am sorry to interrupt, but we can't hear.

(Pause)

SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can other people hear? I suppose if you can't, you won't answer.

MR COOPER: We can hear now. I am so sorry to interrupt.

SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No, Mr Cooper, you haven't missed much apart from me hoping that you have had something of an Easter break.

Opening statement by MR GREANEY

MR GREANEY: Thank you very much, Mr Cooper.

Sir, as I was saying, chapter 9 of the inquiry oral evidence hearings is entitled "Events of the Day". It forms part of how the inquiry will address paragraph 3.1 of its terms of reference. That paragraph is concerned with the attack itself, including events immediately

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prior to and following the detonation of the bomb.

Originally, it was intended that chapter 9 would involve an examination of two aspects of the events of 22 May: first, the movements of the killer on that date and, second, the experience of the survivors of the attack. Ultimately, however, a decision was made by the inquiry legal team that the first aspect would more logically and sensitively be addressed as part of chapter 8, which dealt with the planning and preparation for the attack, and that is how the hearings were then structured. Accordingly, chapter 9 will be focused on the evidence of the survivors.

The original evidence hearings of the inquiry paused for a break on 16 December last year. At that stage it was intended that the hearings would restart on 12 January of this year and would do so with chapter 9. However, events intervened.

On 4 January, the Prime Minister announced a further national lockdown and the following day the chairman decided that chapter 9 should be postponed. That decision was made because it became obvious that the restrictions necessitated by the lockdown would mean that the survivors' experience of our process would be significantly diminished from what we and they expected it to be, and the chairman was determined to avoid that

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outcome.

In the result, the oral evidence hearings resumed on 18 January with very limited in-person attendance. We began not with chapter 9 but instead with chapter 10, and meaningful progress has been made on the examination of the emergency response to the attack in the months since then.

Throughout the whole of that period, however, the inquiry legal team has kept under review the question of when chapter 9 should be dealt with. On the one hand, chapter 9 must be heard in circumstances that afford it the importance and dignity that it deserves. On the other hand, it cannot reasonably be delayed for too long.

The decision that has been made is that chapter 9 should be heard from today, when more people are able to be back in the hearing room and, moreover, in circumstances in which the witnesses can be given the support to which they are entitled.

As it has turned out, hearing chapter 9 now rather than earlier has the advantage that the chairman has heard some of the evidence relating to chapter 10, including considerable evidence about the casualty collection point and the casualty clearing station, the operation of that aspect of the emergency response and

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related issues. It follows that the re-ordering of the oral evidence means that the inquiry will now hear relevant first-hand experiences from a number of those who were evacuated from the City Room within a fuller evidential context than would otherwise have been the case.

The evidence during chapter 9 is expected to take all of this week and some of next. It will address three broad issues. First, the witnesses' experiences as they made their way to the arena and then first arrived within the City Room; stage 1.

Second, the witnesses' presence in the City Room immediately prior to and at the time of the explosion; stage 2.

And third, to the extent that it is strictly necessary, the witnesses' accounts of the aftermath of the explosion, including their evidence about the emergency response; stage 3.

Shortly, we'll turn to provide a brief introduction to those three issues, but before doing so, it's important that we should explain the purpose of chapter 9 along with certain contextual issues and also the approach that should be adopted to the questioning of witnesses.

First, the purpose of chapter 9. As the terms of

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1 reference make clear, the purpose of this inquiry is to  
 2 investigate how and in what circumstances 22 people came  
 3 to lose their lives in the attack at the Manchester  
 4 Arena on 22 May 2017 and to make such recommendations as  
 5 may appear appropriate. That is why the bereaved  
 6 families have always been and will remain at the heart  
 7 of the inquiry's work. It is within this framework that  
 8 the purpose of chapter 9 falls to be considered.

9 In short, the principal purpose of chapter 9 is to  
 10 assist the inquiry, the bereaved families, and the wider  
 11 public to understand the circumstances in which the 22  
 12 were murdered and in that way discharge the inquiry's  
 13 terms of reference.

14 The evidence of the survivors is therefore of a high  
 15 degree of importance. Indeed, the chairman has  
 16 previously said the following:

17 "If the inquiry does not have input from the  
 18 survivors, the final report will not be as comprehensive  
 19 in identifying what occurred in the City Room prior to  
 20 and in the immediate aftermath of the attack and in  
 21 deciding what, if anything, went wrong within the  
 22 inquiry's terms of reference. This may, in turn, affect  
 23 the efficacy of any recommendations I make."

24 And the chairman added:  
 25 "The survivors clearly have significant evidence to

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1 contribute. I would ask them to provide me with any  
 2 insights and observations that they have so that they  
 3 can be investigated insofar as they come within the  
 4 terms of reference. I consider the survivors' input to  
 5 be of great importance and I will ask the inquiry team  
 6 to ensure that straightforward mechanisms are put in  
 7 place to allow survivors to communicate with the inquiry  
 8 team."

9 Such mechanisms were then put in place and other  
 10 work has been done to ensure that the voices of  
 11 survivors are heard, including the following: the  
 12 inquiry has issued a public appeal for evidence through  
 13 its website asking people to complete a questionnaire  
 14 about their experiences on the night and many responses  
 15 have been received and have been considered.

16 Witness statements have been gathered from survivors  
 17 who felt able to provide their accounts and the inquiry  
 18 recognises that this has not been an easy thing for  
 19 those survivors to do and we are grateful to all who  
 20 have felt able and been willing to do this.

21 Furthermore, a group of survivors has been granted  
 22 funding by the inquiry for legal representation to  
 23 enable them to contribute to our process. There has  
 24 been, at the invitation of the solicitor to the inquiry,  
 25 direct communication between survivors and the inquiry

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1 team to allow them to raise issues with the inquiry and,  
 2 of course, not only will the evidence of survivors be  
 3 heard during this chapter, chapter 9, but some has  
 4 already been heard during chapters 7 and 10.

5 The chapter 9 evidence will ensure that survivors'  
 6 accounts and experiences are recognised within the  
 7 inquiry. That will enhance the public's understanding  
 8 of the attack and its dreadful impact. It will give the  
 9 public confidence that evidence from the victims of the  
 10 arena attack has been given a significant place within  
 11 the inquiry and it will inform the inquiry's  
 12 recommendation function because the devastating  
 13 experiences of those directly affected by the attack  
 14 provide an emphatic confirmation of the need to do all  
 15 that can be done to prevent future attacks.

16 We, the inquiry legal team, recognise, moreover,  
 17 that the significance of chapter 9 for the survivors  
 18 goes even beyond this. For some survivors, giving live  
 19 evidence will serve a crucial role in dealing with and  
 20 processing their experience. For some, it may provide  
 21 much needed catharsis, for others it may represent an  
 22 important moment of defiance, and even empowerment, an  
 23 opportunity to state publicly that the arena attack  
 24 will not dictate and define their futures, even if it  
 25 has affected them in a permanent irreparable way.

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1 We recognise the value of all of that while always  
 2 remembering that the touchstone for the inquiry is that  
 3 what must always be adduced is evidence that is relevant  
 4 to the terms of reference.

5 We indicated also that there may be contextual  
 6 issues, as we describe them, that need to be kept in  
 7 mind in the approach that we all adopt to the chapter 9  
 8 evidence. By that, we mean that witnesses' accounts may  
 9 be inconsistent with timings that have been objectively  
 10 established from CCTV footage, recordings from body-worn  
 11 cameras and/or other contemporaneous material.

12 Individual recollections may differ from the  
 13 evidence of other witnesses at the scene. There may be  
 14 discrepancies about where members of the emergency  
 15 services were at a given time, how quickly they arrived,  
 16 how many attended, and what they did and did not do.  
 17 Furthermore, survivors may express concerns that  
 18 ultimately are not borne out by the totality of the  
 19 evidence. All of that, in our view, will be entirely  
 20 unsurprising given the nature of the chapter 9 evidence.

21 Witnesses will be giving evidence about highly  
 22 traumatic and distressing events that they experienced  
 23 during conditions of the most extreme emotion and  
 24 stress. An absence of wholesale consistency is, in our  
 25 view, to be expected.

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1 Recognising the limits of this evidence does not  
 2 devalue it. It reflects the fact that the evidence is  
 3 being given by human beings who were faced with  
 4 unimaginable scenes and who are doing their best to  
 5 recall what they saw and how they experienced the attack  
 6 and its aftermath.

7 In turn, that recognition of context bears upon the  
 8 way in which the witnesses should be questioned by core  
 9 participants during chapter 9. In his opening remarks,  
 10 the chairman said this:

11 "We will hear evidence from survivors for whom these  
 12 events were traumatic and from which they have not  
 13 physically recovered. We will hear evidence from people  
 14 who witnessed events which were so distressing that  
 15 being required to relive them in evidence is going to be  
 16 extremely difficult."

17 And the chairman added:

18 "Giving evidence for all of these witnesses will not  
 19 be easy. We need to respect those difficulties, make  
 20 allowances for them, and do everything we can to reduce  
 21 them."

22 The evidence proposal for chapter 9, dated  
 23 17 December 2020 and revised on 31 March this year, sets  
 24 out the approach that is designed to achieve the  
 25 chairman's wishes. That approach is underpinned by

1 a document that contains the key timings for chapter 9  
 2 witnesses, drawing upon an analysis of the CCTV footage,  
 3 footage from the body-worn cameras of GMP officers and  
 4 a Travel Safe officer and other contemporaneous  
 5 materials.

6 Versions of this note have been provided to  
 7 the chairman, the core participants, and to the  
 8 accredited media. The note is a guide and it may need  
 9 to be refined as chapter 9 develops. Its purpose is to  
 10 ensure that those to whom it has been circulated are  
 11 aware of the objectively established timings as they're  
 12 currently understood to be.

13 The evidence proposal explains that the chairman  
 14 will be able to assess the evidence of each witness by  
 15 reference to the objective evidence without the need for  
 16 core participants to engage in challenging questioning,  
 17 or quite possibly any questioning, on the types of  
 18 matter to which we've just referred. The evidence  
 19 proposal states the following:

20 "One of the purposes of chapter 9 is to allow  
 21 witnesses to give their full evidence with dignity and  
 22 to participate in the inquiry process. This exercise  
 23 may be undermined if their evidence is subject to  
 24 frequent challenge from core participants. So far as  
 25 possible, such questioning should be avoided."

1 The inquiry legal team is quite sure that all core  
 2 participants will keep well in mind all of this and will  
 3 have regard to the nature and purpose of the chapter 9  
 4 evidence and the vulnerability of some of the witnesses  
 5 when considering their approach to questioning.

6 Furthermore, all core participants should expect  
 7 that the inquiry legal team will be particularly  
 8 assiduous to ensure that Rule 10 is complied with during  
 9 this chapter, chapter 9.

10 In a moment, we'll turn, as we promised we would, to  
 11 provide a brief introduction to the evidence in  
 12 chapter 9. Before doing so, we should acknowledge that  
 13 during this chapter, we will be dealing with matters  
 14 that are undoubtedly sensitive and likely to be  
 15 distressing for many, certainly the bereaved families  
 16 and the survivors. As always, we will do what we can to  
 17 reduce that distress, although we recognise that we can  
 18 never be completely successful. However, we are able to  
 19 provide reassurance at the beginning of chapter 9 about  
 20 three matters.

21 First, we will not be showing any CCTV footage or  
 22 still image at all during the course of this short  
 23 opening address. So no person need view this stage of  
 24 the proceedings with a worry that anything upsetting may  
 25 at any moment be shown on their screens.

1 Second, during the evidence itself, we, the inquiry  
 2 legal team, do not anticipate showing any CCTV footage  
 3 or still image of the City Room after the detonation of  
 4 the bomb, and we certainly will not be showing any CCTV  
 5 footage or still image of the body of any person who was  
 6 killed.

7 Furthermore, we cannot currently see a reason, or at  
 8 any rate a good reason, why any core participant would  
 9 wish to do so and, moreover, no Rule 10 request has  
 10 suggested any such intention.

11 If a core participant develops a wish to show such  
 12 imagery, that must not occur without notice to the  
 13 inquiry legal team and, furthermore, that notice must be  
 14 sufficient for us to discuss it with the team concerned  
 15 and, if necessary, seek a ruling from the chairman.

16 Third, where we are able to identify ahead of time  
 17 that the evidence of a witness is likely to be  
 18 particularly distressing, we will ensure that a warning  
 19 is given to enable anyone who wishes to do so to leave  
 20 this hearing room or the room they are in or to turn off  
 21 the feed.

22 Against that background, we'll turn to provide that  
 23 brief introduction to the evidence we expect to hear in  
 24 chapter 9, dealing first with the experience of the  
 25 witnesses as they made their way to the arena and then

1 first arrived within the City Room. This therefore is  
2 stage 1.

3 During 2017, Ariana Grande toured the world in  
4 support of her third studio album, Dangerous Woman. The  
5 show at Manchester Arena on 22 May was her second  
6 performance in the United Kingdom. Many describe their  
7 excitement, and that of children, at the thought of  
8 attending. For a large number this was a first concert  
9 and for many the ticket was a Christmas or birthday  
10 present, often purchased with a second ticket so that  
11 a friend could also attend.

12 Some witnesses describe excited journeys to the  
13 arena. Jean Forster travelled by car to Manchester with  
14 her partner, her partner’s daughter and a friend to take  
15 the girls to the concert. She describes them as:

16 " ... giddy with excitement as they travelled,  
17 listening to an Ariana Grande CD over and over on the  
18 journey."

19 Similarly, Suzanne Atkins describes her daughter and  
20 one of her friends being excited about going to their  
21 first concert together and looking around for other fans  
22 as they travelled to the venue by tram.

23 A number of witnesses refer to the feelings of  
24 anticipation in the build-up to the event.

25 Caroline Berry bought her daughter a ticket for her

1 birthday and accompanied her together with a friend.  
2 This was a first concert for both mother and daughter  
3 and Caroline Berry describes their joint excitement.

4 Lucy Jarvis explains how she got ready, doing her  
5 make-up, and she goes on to set out the feeling of joy  
6 about the concert that both she and her friend  
7 experienced.

8 Martin Hibbert describes a shared family experience  
9 and a sense that memories were being created, tickets  
10 for the concert bought for Christmas, a lovely drive  
11 over to Manchester from home, on the way his daughter  
12 giving him what he describes as a tutorial in the songs  
13 of Ariana Grande, a meal with his daughter on arrival in  
14 Manchester, taking pictures, and walking over to queue  
15 up for the concert.

16 The sense from these witnesses and many others  
17 is that the concert was intended to be and initially was  
18 an occasion of excitement and great joy and that only  
19 serves to accentuate the horror of what was to occur  
20 just a short time later.

21 Witnesses also describe their experiences on  
22 arriving within the City Room. Many queue to gain  
23 access to the arena itself, waiting with children as  
24 they do so. Some express their concerns about the  
25 security arrangements at that stage. Of course, the

1 chairman heard considerable evidence about those  
2 arrangements during the course of chapter 7 and the  
3 preparation of the volume 1 report addressing that topic  
4 is underway.

5 The chairman will obviously need to bear in mind  
6 that none of the survivors who expresses a view on the  
7 issue of security is an expert in that topic and there  
8 is an obvious risk in our view of hindsight.

9 Nonetheless, in our judgement, none of that provides  
10 a sufficient reason to decline to hear from the  
11 survivors on this aspect of their experiences and the  
12 chairman can decide how best to approach it and weigh  
13 it. We do not believe any core participant to contend  
14 otherwise as matters now stand.

15 As for the evidence on this particular topic, the  
16 topic of security, Joanne McSorley attended the arena on  
17 the night of the attack with her mother in order to  
18 escort her children to the concert. She had in fact  
19 attended the venue about five times before. As she  
20 explains, she had always noted that the City Room area  
21 tended not to be manned by security and she added:

22 "While staff would be checking tickets at the  
23 entrance to the arena, the area before that was  
24 a thoroughfare for anyone to walk through."

25 Leonora Ogerio and her partner, Robert Potter, also

1 took their children to the concert, parking in a nearby  
2 car park and walking to the City Room, buying some  
3 merchandise and taking photographs. She did not notice  
4 any arena staff or security in the City Room other than  
5 people working on the merchandise stall and she noted  
6 that no one seemed to be checking their bags. In her  
7 statement, she expresses her concern that there was no  
8 security to stop anyone entering the City Room.

9 Janet Senior states that when she dropped her nieces  
10 at the arena, not all bags were being checked in the  
11 City Room. Furthermore, the bag checks that were taking  
12 place seemed to her to be inadequate and people were  
13 rushing past what she describes as the very young arena  
14 attendants and into the arena. She also describes  
15 seeing only one member of security staff when she  
16 returned to the arena at 10 pm in order to pick up the  
17 children. Her view, in simple terms, was that proper  
18 security measures were not in place.

19 In her statement, Suzanne Atkins, to whom we have  
20 referred already, recalled noticing that bags were not  
21 being checked as concertgoers entered the arena from the  
22 City Room. She added that she could not, as she put it,  
23 remember seeing any police or security apart from  
24 a couple of arena employees. She describes security  
25 in the City Room as, her word, "light", although by way

1 of balance she added that she did not expect people to  
 2 be checked given that the area was a public foyer.  
 3 In adducing evidence from the survivors at stage 1,  
 4 we will not ignore the fact that some have referred to  
 5 seeing a suspicious male in the City Room prior to the  
 6 explosion. Those accounts have been investigated with  
 7 great care. Where it has been possible to show that the  
 8 sighting was or was likely to have been the bomber, that  
 9 evidence was adduced in chapter 7.  
 10 However, the work that has been undertaken has in  
 11 some cases established that the person seen cannot have  
 12 been the bomber or is unlikely to have been him or the  
 13 evidence is wholly inconclusive. Where that is the  
 14 situation, the evidence of the sighting will not be  
 15 adduced. That is because to do so would be unfair and  
 16 misleading to the bereaved families, the survivors and  
 17 other core participants, and, moreover, it would be  
 18 liable to produce confusion in the public understanding  
 19 of these events.  
 20 We will turn next to provide an introduction to the  
 21 evidence from the survivors as to their experiences  
 22 within the City Room immediately prior to and at the  
 23 time of the explosion, so we're next going to be dealing  
 24 with stage 2.  
 25 We will, as we have made plain, not be showing any

1 footage or still images, we will not be referring to any  
 2 of those who died and we will not be describing the  
 3 details of injuries sustained in the attack, save where  
 4 absolutely necessary.  
 5 However, we will be summarising in general terms the  
 6 witnesses' accounts of the explosion itself and the  
 7 immediate aftermath. And for obvious reasons, many may  
 8 find that distressing, indeed highly so. As a result,  
 9 we'll pause just for a short time to allow those  
 10 watching to make arrangements should they wish to do so.  
 11 Stage 2. In the moments immediately prior to the  
 12 explosion, it is clear that the atmosphere within the  
 13 City Room was one of joyfulness. Josephine Howarth  
 14 describes a lovely family atmosphere, excited little  
 15 girls were dashing out of the arena with little ears on  
 16 after having the time of their lives. Sarah Gullick  
 17 similarly describes the atmosphere in the foyer as good  
 18 natured:  
 19 "You could hear the music playing and people were  
 20 coming out of the arena with happy faces."  
 21 Janet Capper remembers looking back to the main  
 22 doors. She could still hear the music playing and the  
 23 staff had opened the doors as there were people leaving.  
 24 She states:  
 25 "I vividly recall seeing how happy all the children

1 looked as they were leaving."  
 2 And David Robson recalls spotting his daughter and  
 3 her friend. He started waving at them. He states:  
 4 "I looked at them and they had spotted us and they  
 5 were running towards us, excitedly."  
 6 What happened next stands in stark contrast to those  
 7 emotions of happiness. The chapter 9 witnesses provide  
 8 detailed and harrowing accounts of the moment that the  
 9 bomb was detonated. It is not necessary at this stage,  
 10 in this opening statement, to rehearse any of that, save  
 11 to say by way of summary that the witnesses describe  
 12 a loud bang and a bright orange flash. Some were  
 13 knocked to the ground. It was, they describe, like  
 14 nothing they had ever experienced before.  
 15 The chapter 9 witnesses go on to describe a scene of  
 16 chaos and devastation in the City Room in the immediate  
 17 aftermath of the explosion; this is stage 3.  
 18 The inquiry has already heard much evidence about  
 19 that scene from witnesses such as Police Sergeant  
 20 Kam Hare and we don't propose to go into further detail  
 21 about it in this opening statement. Sadly, it will be  
 22 necessary for us to hear a good deal more about it in  
 23 chapter 10 once we return to that phase of evidence and  
 24 also chapter 11, which deals with the impact of a blast  
 25 wave, and chapter 12, which addresses the experience of

1 each person who died.  
 2 It is, however, relevant to note in this opening  
 3 statement that a number of chapter 9 witnesses provide  
 4 accounts of the aftermath which are capable of adding to  
 5 the inquiry's understanding of the emergency response.  
 6 We'll next summarise just a little of the evidence that  
 7 falls into this category. It is distressing, of that  
 8 there is no doubt, and again we'll give those watching  
 9 a moment to decide whether they wish to stay.  
 10 (Pause)  
 11 Janet Senior, to whom we have made reference  
 12 already, has expressed concern that initially there were  
 13 insufficient emergency responders in the City Room. She  
 14 gives a very graphic and deeply affecting description of  
 15 the circumstances that existed as she waited for help.  
 16 Susan Smith was waiting in the City Room to pick up  
 17 children at the time of the explosion. She is critical  
 18 of the time taken for emergency responders to arrive  
 19 in that area. She also notes that there appeared to be  
 20 a lack of available first aid equipment and she states  
 21 to use her words:  
 22 "It took so long for help to come. I do not  
 23 understand why it took so long. Once I got taken down  
 24 to the main station, there were lots of paramedics and  
 25 police, but it seems there were only three or four

1 paramedics in the City Room. I remember members of the  
 2 public and police taking people downstairs using  
 3 makeshift stretchers, made from whatever material they  
 4 could find, but very few medical professionals. I think  
 5 that the emergency services needed to get into the  
 6 City Room much quicker than they did. There clearly was  
 7 not enough equipment as I did not even see a plaster  
 8 before I got down to the station and was triaged. There  
 9 was nothing there to help people and people were just  
 10 improvising with makeshift stretchers and T-shirts. The  
 11 response just seemed so slow."

12 Joanne McSorley made similar observations. She  
 13 states:  
 14 "There appeared to be no first aid equipment  
 15 available and so mum and I used the scarf I was wearing  
 16 and T-shirts from the merchandise stall."

17 Ms McSorley considered that the:  
 18 "Response was taking far, far too long."  
 19 Leonora Ogerio does not recall the presence of  
 20 professional emergency responders and she considered too  
 21 that the response took too long. She states:

22 "The police who were trying to help in the City Room  
 23 all appeared to be civilians. I don't remember any  
 24 uniforms other than the man wearing yellow. I don't  
 25 remember seeing any paramedics from the time of the

1 explosion until I was transferred down to the station  
 2 and I do not think I received treatment from any health  
 3 professional or anyone trained in first aid until  
 4 I reached Victoria Station. I also strongly believe  
 5 that the emergency response took too long."

6 These are not the only witnesses who expressed  
 7 concern about the delay in treatment but they illustrate  
 8 the points that we expect to emerge in chapter 9.

9 It's important to make clear, however, that not all  
 10 of the survivor witnesses are critical of the emergency  
 11 response. Some witnesses to the contrary have praised  
 12 it.

13 Gary Blamire states that while it felt like a long  
 14 time before he was moved from the City Room, everybody  
 15 who was helping was, he says, brilliant.

16 Lauren Thorpe praises the "unbelievable and amazing  
 17 actions" of PC Kath Daley and PS Dave Cawley who  
 18 transported her daughter to hospital in a British  
 19 Transport Police van.

20 Entirely to their credit, a number of the chapter 9  
 21 witnesses assisted those who had been injured. As we've  
 22 emphasised, during chapter 9 no evidence will be adduced  
 23 concerning the treatment of the deceased. However,  
 24 where it is relevant to the inquiry's understanding of  
 25 the emergency response and strictly necessary to adduce

1 it, witnesses may give evidence of their involvement  
 2 in the response to the attack and the treatment of the  
 3 injured.

4 Such evidence in our view must be handled with the  
 5 greatest care. Distressing details should not be  
 6 adduced unless vital to do so. Personal details must be  
 7 avoided if possible, and evidence of injuries should be  
 8 introduced only in circumstances in which the inquiry  
 9 considers it relevant and necessary to do so and the  
 10 witness consents, and some do and some do not. All core  
 11 participants must respect their wishes.

12 For example, Darron Coster describes his efforts to  
 13 establish a form of initial triage in the City Room and  
 14 that evidence may well be relevant and can be given  
 15 without referring to unnecessary and distressing  
 16 details.

17 Similarly, Martin Hibbert describes a cover being  
 18 placed over his daughter as she lay injured on the  
 19 mistaken basis she was dead. Again, in our view,  
 20 that is important evidence to adduce because it bears  
 21 directly on the quality of the emergency response.

22 Finally, in chapter 9, the inquiry will hear read  
 23 evidence from a number of people working at the arena on  
 24 the night of the attack. That will detail the efforts  
 25 to assist made by SMG, ShowSec and Northern Rail staff

1 following the explosion and during the emergency  
 2 response. And further evidence on that issue will also  
 3 be given in chapter 10.

4 That is all we propose to say about the evidence in  
 5 opening chapter 9. It is an important chapter for the  
 6 reasons we have given.

7 Before we start the evidence, there are four short  
 8 and final practical points to make. First, given the  
 9 nature of the evidence and the witnesses' experiences on  
 10 the night, the inquiry will adopt a flexible as well as  
 11 sensitive approach to the questioning of all witnesses  
 12 during chapter 9. Regular breaks will be taken. If  
 13 a witness requires a break at any time, a break will be  
 14 taken. Witnesses will not give evidence for more than  
 15 1 hour at a time and a break of at least 30 minutes will  
 16 take place between the evidence of each witness. That  
 17 time will allow a period for each witness to meet with  
 18 the inquiry legal team before their evidence.

19 Second, chapter 9 witnesses will have available to  
 20 them the support of the NHS Resilience Hub at court,  
 21 both before and after their evidence, or on the phone if  
 22 giving evidence remotely. Each witness may have with  
 23 them in the hearing room a friend or family member to  
 24 support them. It is vital that those who are giving  
 25 evidence to assist the inquiry are given the necessary

1 support to do so. We add on this second point, there  
2 will be a 10-minute delay on the YouTube feed and in the  
3 event that any witness becomes distressed, the feed will  
4 be cut.

5 Third, we are grateful to the media for the careful  
6 and sensitive way and, may we add, responsible way in  
7 which the evidence of the inquiry has been reported to  
8 date. It goes without saying that it's important in the  
9 highest degree that this approach should continue into  
10 chapter 9.

11 Fourth, and finally, hundreds of people suffered  
12 injury in the attack, whether physical or psychological  
13 or both, but survived. As will be perfectly obvious, we  
14 cannot hear from all of those people. In any event,  
15 some survivors do not wish to share their experiences  
16 for reasons that are entirely understandable. That does  
17 not mean that those experiences are less important than  
18 those about which we will hear, without question they  
19 are.

20 Ultimately, however, we believe that what we are  
21 going to hear this week and next, whether from the  
22 witness box or via a link or read, or published to the  
23 website of the inquiry, is representative of the  
24 experiences of those who were present and suffered and  
25 provides the chairman with a selection of accounts from

1 this important section of evidence sufficient to enable  
2 him to make his decisions.

3 Sir, that is all we propose to say at this stage.  
4 We will need a short break before we commence with the  
5 evidence.

6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you.  
7 (10.39 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (11.00 am)

10 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, the lady in the witness box is  
11 Ms Sarah Nellist.

12 MS SARAH NELLIST (sworn)  
13 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT

14 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could you please tell the court your full  
15 name?

16 A. Sarah Elizabeth Nellist.

17 Q. You have provided two statements to the inquiry; is that  
18 correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Just for your purposes, just to set it out and for those  
21 watching, we're going to deal with your evidence in  
22 three stages this morning: stage 1, to deal with your  
23 experience as you made your way to the arena that day;  
24 stage 2, your presence in the City Room immediately  
25 prior to and at the time of the explosion; finally, to

1 the extent that is necessary, your account of the  
2 aftermath of the explosion.

3 Could I then start with you, and we can deal  
4 together with, first of all, stage 1, and I'll indicate  
5 as we move through the stages.

6 Before we start with stage 1, so it's clear for all  
7 those watching, we are not going to be naming your  
8 daughter or your niece who was with you that day.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I take you back to 22 May 2017. Can you tell us  
11 about how it was that you were going to the arena,  
12 please?

13 A. I got tickets for my daughter, who was 17 at the time,  
14 for her Christmas present and my niece decided that she  
15 would like to go too, so it was the first concert she'd  
16 ever been to. She was 6.

17 We left where I lived, it was about midday, I picked  
18 my niece up from school early, she was very excited  
19 because she was missing school and also, of course, she  
20 was going to a concert. Then we left and drove to  
21 Manchester.

22 Q. Thank you. I think it becomes relevant to what we'll  
23 hear about later, but whereabouts did you park when you  
24 arrived in Manchester?

25 A. In the arena car park.

1 Q. Can you recall roughly about what time you arrived  
2 at the arena?

3 A. It was probably about 2ish in the afternoon.

4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We don't need to know where you live,  
5 but just roughly how long was the trip?

6 A. About an hour and a half.

7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

8 MS CARTWRIGHT: So then after you'd arrived at the arena car  
9 park, can you tell us what you did at that time  
10 together?

11 A. Yes. We decided we'd go -- because we were very early,  
12 we'd walk down to the City Rooms, because that's where  
13 my sister told me -- my sister has been to many concerts  
14 there, I haven't, and she said if we go through there  
15 you can walk through the station and then you can go  
16 down into the centre of Manchester. So we went into the  
17 City Rooms and my daughter and my niece wanted to look  
18 at the merchandise at that point, so we got the lift  
19 down, and then went into the City Rooms.

20 At that time -- there was people queuing at that  
21 time, which was I was a bit shocked about, so we went  
22 there. We decided that we'd go and have some tea, go  
23 and have some afternoon tea, then we would come back.  
24 That's what we did: we left the City Rooms to go and get  
25 some food for the children.



1 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement about where  
 2 you went for your supper?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. And then I think going on after that, I think to do some  
 5 further shopping. Can you tell us about that, please?  
 6 A. Yes. It's my niece's birthday a few days after, after  
 7 the 22nd, so we went into the Arndale Centre, where  
 8 [REDACTED] purchased an outfit, because I do like to spoil my  
 9 niece. Then we went -- she purchased an outfit and we  
 10 walked back slowly because they were very excited  
 11 because they knew people were queueing and they wanted  
 12 to get in.  
 13 So then we went back via the station, back into the  
 14 City Rooms, where my niece purchased a T-shirt, and then  
 15 from there we went back to the car to drop off what she  
 16 had purchased and then she wanted to get changed into  
 17 her T-shirt and that's -- we went there, into the car  
 18 park.  
 19 Q. After she had got changed into her t-shirt -- is that an  
 20 Ariana Grande T-shirt?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Did you make your way back then to the City Room?  
 23 A. Yes. We went down and that's when they wanted to start  
 24 queueing.  
 25 Q. Within both of your witness statements, you give some

1 information about what you observed at that time by  
 2 reference to security and bag checks.  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. Could you give your evidence about what you observed at  
 5 that time, please?  
 6 A. As you were facing the doors -- we were queueing to the  
 7 right-hand side towards the box office. There was  
 8 a disabled access to the -- near where the box office  
 9 was. I did see some bags getting searched, like large  
 10 bags, rucksacks, but not all bags were being searched.  
 11 My daughter's definitely wasn't and nor was -- my niece  
 12 had a bag as well and that wasn't searched.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: What sorts of bags did they have?  
 14 A. [REDACTED] had an over-the-shoulder, probably about that big  
 15 (indicating) bag. It was to fit her purse and  
 16 her mobile phone in and [REDACTED] just had a little bunny  
 17 rabbit bag.  
 18 MS CARTWRIGHT: Can I just ask then for clarification: you  
 19 set out in your second witness statement that -- I think  
 20 in your first witness statement you describe that you  
 21 noticed that security were checking all bags thoroughly.  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. And you clarified that this in fact is incorrect?  
 24 A. It is incorrect.  
 25 Q. So just so we're absolutely clear, to what extent

1 is that incorrect?  
 2 A. They weren't checking every single bag. Like I say, my  
 3 daughter's bag was not checked.  
 4 Q. Okay. So during that period of time when you were  
 5 queueing up and then your daughter and niece go into the  
 6 arena, was there anything else at that time that you  
 7 noticed that is of any relevance to the inquiry?  
 8 A. No. It was just the atmosphere, they were all excited,  
 9 there were lots of young children there. No, there was  
 10 nothing really that stood out for myself as a mum.  
 11 Q. So as a mum, were there any instructions that you gave  
 12 to your daughter and to your niece as they were going  
 13 into the arena?  
 14 A. Yes. Because it was the first time, even though my  
 15 daughter was 17, it was the first time she'd been  
 16 anywhere on her own in charge of my niece. I told her  
 17 as soon as she got to the other side, when she's had her  
 18 ticket checked, take a photograph of where she needs to  
 19 be because I'll be -- I pointed and instructed, "I will  
 20 be stood here when you come out". So [REDACTED] went  
 21 through, had her tickets checked and then she put  
 22 a thumbs up to say she has taken a photo and that's the  
 23 last I saw of her before I saw her later on.  
 24 Q. So just in terms of you saying, "I will be stood here  
 25 when you come out", can you just give us some details as

1 to where it was that you were going to be when the girls  
 2 came out?  
 3 A. I was going to be stood by the box office, the edge of  
 4 the box office, so I could see the doors to the  
 5 concourse that -- I was stood on the edge of the box  
 6 office.  
 7 Q. And we'll come a little later to look at a plan that you  
 8 drew that shows us where you were in the City Room later  
 9 that evening.  
 10 A. Okay.  
 11 Q. So your daughter, having done as she was instructed,  
 12 sent you the image and waved you off, what did you then  
 13 do for the rest of the evening?  
 14 A. My partner was due to go away the following day, so  
 15 I had the -- he asked if I could bring a suitcase from  
 16 my home address, because he lives in Liverpool. So  
 17 I met him in the middle of Manchester with his suitcase  
 18 so I could hand the suitcase over. So myself and him  
 19 went for some food for a couple of hours because he had  
 20 an early morning flight. He left probably -- I think it  
 21 was about 8.30/8.45 and I stayed in the Printworks in  
 22 Manchester.  
 23 Q. Thank you. I think you're able to assist us in terms of  
 24 then timings as you moved through the rest of that  
 25 evening because I think you called or texted a friend;

1 is that correct?  
 2 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 3 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?  
 4 A. It was my sister that I texted. She was worried about  
 5 me being in the middle of the city centre on my own  
 6 because where I live it's quite naive in regards to --  
 7 she was panicking that anything would happen to me. So  
 8 she text me to say, "You need to go over now in case the  
 9 girls come out early". This was now about quarter to  
 10 10, 9.30, so I started making my way up through the  
 11 station and into the foyer.  
 12 Q. Thank you. If we pause there, we're moving now towards  
 13 stage 2 and the presence in the City Room. I think it's  
 14 right as we move into stage 2, in terms of your timings  
 15 and the time you gave, Greater Manchester Police did an  
 16 investigation and interrogation of the CCTV and they've  
 17 been able to create a sequence of events that tracks you  
 18 travelling through the station and over the station  
 19 bridge, the link bridge back into the City Room, and  
 20 I think you have had an opportunity to review that  
 21 before today.  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. And before your second witness statement?  
 24 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And you are satisfied that they've

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1 identified you correctly?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 4 MS CARTWRIGHT: If we move to stage 2 and your presence in  
 5 the City Room. You were able to give timings in your  
 6 first witness statement as to arriving back in the  
 7 City Room and in fact I think they are borne out by  
 8 what was shown on the CCTV. Could you perhaps give the  
 9 timings you arrived back in the City Room, please?  
 10 A. It was approximately 9.50, I walked into the City Room.  
 11 Q. When you arrived back in the City Room, I think you have  
 12 dealt with in your witness statement something that  
 13 you have seen on the sequence of events that has caused  
 14 a recollection to you. Could you deal with what you saw  
 15 as you re-entered the City Room, please?  
 16 A. Yes. I walked past two police officers as I was walking  
 17 into the City Room. They were walking out at the time  
 18 I was walking in.  
 19 Q. And was there anything in particular about observing  
 20 those police officers that is of relevance?  
 21 A. I just thought at that time it was a bit strange for  
 22 police officers to be present at a young person's  
 23 concert. But like I say, I'm not a city person, so that  
 24 was the only thing I would say in regards to the police  
 25 officers being present.

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1 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, for your note, those are officers that  
 2 you have heard evidence from and in fact you have  
 3 observed the relevant CCTV extracts relating to those  
 4 officers in chapter 7. Those are PC Bullough and  
 5 PCSO Renshaw.  
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 7 MS CARTWRIGHT: Can you continue to tell us -- you have  
 8 observed the police officers and what did you do then  
 9 after arriving back in the City Room, please?  
 10 A. So as I walked in, it wasn't that busy at that point.  
 11 I stayed -- I waited in the middle of the City Room, so  
 12 where they were selling the merchandise, I stayed off  
 13 a little bit. I texted my sister to say that I was  
 14 here, so she wanted to double-check that I was there, so  
 15 I did send her a picture that I was here and I was safe.  
 16 But then at that point my feet started hurting and  
 17 I remember hearing a couple of people talking, saying  
 18 that the concert was going to finish at 10.30, so  
 19 I thought I've got half an hour to stand. So I decided  
 20 at that point, it was just before 10, to move.  
 21 Q. In fact, you drew on a plan at the time of creating your  
 22 first witness statement where you went to stand in the  
 23 City Room.  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. Mr Lopez, could we please display that plan now? It's

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1 {INQ023335/2}, please.  
 2 Perhaps if it could be expanded, please, Mr Lopez.  
 3 I think it's correct, isn't it, Ms Nellist, we can  
 4 see there's a B that you have indicated on the plan?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. And is that where you went to stand?  
 7 A. Yes, that's where I stood.  
 8 Q. I think just for completeness, the A, does that  
 9 represent where you first went to when you entered the  
 10 City Room?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Again, in terms of what we can see on that plan,  
 13 you have marked the B almost exactly to the end near to  
 14 the first ticket office window?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And you had a clear recollection of that at the time?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. And I think -- would it be right to set out that the  
 19 sequence of events CCTV image shows you in exactly that  
 20 location --  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. -- from 9.57 pm?  
 23 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 24 Q. And you stayed there until the detonation?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. So whilst you were stood there for that period of  
 2 a little over half an hour, what was the mood in the  
 3 room?  
 4 A. I got talking to a couple next to me, because we were  
 5 saying how it was getting late, it was a school night,  
 6 how they had a similar time journey to myself. There  
 7 was a few children leaving early. The middle doors were  
 8 open to the concourse but not the doors to where I was  
 9 stood, they weren't open. Then it was starting to get  
 10 busy, I'd say about quarter past. I noticed it was  
 11 busy, a lot of mums and dads standing round and  
 12 I remember joking and thinking, "I'm not the only one  
 13 standing around waiting for children on a school night".  
 14 But yeah, it was a good atmosphere.  
 15 Q. I think you provided information to the police, which  
 16 has been investigated as to an individual that you  
 17 identified that is of no consequence in terms of the  
 18 investigation has ruled out anything suspicious; is that  
 19 correct?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did you hear you music when you were  
 22 standing there?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Quite loudly?  
 25 A. Very.

1 MS CARTWRIGHT: Whilst you were stood there, were you having  
 2 any communication with your daughter on the inside of  
 3 the concert?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. What was that, please?  
 6 A. I was texting her to tell her to hurry up, I think --  
 7 I did say all her music sounds the same, you've got --  
 8 she had her driving test the next day. I was like, "You  
 9 need to be up early, can't you just leave?" She said  
 10 she was leaving, but she didn't.  
 11 Q. In terms of where you were positioned, we know to the  
 12 right you can see the doorways into the concourse of the  
 13 arena --  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. -- and to the left you'd have a view back towards the  
 16 doors out to the station and back over the bridge. But  
 17 did there come a time when you did see anything as you  
 18 stood there waiting for your daughter and your niece?  
 19 A. In regards to?  
 20 Q. The bomber.  
 21 A. Yes, it was just before the detonation.  
 22 Q. What did you see before the detonation?  
 23 A. Because it was -- I was facing the doors, so it was on  
 24 my left-side view. I just saw him stood there. I think  
 25 you can see from the CCTV, because the police were

1 asking if I saw a bag and I didn't. There was no way  
 2 I could actually physically see a bag from where I was  
 3 stood.  
 4 Q. Was there anything about the man you saw that struck you  
 5 at the time or stood out to you at the time?  
 6 A. He just looked a bit odd.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Does that mean out of place or...  
 8 something about the way he looked struck you as odd?  
 9 A. I don't know. There were mums and dads there and there  
 10 was an odd... I just thought at first that maybe he was  
 11 there picking up his sister and he didn't want to be  
 12 there.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thanks.  
 14 MS CARTWRIGHT: How long from seeing that male to the bomb  
 15 being detonated -- can you give us an idea as to the  
 16 time frame?  
 17 A. It was a couple of minutes.  
 18 Q. Then could I ask you, then, at that time what you  
 19 experienced, please, by way of the detonation?  
 20 A. It was in the corner of my eye. I saw -- he detonated  
 21 the bomb -- I saw him -- the only way I can describe it,  
 22 it was like black powder paint.  
 23 Q. Pausing there, please. Did you hear anything?  
 24 A. It was just like a high-pitched sound. I've never  
 25 experienced anything before -- and the heat was just

1 unbelievable.  
 2 Q. We're now moving to stage 3 of your evidence, which is,  
 3 to the extent necessary, your account of the aftermath  
 4 of the explosion. If I could perhaps deal with matters  
 5 in this way, and it's a matter, sir, that I have  
 6 discussed with the witness outside of court before she  
 7 came to give her evidence.  
 8 Is it correct that you were struck and knocked to  
 9 the ground by the effect of the detonation?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. We are not today going to deal with the injuries or the  
 12 effect of the detonation that you have experienced,  
 13 having specifically discussed that matter with you and  
 14 subject to what you have said in terms of that you don't  
 15 wish to deal with those matters.  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. But we all appreciate that the effect of the detonation  
 18 and you have suffered the matters set out in your  
 19 witness statement and which the chairman has seen.  
 20 So can you then describe, when you got up off the  
 21 floor, where you went, please?  
 22 A. I was trying to stand. There was like a loud fire alarm  
 23 going off, but because I couldn't really hear properly  
 24 I didn't know what had happened. So I ran on to the  
 25 concourse desperately trying to search for my daughter

1 and my niece.  
 2 Q. So through the doors into the arena?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. What did you do as you got through on to the concourse,  
 5 please?  
 6 A. I was trying to call my daughter, but she was --- she  
 7 answered the phone but I couldn't hear her, I just  
 8 couldn't hear her.  
 9 Q. So where did you re---unite with your daughter and niece?  
 10 A. I ran through the concourse, I saw a man with one of the  
 11 yellow jackets from the arena, and he told me to stop  
 12 running. [REDACTED] text me to say she was stood by a sign  
 13 saying "School of Music", so I was asking the gentleman  
 14 where the School of Music was, and he said, "You need to  
 15 get out, you need to get out". I was following  
 16 everybody and I came to --- there was like a large --- the  
 17 steps going out of the arena. I was stood at the top,  
 18 frantically trying to find [REDACTED] my daughter. She told  
 19 me that she was stood by a blue van, so I told her at  
 20 that point to get away from the van in case there was  
 21 a bomb in the van and she said, "Why on earth would  
 22 there be a bomb in the van?" I said, "You need to get  
 23 away from the van".  
 24 Q. So then where did you meet up with her, please?  
 25 A. We met just towards the station, outside, at the bottom,

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1 between the station and the steps.  
 2 Q. When you met up there, where did you then go?  
 3 A. I didn't know what to do, I phoned my sister and she  
 4 said, "Just get out, try and get to the car and get  
 5 out". So I made my way with my niece and daughter, my  
 6 daughter took her cardigan off because my niece was  
 7 getting upset with the things she was seeing, so my  
 8 niece was covered. We made our way back to the car  
 9 park, which was quite a long walk.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So you had to go back through the  
 11 City Room?  
 12 A. No, we walked all the way round.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you.  
 14 MS CARTWRIGHT: Can you assist as to what you saw in the car  
 15 park at that time? Was it quiet or busy?  
 16 A. It was busy. There was a fire exit door and a gentleman  
 17 in a yellow jacket. I said, "I need to get to my car,  
 18 I'm on 5B", and he said, "Okay, go ahead", and he let me  
 19 upstairs to get to my car.  
 20 Q. Pausing there for a moment, from the time you've  
 21 described going down and being reunited with your  
 22 daughter and your niece, at that time was there any sign  
 23 of any paramedics?  
 24 A. No. It was the public that stopped to see if I was  
 25 okay.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Could you say that again?  
 2 A. It was members of the public who stopped myself.  
 3 MS CARTWRIGHT: So you were permitted to go back to your  
 4 vehicle?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. And then can you just describe --- is it correct that you  
 7 were permitted also to leave the car park?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. And you drove back to your home area?  
 10 A. Correct.  
 11 Q. And you visited your local home hospital for treatment?  
 12 A. That's correct, yes.  
 13 Q. Could I ask you then, in terms of --- we can see that you  
 14 contacted the police to provide the information you had.  
 15 How did that come about, please?  
 16 A. I didn't know what you needed to do, so by the time we  
 17 got to --- it was my sister's house. It was probably  
 18 about 2 am, 1.30, 2 am. Then I went straight to see my  
 19 parents and it was my father that had the BBC News on  
 20 and there was a number at the bottom, telling them that  
 21 if anybody had any information, to give them a call. So  
 22 that's how I called the police because I didn't know  
 23 what I should have done.  
 24 Q. So is it important for you for it to be made clear after  
 25 an incident about that public appeal for information,

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1 but also for those who are caught up in incidents to  
 2 make contact with the police?  
 3 A. Definitely, because these things, I always thought,  
 4 would never happen to me. You just don't think  
 5 it would, so you don't know what you should do. But if  
 6 it wouldn't have been for that appeal, I didn't know  
 7 what I should have done.  
 8 Q. And I think it's as a result of that contact, is it  
 9 right, that the police came and did take the witness  
 10 statement from you, but also were able to seize your  
 11 clothing?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 MS CARTWRIGHT: Thank you, Ms Nellist. Those are the  
 14 questions that I had for you. I'm going to ask the  
 15 chairman if he has any questions that he wishes to deal  
 16 with.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Let's see whether there are any other  
 18 questions from anybody else.  
 19 MS CARTWRIGHT: There have been indications that there may  
 20 be questions from the core participants. I understand  
 21 it's Mr Weatherby on behalf of the families that may  
 22 have some questioning for the witness.  
 23 MR WEATHERBY: No, I have no questions. But may I, on  
 24 behalf of the families at least I represent, may I thank  
 25 Ms Nellist for giving her evidence. I know it's

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1 difficult .

2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm sure that applies to all the

3 families who would like to express that too, and so

4 would I.

5 A. Thank you.

6 MS CARTWRIGHT: There had been an indication that there may

7 be some questions on behalf of SMG. So could I ask

8 Mr O'Connor — sorry, Mr Taylor, if he has any

9 questions, please, to ask those questions now.

10 MR TAYLOR: No questions, thank you, Ms Cartwright.

11 MS CARTWRIGHT: Those are all the core participants that

12 indicated they had questions, so that would conclude the

13 evidence of Ms Nellist.

14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I don't want to stretch this out any

15 longer than is necessary, but you've done very well so

16 far, if I may say so.

17 A. Thank you.

18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: When you went to pick up your car, did

19 you drive straight home?

20 A. Yes.

21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So it took you about an hour and a half

22 to get back as well?

23 A. Yes, but there were detours in place and because I don't

24 know the area, I just got told off my sister, if you

25 turn left out of the arena, you'll hit the motorway, but

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1 of course —

2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You wouldn't have hit the motorway?

3 A. No, so we ended up getting drove round by different

4 estates — I followed a Welsh dragon on the back of

5 somebody's car, that's how I got home.

6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's a good thing the Welshman was going

7 in that direction. Not an easy drive back, I'm sure,

8 having gone through what you had gone through.

9 A. No.

10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm really grateful. I'm sure it's been

11 an ordeal, but it's been really helpful for me.

12 Thank you very much for coming.

13 MR COOPER: Sir, as CTI know, we have had very helpful

14 conversations with them. The agreement was just so we

15 could consult our families, having heard this evidence.

16 Before the witness is finally released, could we have

17 a short time to do that? Whilst I'm here, can I also

18 thank the witness on behalf of the families I represent

19 as well for her evidence?

20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Shall we break for 10 minutes? Will

21 that give you enough time, Mr Cooper?

22 MR COOPER: I think so. My solicitors are undertaking the

23 tasks and I hope that will be enough time.

24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll just wait for a few minutes. Are

25 you happy to stay there for that time or do you want to

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1 go —

2 A. No, that's fine.

3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'll go outside and tell me when you're

4 ready.

5 (11.28 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.36 am)

8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Mr Cooper.

9 MR COOPER: I'm grateful, sir, for the time you've given.

10 We have no questions, but I'm grateful for the time.

11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

12 MS CARTWRIGHT: That would then conclude Ms Nellist's

13 evidence, sir.

14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much. As I said, we're

15 really grateful to you for coming. Not easy, you went

16 through an appalling ordeal.

17 MS CARTWRIGHT: The next witness was scheduled at 1.30.

18 We're going to see if we can bring him forward to

19 1 o'clock, but could I ask people to take their lunch

20 early.

21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll get into the habit of getting

22 people more sequential as we go on.

23 MS CARTWRIGHT: Thank you, sir.

24 (11.38 am)

25 (The lunch adjournment)

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1 (1.00 pm)

2 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, the gentleman in the witness box is

3 Dr Darah Burke. Can I ask that he now be sworn, please.

4 DR DARAH BURKE (sworn)

5 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT

6 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could you tell the court your full name,

7 please?

8 A. Darah Kevin Burke.

9 Q. Before we start with the evidence of Dr Burke, in

10 speaking to him outside of the hearing today, he's

11 confirmed two things. First of all, that he wishes to

12 refer to his daughter by name and, secondly, in terms of

13 informing the evidence he wishes to give about the

14 emergency response, he does wish to give evidence about

15 an overview of his injuries, the injuries of his wife,

16 but also of his daughter. Sir, both of those matters

17 have been clarified outside court.

18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, Dr Burke. Thank you for telling

19 me that beforehand. You'll be aware that these hearings

20 are being reported and fairly extensively reported. So

21 if you name your daughter, that can be reported unless

22 I ask the press not to report it. Are you happy about

23 it being reported or would you prefer not?

24 A. I'm happy for it to be reported. We've checked with

25 Catherine and she's happy as well.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.  
 2 MS CARTWRIGHT: Dr Burke, can we firstly thank you for  
 3 arriving earlier than you were scheduled to give your  
 4 evidence.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes, thank you for that.  
 6 MS CARTWRIGHT: Secondly, can I now set out the areas I'm  
 7 going to cover with you this afternoon as you give  
 8 evidence. I'm going to be addressing three stages to  
 9 your evidence: firstly, your experience as you made your  
 10 way to the arena and then first arriving in the  
 11 City Room; secondly, your presence in the City Room  
 12 immediately prior to and at the time of the explosion;  
 13 and thirdly, to the extent that it's necessary, your  
 14 account of the aftermath of the explosion, including  
 15 your evidence about the emergency response.  
 16 A. Okay, thank you.  
 17 Q. Plainly, in swearing, you've indicated already that  
 18 you are a doctor.  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Can you confirm what your specialty is, please?  
 21 A. I am a general practitioner.  
 22 Q. How long have you been a general practitioner?  
 23 A. Since 1998.  
 24 Q. Thank you. Dr Burke, having set out those three stages  
 25 of evidence, could you then give your first stage

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1 evidence as to how it was you came to be at the arena  
 2 that night, please?  
 3 A. My daughter and my wife and myself all attended the  
 4 concert, so we'd got tickets for the concert and we made  
 5 our way to Manchester in the afternoon that day. We  
 6 basically attended the concert.  
 7 Q. Thank you. You've already indicated in addressing the  
 8 chairman that your daughter's name is Catherine?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. And could you please give us your wife's name?  
 11 A. Ann.  
 12 Q. When you attended at the concert that day, was there  
 13 anything as you went into the concert that you observed  
 14 as to the security arrangements at the arena?  
 15 A. We had something to eat before we went to the concert  
 16 and then we made our way over, probably roughly around  
 17 6.30, and we went in through -- over the bridge through  
 18 the City Room, and I recall that as we approached the  
 19 door to go in and there were stewards, ShowSec stewards,  
 20 wearing their jackets. As we went in through the door,  
 21 we had to show our tickets obviously and then have  
 22 a security check.  
 23 Q. I think in your witness statement you tell us that  
 24 actually, as you went into the arena itself, your  
 25 daughter purchased some merchandise.

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1 A. Yes, that was after we'd gone through into the -- so  
 2 you'll fully be aware of the City Room and then there  
 3 are doors and after we'd gone through, past the  
 4 stewards, we went through and she purchased merchandise  
 5 once we were in.  
 6 Q. Thank you.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Could you just expand one thing, please:  
 8 you said you went through a security check.  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: What did that involve?  
 11 A. You show your tickets and then a steward essentially --  
 12 I think he didn't look in Catherine's bag because she  
 13 was 10 years old, but he looked in my wife's bag.  
 14 I didn't have a bag.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So just a look in a bag?  
 16 A. Just a look at the top.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
 18 MS CARTWRIGHT: Thank you.  
 19 Then in terms of the events of that evening and the  
 20 concert, can you give us an overview of how the evening  
 21 went for your and your family?  
 22 A. Catherine got some merchandise, she got a cap. We went  
 23 into the concert and every now and then we obviously  
 24 left because it's quite a lengthy process. I think the  
 25 main act wasn't on until about 9/9.30, so you spend your

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1 time popping out to the toilet, getting more drinks,  
 2 something to eat, et cetera, et cetera, ice cream, that  
 3 sort of thing. And then we stayed for the whole of the  
 4 Ariana Grande concert.  
 5 Q. I think then there came a time when you decided to  
 6 leave.  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Can you give us some idea as to when that was?  
 9 A. So Ariana Grande had come on and done an encore --  
 10 I think she did -- I can't remember now whether it was  
 11 two or three songs, but it was fairly obviously she was  
 12 on her last song, and we wanted -- it was a school  
 13 night, so we wanted to get Catherine home, she was  
 14 10 years old, so we decided to start making our way out  
 15 of the arena during her last song.  
 16 We moved up the stairs from our seats and we just  
 17 stood there for maybe a minute or two, watching as the  
 18 song finished, and then just in the last bars of the  
 19 song we left the seating area.  
 20 Q. Thank you. Can you describe what the mood of your  
 21 family was at that time, please?  
 22 A. Yes. Catherine was, you know, excited. She'd been --  
 23 that was the first major concert she had ever been to.  
 24 I guess Ann and I were keen to get home, if I put it  
 25 that way. We'd enjoyed ourselves, but yeah, it was

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1 a loud experience.  
 2 Q. Thank you. Can I ask how were you going to be getting  
 3 home?  
 4 A. We were planning — well, Ann was planning to get a taxi  
 5 home, so I was planning that we might just make the last  
 6 train because we live in Ashton—under—Lyne and obviously  
 7 we're at the train station and we could have possibly  
 8 got the last train home. In either case, the best place  
 9 to get either a train or taxi is the train station, so  
 10 we started to make our way round to Victoria Train  
 11 Station by approaching the City Room exit.  
 12 Q. Thank you. In terms of then, could you just describe —  
 13 I think we're moving now into phase 2 of your evidence,  
 14 which is your presence in the City Room immediately  
 15 prior to and at the time of the explosion. So could  
 16 I ask you to deal with that aspect of your evidence,  
 17 please?  
 18 A. We'd left our seats and left the main bowl of the arena.  
 19 We were actually on the opposite side of the bowl of the  
 20 arena to the City Room exit, so it involved us walking  
 21 around the outside rim of the bowl and there were  
 22 stewards directing people to the Trinity Way exit, but  
 23 because we were either getting a taxi or a train, we  
 24 bypassed those stewards and kept walking towards the  
 25 City Room. So we approached the doors into the

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1 City Room and they are — we went through probably the  
 2 nearest door or the second one along. So as you look  
 3 at the doors, as you look into the City Room, we went  
 4 through the left—hand side.  
 5 Q. Thank you. Could you describe then what you saw as you  
 6 went through those doors, please, into the City Room?  
 7 A. Yes. It was busy, so there were lots of people leaving  
 8 with us, probably had the same kind of idea, you know,  
 9 leave a little bit early to avoid the crowds. There  
 10 were a lot of people there waiting, obviously, for  
 11 people coming out. So people standing still as well,  
 12 facing us. So that involved — because there were quite  
 13 a lot of people, that involved navigating through that  
 14 crowd, bearing in mind there's Catherine who's 10, and  
 15 Ann. So Catherine was next to me on my left—hand side  
 16 and Ann was next to Catherine, and at some point I was  
 17 holding Catherine's hand.  
 18 Q. Then can you describe what happened as you walked  
 19 through the room, please?  
 20 A. So we navigated some of the crowd and I remember Ann  
 21 saying to me, "Oh, this will be us one day, meeting  
 22 Catherine when she's been to a concert". I acknowledged  
 23 that and then as we kept on walking, we were turning,  
 24 I think, towards the right to head towards the doors out  
 25 to the bridge, so we could see them in the distance,

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1 there were plate glass doors out to the bridge.  
 2 Obviously, I'd been to the arena lots of times with the  
 3 children over the years to various children's concerts  
 4 and things like that, so I knew where we were going. We  
 5 headed over that way.  
 6 Q. Pausing there, so you have referenced what Ann said. It  
 7 may seem an obvious and silly question, but your wife  
 8 was referring to the parents waiting for their children?  
 9 A. Yes, she was saying — because there were lots of people  
 10 standing there looking at you, you're trying to get  
 11 round them and avoid people walking next to you and  
 12 behind you, and that's what she said, yes.  
 13 Q. Thank you. So could you then describe, as you walked  
 14 towards those glass doors, please.  
 15 A. Basically, there was a sudden loud bang, very loud, and  
 16 I was kind of thrown forward slightly. I wasn't pushed  
 17 to the floor, but I kind of went into a crouching  
 18 position. It's spontaneous, isn't it, to look round?  
 19 I remember looking round to my left, and up, because  
 20 I felt the bang had come from my left somewhere, and  
 21 everything was — it seemed quite dark, sort of...  
 22 almost debris in the air.  
 23 So I looked down then to see what was happening with  
 24 Catherine and Ann, and Ann was standing up, but not  
 25 straight, she was a bit like me, crouching somehow. And

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1 Catherine was on the floor and Catherine was screaming,  
 2 basically.  
 3 Q. I think, Dr Burke, as part of providing the witness  
 4 statement that you gave to the police, you marked on  
 5 a plan your position when you heard the bang that you've  
 6 just described.  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Mr Lopez, please could you display {INQ023475/2}.  
 9 Dr Burke, we can see there's an X on this plan where  
 10 you have indicated the position when you heard the bang;  
 11 is that correct?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. We can see that that's near to the — what would be the  
 14 doorway that would lead out to the link bridge?  
 15 A. Yes. I mean — that actual, the scale on this, I don't  
 16 know how accurate it is. We weren't very near the  
 17 doors. We were kind of halfway across almost.  
 18 Q. Thank you. Please can that be taken down from the  
 19 screen, Mr Lopez.  
 20 I'm moving now then to the third stage of your  
 21 evidence, Dr Burke, which is the aftermath of the  
 22 explosion. You've described that the impact of the  
 23 blast had caused you and your wife to crouch down but  
 24 had caused Catherine to fall to the floor?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Could you deal with the next phase then of your evidence  
 2 as to how it was you came to leave the City Room?  
 3 A. Yes. Catherine was on the floor and she -- all I can  
 4 say is that was she upset. And Ann and I looked at each  
 5 other -- we didn't really know what had happened --  
 6 well, I had a pretty good idea. So we had a brief  
 7 conversation, which I struggle to remember the exact  
 8 details of it, but the question is what do we do, do we  
 9 stay here or do we move? And we made the decision to  
 10 move, mainly because we thought we didn't know the  
 11 nature of the explosion, but we thought there could be  
 12 another explosion. So we made that decision to try and  
 13 move now. Ann and I were both crouching, Catherine was  
 14 on the floor, Catherine couldn't stand up. We tried to  
 15 lift her up.  
 16 So in the event, I'm not sure whether we carried or  
 17 dragged Catherine, but between us we managed to leave  
 18 the City Room through the doors, the double -- the glass  
 19 doors.  
 20 Q. Thank you. Can I ask you, just for complete clarity --  
 21 you have described hearing a bang, but had you seen the  
 22 bomber at any point?  
 23 A. No.  
 24 Q. Could you then, please, deal with what happened as you  
 25 got through the glass doors leading from the City Room

1 towards the station?  
 2 A. Yes. We emerged on to the bridge, the doors were  
 3 smashed, so we didn't have to open them, and we made it  
 4 a fair few steps on the bridge and then realised that  
 5 I was -- we were both getting a bit... It was difficult  
 6 to carry Catherine. So we laid her down on the floor to  
 7 work out what we should do next. The first thing was to  
 8 have a look at Catherine. Then at this point,  
 9 I realised I was bleeding as well. I could see that Ann  
 10 was bleeding, both of us in our legs.  
 11 But Catherine essentially was saying that she  
 12 couldn't see, her eyes were screwed tight shut, and she  
 13 was very upset and crying. I could see that she had  
 14 a lot of blood on her, on the right side, the upper limb  
 15 and lower limb, and around her head as well.  
 16 Q. Can I ask, what if anything you were able to do for  
 17 those injuries that you observed on your daughter,  
 18 please?  
 19 A. My first instinct was basic first aid, to apply some  
 20 pressure to these injuries, and we didn't really have  
 21 anything to hand so I had a T-shirt on and a shirt, so  
 22 I took my shirt off and applied -- I tied it round her  
 23 arm and I think Ann took her coat off and we put that  
 24 round Catherine's leg. She was responding so I knew  
 25 that she was breathing and I knew she wasn't in

1 immediate danger, but she did have bleeding from the  
 2 head. So I had a look at that and I could see that she  
 3 had an injury on the right side of her head.  
 4 Q. In terms of then the clothing you described that both  
 5 you and your wife applied to Catherine, was any of that  
 6 used to fashion a tourniquet or was it just simply being  
 7 applied on the wounds?  
 8 A. Yes, I described it in my statement as a tourniquet, but  
 9 it wasn't a true tourniquet to stop any profuse  
 10 bleeding, because there wasn't any profuse bleeding, so  
 11 it was just tied around the wounds to apply a bit of  
 12 pressure.  
 13 Q. Thank you. Did you leave at that time your wife and  
 14 your daughter for a brief period?  
 15 A. Yes. It does get a bit hazy, my recollection of exactly  
 16 when I did that and Ann doesn't remember me going at  
 17 all. But essentially, I guess in this kind of situation  
 18 your brain, with the training you've got, you think,  
 19 well, I must see what we can do to assess and see what  
 20 we can do to help people. So I left -- I'd established  
 21 that Catherine wasn't in any immediate danger, although  
 22 she obviously had potentially severe injuries. So  
 23 I left them and went back into the City Room.  
 24 Q. I think you detailed in your witness statement that you  
 25 observed others that were injured at that time.

1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. But it soon became apparent that actually you had an  
 3 injury that meant you would not be able to offer  
 4 assistance to anyone in that room?  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. Can I ask then, in terms of others providing assistance  
 7 at the time when you went back into the City Room, did  
 8 you observe anything about that at the time you went  
 9 back in?  
 10 A. Everything was pretty dark and I approached two  
 11 casualties and then I remember looking, crouching down  
 12 to them and then looking over towards the rest of the  
 13 City Room and I could see that people were -- there were  
 14 shadows and people were starting to stand and  
 15 potentially provide assistance.  
 16 Q. Thank you. Dr Burke, just in terms of your position,  
 17 I think you've indicated you wish to give evidence about  
 18 your injuries. Can you confirm what the injury was that  
 19 you had sustained, please?  
 20 A. I had a shrapnel injury to my left buttock and  
 21 a shrapnel injury to my right leg, which subsequently,  
 22 when I got to hospital, was found to be a small nick  
 23 in the femur. It was technically a fracture, a small  
 24 one, but I did have a piece of shrapnel lodged in the  
 25 muscle and I think that was what was giving me a lot of



1 pain.  
 2 Q. Are you able to assist as to how long you estimate you  
 3 were in the City Room?  
 4 A. I don't think it was more than 1 to 2 minutes.  
 5 Q. Thank you. Could you then deal with what you did when  
 6 you left the City Room, please?  
 7 A. Yes. I went back to my family and at this point, I saw  
 8 that there was a man on the bridge, another casualty.  
 9 Q. I'm not going to ask you to detail that man's injuries,  
 10 but we have information that we know the identity of  
 11 that individual and it will be a man whose statement  
 12 will be summarised or read in due course. That man we  
 13 know is Mr Potter. So I would ask you not to give  
 14 details of his injuries. Perhaps if you could indicate  
 15 at a high level the assistance that you provided to that  
 16 man.  
 17 A. There wasn't really a lot of assistance required, if  
 18 I may say. He was responding, so it was mainly making  
 19 sure that he wasn't in immediate danger while we waited  
 20 for help to arrive.  
 21 Q. Thank you. You indicated you recall ringing your son.  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. And you're able to identify that time. Could you deal  
 24 with that, please?  
 25 A. Yes. I put it on my statement, didn't I?

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1 Q. I think you've identified the time that the call was  
 2 logged in your note as 10.36 pm?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. And at that time you were able to tell your son that  
 5 there had been a bomb?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. But you indicated that you were safe?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. Could you assist then, at the time when you were on the  
 10 link bridge with your wife and with Catherine, with what  
 11 you experienced as to the response, please, to the  
 12 attack that had occurred?  
 13 A. So while we were there, people — well, I can't be sure  
 14 who the people were, whether they were first responders,  
 15 but there were certainly police officers and what  
 16 appeared to be first responders who started to arrive.  
 17 So they would approach us along the bridge and at least  
 18 one or two of them approached us to offer assistance.  
 19 At this point, I was kind of going between Catherine and  
 20 Ann and the gentleman on the bridge, and Ann was  
 21 obviously dealing with Catherine. I felt, because of  
 22 what I'd witnessed in the City Room, that because  
 23 Catherine and Ann and myself were both relatively  
 24 stable, not in immediate danger, that some of those  
 25 people would be best served attending to casualties

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1 in the City Room.  
 2 So they wanted to help us, but I said, "No, there's  
 3 people who are more seriously injured in there, you'd be  
 4 better going in there".  
 5 Q. Can I ask you this then: you're not able to identify the  
 6 individuals that approached you, but can I ask you,  
 7 there has been analysis work that has been done by the  
 8 Greater Manchester Police investigation of the CCTV. Do  
 9 you recall a paramedic at that time approaching you at  
 10 any point or any specific discussions?  
 11 A. Not specifically because the people were wearing  
 12 different uniforms. To be honest with you, the people  
 13 I remember most were the armed police, who approached  
 14 us, but yes, there were a number of individuals wearing  
 15 high-vis who approached us.  
 16 Q. You indicated a moment ago that when those individuals  
 17 would approach you, offering assistance, you effectively  
 18 would be directing them onwards into the City Room?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. And I think if we look at your wife's statement, it's  
 21 certainly something she comments on that caused her some  
 22 frustration that that was your position that night?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. Can I then ask you, because you've mentioned the armed  
 25 police officers and remembering them arriving, is there

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1 anything in particular that's of relevance to the  
 2 inquiry that is your evidence about that arrival of the  
 3 armed police?  
 4 A. I think they had a job to do and — well, they were  
 5 pointing their weapons at us, that's all I really  
 6 remember and directing them further in.  
 7 Q. Can I ask you then — you have described your injuries.  
 8 In terms of Catherine's injuries whilst you were on the  
 9 bridge itself, did her position remain as you've  
 10 described it, as plainly she had injuries and needed  
 11 assistance, but you were directing people away? Was  
 12 there a time when Catherine's injuries or position  
 13 deteriorated?  
 14 A. Not particularly on the bridge. She remained much the  
 15 same. She'd calmed down, she wasn't as upset and she  
 16 could see, she was responding and talking, but she was  
 17 still very upset. In terms of injuries, the bleeding  
 18 was continuing but it wasn't severe.  
 19 Q. Can I ask you about your wife's injuries, please?  
 20 A. Yes. Ann suffered a shrapnel injury to her thigh, but  
 21 she also suffered a shrapnel injury to her heel, the  
 22 heel bone called the calcaneum, and unfortunately that  
 23 had caused a — it's a fracture of the calcaneum, but  
 24 it's really a hole in the bone, so she had quite a deep  
 25 wound there.

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1 Q. So can you assist us as to the lead—up to how it was  
2 that Catherine and yourself and your wife came to be  
3 moved off the link bridge, please?

4 A. Yes. Eventually, a person came to us and I did my  
5 usual — you know, "There's more serious people in  
6 there", and he said, "No, I'm dealing with you now".  
7 He was dressed in plain clothes. He identified himself  
8 as a doctor and he started to remove some of the —  
9 well, the improvised dressings I'd used. I should  
10 mention that although we'd used our clothes, further  
11 dressing packs were provided. Do you want me to mention  
12 that now?

13 Q. Please.

14 A. Okay. So as time went on, because we were on the bridge  
15 for roughly an hour, so at some point somebody left a —  
16 call it a trauma pack, and unfortunately the dressings  
17 were really quite small, they were bandages, the thin  
18 bandages that you'll get in a first aid kit, and lots of  
19 boxes of gloves, I remember that. But there weren't  
20 particularly any major trauma dressings. We did our  
21 best and the doctor — the person who identified himself  
22 as a doctor took some of the improvised dressings we'd  
23 put on and redressed Catherine's wounds.  
24 As he was doing that, we were having a conversation,  
25 he also looked at — once he had dealt with Catherine,

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1 he looked at Ann and asked her to remove her shoe and  
2 look at her wounds. Just at that point, we were  
3 approached by a police officer, who explained to us that  
4 we needed to leave the area.

5 Q. Thank you. So then can I clarify, the doctor you have  
6 described, are you able to assist in the identification  
7 of that doctor?

8 A. Yes, from my recollection, I think he had black jeans —  
9 sorry, blue jeans, black T-shirt, and brown/reddy hair,  
10 probably in his 30s.

11 Q. Were you given a name?

12 A. No, sorry.

13 Q. And you have described him redressing Catherine?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was that with the bandages you have described that  
16 weren't — the smaller bandages?

17 A. They were smaller bandages that we already had.

18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are we able to identify him?

19 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, I have not been able to identify that  
20 specific doctor, but I'm sure we can look in a little  
21 more detail as to whether we can. There are a number of  
22 doctors described as not in uniform so we can perhaps  
23 look at that to see —

24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We know some doctors came into the  
25 City Room to help.

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1 MS CARTWRIGHT: We do. Thank you.

2 You have indicated then about a police officer  
3 coming to assist then to help you off the bridge.

4 A. Well, we were told we needed to move, so we explained  
5 that Catherine couldn't walk, and we expected maybe some  
6 assistance to help her leave. We weren't leaving  
7 without her.

8 Q. Was it explained why you needed to leave or move?

9 A. They had to clear the area.

10 Q. In terms of that time while you were on the link bridge  
11 and you've obviously described a doctor providing  
12 assistance, had you had at any point, from either  
13 a doctor or a paramedic, any triage—type card applied to  
14 you, Catherine or your wife to indicate whether you had  
15 been identified as — whether you were a P1, P2 or P3  
16 casualty?

17 A. No, not on the bridge.

18 Q. You indicated you were told you'd have to leave. What  
19 happened after that time, please?

20 A. So we explained that Catherine was unable to walk and  
21 the policeman picked Catherine up and started to leave  
22 with her.

23 Q. What did you and your wife do, please?

24 A. We followed him. Ann seemed to be better able to walk  
25 than me, so she started following the policeman carrying

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1 Catherine, and I started following them. I remember  
2 walking across the link bridge and they were going  
3 a little bit faster than me, so they disappeared into  
4 the distance down the stairs.

5 Q. And again, just so there's absolute clarity, when you  
6 describe Catherine being carried, is she being carried  
7 on any stretcher or just being carried in the officer's  
8 arms?

9 A. No, in his arms, like that (indicating).

10 Q. You have described the officer carrying Catherine as  
11 being ahead of you. Could you then describe what you  
12 saw and how you then as a family came to leave that  
13 bridge area, please?

14 A. So they receded into the distance and I managed to  
15 hobble down the stairs. They disappeared essentially.  
16 I knew the layout of Victoria Station, so when I got to  
17 the bottom of the stairs I looked around and couldn't  
18 see them. So then I made my way outside on to the  
19 pavement and the road outside, Hunts Bank, and I tried  
20 to see them, but of course it's very busy. Ambulances  
21 were blocking the road completely, as you'd understand.  
22 I couldn't see them. I remember asking somebody passing  
23 if he'd seen my wife and a policeman and they said, "No,  
24 the casualties are over there", and pointed across  
25 Hunts Bank, across the road.

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1 So I then made my way, and there's when I saw Ann,  
2 signalling me.

3 Q. So you indicated that someone told you, "The Casualties  
4 across the road over there". Are you describing the  
5 area across the perimeter of Chetham's School of Music?  
6 A. That's right, so the wall. I saw Catherine had been  
7 laid down on the pavement with her back against the wall  
8 and Ann — I can't remember what she was doing, but they  
9 were both there.

10 Q. You have described that no one prior to that time had  
11 assessed or triaged yourself, your daughter or your wife  
12 as a P1 to P3. Was there any stopping in the station  
13 area before Catherine was taken across to the Chetham's  
14 School of Music area?  
15 A. No.

16 Q. And just to be clear, in terms of discussions you'd had  
17 with your wife subsequently, is there any evidence that  
18 anyone stopped within the station area before she was  
19 taken across the road?  
20 A. No, Ann said — in fact, Ann lost sight of the policeman  
21 and found Catherine propped up against the wall.

22 Q. Could you then please deal with what happened when you  
23 were all together then in that area at Chetham's School  
24 of Music as to your time, please?  
25 A. Yes. We were there for what seemed like a number of

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1 hours. Initially, Catherine — I can't remember,  
2 different personnel will have come and gone in that  
3 time. So Catherine — I sat on the floor with my back  
4 against Chetham's school and it was suggested that  
5 Catherine should lie on me to support her and keep her  
6 warm, so we did that. Then at some point, relatively  
7 soon, somebody did come and provide us with the card  
8 that you're referring to, which was a P3 card.

9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So there were medically qualified  
10 people, apart from you, there by Chetham's?  
11 A. Yes.

12 MS CARTWRIGHT: Can you give us from your recollection how  
13 long it was before someone came and gave that P3 card to  
14 Catherine?  
15 A. It's difficult to remember. I would say a number of  
16 minutes. Maybe 15 at the maximum, 15 to 20 minutes.

17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Was there any medical examination  
18 involved before giving her the P3 card?  
19 A. Not explicitly. Catherine was sitting on me, so a view  
20 was taken of her injuries and our injuries. I don't  
21 remember anybody examining Catherine fully, for example  
22 her head or her back.

23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: But in conversation with you, were you  
24 saying, "These are the injuries we've got"?  
25 A. I would expect so.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Did they know you were a doctor? It may  
2 be difficult to say.

3 A. I can't remember at that point. I might not have... As  
4 time was going by, I was becoming less confident in my  
5 abilities to be able to assess what was happening.

6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS CARTWRIGHT: Perhaps then just to clarify, when you say  
8 you were becoming less confident in your abilities to  
9 assess, can you be clear what you mean by that and why  
10 you say that?  
11 A. I think initially, when something like this happens, you  
12 act very much on instinct and training. It's almost  
13 automatic. And as time passes and the enormity of the  
14 situation starts to hit you, your thought processes  
15 aren't as clear. You can become emotional and also  
16 I was injured as well and in pain, so ...

17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think we can all understand that.  
18 Thank you.

19 MS CARTWRIGHT: Just to inform us, you have described the P3  
20 card being provided to Catherine. Our understanding of  
21 the process that happens before a trauma score can be  
22 given that categorises someone as a P1, P2, P3, is their  
23 respiration rate has to be taken. Did you observe  
24 anyone doing that for Catherine?  
25 A. That's difficult to say, isn't it, because that's just

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1 an eyeball, it's a visual examination. So it's hard for  
2 me to say somebody did or didn't do that.

3 Q. And in terms of then her blood pressure, did you observe  
4 anyone taking that sort of reading?  
5 A. No, because that would have involved using a blood  
6 pressure cuff.

7 Q. And in terms of a Glasgow Coma Score, that's really  
8 something for engaging with the patient, so again would  
9 that be something that would be done by speaking to and  
10 observing Catherine?  
11 A. Yes, I'd expect so. Yes, because she was responding,  
12 she was alert. At that point, when we'd first arrived,  
13 you'd expect her to have a full Glasgow Coma Scale.

14 Q. You have indicated that you wish to give an overview of  
15 Catherine's injuries. Can you give that summary about  
16 the injuries Catherine sustained, please?  
17 A. Absolutely. You'll have to bear with me because it's  
18 a lengthy document.

19 (Pause)

20 Catherine had a fractured right fibula. It wasn't  
21 a clean break, there were multiple fractures of the  
22 right fibula, and that's why she couldn't walk, in my  
23 opinion, obviously caused by a shrapnel wound. She had  
24 approximately 15 other shrapnel wounds, including three  
25 on her lower leg, one on her right thigh, another one on

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1 her — well, two more on her right thigh. She also had  
 2 a shrapnel wound to her right lower back and a soft  
 3 tissue injury to her upper left back and two entrance  
 4 and exit shrapnel wounds on her right forearm, causing  
 5 significant muscle loss and two on her right bicep. She  
 6 had a chest contusion and an open shrapnel wound on her  
 7 chest and a linear abrasion, which was the bleeding to  
 8 the right side of her head, and a laceration to her  
 9 right ear as well, so that was in my opinion probably  
 10 caused by shrapnel. That would have almost certainly  
 11 led to complete permanent deafness affecting her right  
 12 ear.

13 Q. Can I ask you, having summarised the extent of the  
 14 injuries to Catherine, when the P3 card was placed on  
 15 Catherine, had anyone examined her body for the bleeding  
 16 you have described and to examine — and on her  
 17 clothing?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You have described that Catherine got a P3 card, but  
 20 both yourself and your wife were in that area. Did  
 21 anyone assess you and your wife and give you a triage  
 22 card to give you a categorisation?

23 A. Again, we weren't assessed, as you've described  
 24 previously, but we would have been eyeballed, and, no,  
 25 we weren't given cards individually. The card we were

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1 told was for the whole family.

2 Q. Who told you that?

3 A. Well, I can't remember exactly, but again it was  
 4 a medical person.

5 Q. Do you recall then if any assessment of your injuries or  
 6 your wife's took place to inform the card being for the  
 7 family rather than for an individual patient?

8 A. No.

9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are you able to remember now whether you  
 10 were providing information to whoever was doing the  
 11 assessment?

12 A. I expect I would have said, "I've got an injury to my  
 13 leg here and here", and my wife as well, yes.

14 MS CARTWRIGHT: At the time then when Catherine was assessed  
 15 and you were given the P3 card, was any information  
 16 being given to the family as to when any of you or each  
 17 of you would be taken to hospital?

18 A. No. We were told, you know, you're going to be here —  
 19 well, you could be some time, which is entirely  
 20 understandable given the gravity of the situation and  
 21 the other casualties, who were probably in more need  
 22 than us. So yes, we just accepted that we may well be  
 23 there for some hours.

24 Q. I think that in fact is a fair summary and you were  
 25 there for some hours; is that correct?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Could you then assist us with how it was that each of  
 3 you came to be transported to hospital, please?

4 A. So I think it was probably roughly around between 1 and  
 5 1.30 that it became apparent — well, first of all I had  
 6 to move because I was getting in more pain. So we put  
 7 Catherine on the pavement, somebody provided some  
 8 cardboard that she could lie on, and I think somebody  
 9 provided some rolled-up clothes — that could have been  
 10 us — that she could put her head on. Then I'd moved  
 11 next to Catherine and she started to — I guess at the  
 12 time I didn't realise, but she was deteriorating, so she  
 13 started to shiver, that was the main sign, and the  
 14 assumption by us and other bystanders was she was cold.  
 15 So we started to put more layers on her, somebody had  
 16 provided the aluminium foil coverings, I think that went  
 17 on her. She had a coat on her that a lady on the bridge  
 18 had given to us. So she was having more layers put on  
 19 her.

20 She wasn't as responsive as she had been, and again,  
 21 my judgement, I think, was becoming clouded at that  
 22 point. I think you have to bear in mind that there were  
 23 medical personnel around, but also there were a lot of  
 24 bystanders who were helping as well. So people  
 25 providing water and so on.

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1 Q. You've described Catherine shivering in what you'd now  
 2 identify as deterioration; was Catherine reassessed and  
 3 a different triage score or P status given to Catherine?

4 A. She was. I think that was probably getting on towards  
 5 2 o'clock. The situation was that we were told at some  
 6 point, somebody approached us and I can't remember who,  
 7 it might have been a paramedic or a police officer, and  
 8 said, "Right, you need to go now. There are buses  
 9 provided to take you to hospital".

10 Q. When you say, "Take you to hospital", was that  
 11 indicating all of the family?

12 A. All of us, yes. We explained that Catherine couldn't  
 13 walk. They attempted to lift her up to a sitting  
 14 position. She became light-headed and was screaming,  
 15 again in pain, and it became apparent that it wasn't  
 16 going to be possible to get Catherine to walk to a bus,  
 17 which was located further down the road.

18 Q. So then what happened?

19 A. So at that point, I think a senior medical officer, who  
 20 I think is probably a doctor, must have been called,  
 21 I don't know, but he arrived and assessed her and made  
 22 a decision that, first of all, she needed her leg to be  
 23 supported and somebody retrieved one of those blow-up  
 24 casts that can support a leg, and that she needed to be  
 25 transported to hospital via ambulance.

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1 Q. Can I pause you there for a moment. You have already  
2 told us that Catherine was unable to walk from the  
3 moment of the explosion. So was it Catherine's  
4 inability to walk that was affecting her needing to be  
5 transported by an ambulance?  
6 A. I think he probably assessed her as well and the fact  
7 that she was cold, pale and shivering and becoming  
8 light-headed on sitting contributed to that decision as  
9 well, I would expect. So it wasn't just that she  
10 couldn't walk.  
11 Q. So what happened then, please?  
12 A. At that point, the decision was made and they said,  
13 "Right, she's going to need to go to hospital in an  
14 ambulance. All three of you can't go. One of you can  
15 go with her. Who's going with her?"  
16 Ann and I had a discussion and it was felt that  
17 obviously Ann was the best person to go with Catherine  
18 in the ambulance to the hospital. At that point, I was  
19 then directed to the bus and I was assisted down the  
20 hill to get on the bus. So I didn't see Ann and  
21 Catherine after that and we said our goodbyes.  
22 Q. Dealing with you, first of all, when you say you were  
23 assisted to the bus, were you able to walk to the bus?  
24 A. I was able with -- I had a paramedic holding my  
25 left-hand side. I was leaning on him to limp down to

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1 the bus.  
2 Q. Can you give us some idea, from being told that there  
3 were buses coming to transport you to hospital to being  
4 taken to the bus, as to how long you were given for this  
5 information?  
6 A. It was a matter of 5 or 10 minutes total, long enough to  
7 realise what was happening, arrange for Catherine and  
8 Ann to go, I was going, it was 5 or 10 minutes.  
9 Q. Before you left to get on the bus to take you to  
10 hospital, you've described Catherine being reassessed,  
11 but had you seen a different triage ticket being placed  
12 on Catherine?  
13 A. She was upgraded to a P2.  
14 Q. Thank you. Can you give us some idea as to when you got  
15 on to the bus, how many casualties were on the bus?  
16 A. I think there were probably about -- it was  
17 a double-decker bus, but of course we were only on the  
18 ground floor. I think there were probably around seven  
19 or eight casualties.  
20 Q. Were there any paramedics or qualified medical  
21 practitioners on that bus with those being transported  
22 to hospital?  
23 A. Apart from me, no.  
24 Q. Did anyone indicate why there wasn't someone who was  
25 employed in that capacity that night?

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1 A. No. I was the last on to the bus, so I made my way to  
2 sit down and put my leg up. Everybody was sitting on  
3 two seats with their legs up because those were the  
4 injuries. The paramedic who'd helped me on, said,  
5 "Right, you're off now, by the way he's a doctor, so he  
6 can help you".  
7 Q. Had anyone asked you whether you'd monitor patients  
8 en route --  
9 A. No, but I was happy to do whatever I could.  
10 Q. Did they tell you which hospital you were being taken  
11 to?  
12 A. At that point, before he left, he said, "You're going to  
13 Bolton Royal Infirmary".  
14 Q. And before you got on to the bus, did you have  
15 information where Catherine was being taken to?  
16 A. No. Ann had her mobile phone so I assumed she'd be  
17 probably taken to the children's hospital.  
18 Q. Are you able to assist us as to the time you arrived at  
19 hospital and also the time you're aware that Catherine  
20 arrived at hospital, please?  
21 A. I think I -- it took quite a while on that bus. I think  
22 it was probably getting on to -- I can't remember what  
23 I put in my statement, but it was around 2.30,  
24 3 o'clock.  
25 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I don't think you say. 3 o'clock?

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1 Sorry, 3 am?  
2 A. Right.  
3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So that would be about right?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 MS CARTWRIGHT: What was the reason why it took a while to  
6 get to the hospital?  
7 A. It just seemed like a long time.  
8 Q. We've heard some evidence about road closures and road  
9 blocks.  
10 A. I didn't notice anything of that with our bus.  
11 Q. Then in terms of Catherine's arrival to hospital?  
12 A. I think she arrived earlier than that because she went  
13 in an ambulance, so around quarter past to half past 2.  
14 Q. Thank you.  
15 Dr Burke, as part of the material that's been  
16 provided to the inquiry, we've received the account and  
17 information you've provided as part of the  
18 Kerslake Review. It can be seen within that document  
19 that you provide a number of observations about the  
20 emergency response. I don't need to take you to the  
21 document unless it would assist you to have it  
22 displayed, but you offer a number of comments about your  
23 experience of the emergency response. Perhaps I could  
24 ask you to give your views about those or observations  
25 about that, please.

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1 A. The Kerslake Review did ask what I found helpful or  
 2 thought was done well following the attack. I've  
 3 detailed that the response from bystanders, first  
 4 responders, station staff and arena staff, paramedics,  
 5 police officers and firefighters was rapid, highly  
 6 professional. They demonstrated their skills in  
 7 a caring and respectful manner, despite the unusual and  
 8 stressful circumstances they found themselves in, and  
 9 we were very grateful for their actions and compassion.

10 In the following days, our treatment in hospital was  
 11 exemplary and we were dealt with by police officers who  
 12 were diligent, respectful and understanding of our  
 13 needs.

14 Then they've asked what we found unhelpful or could  
 15 have been done differently or better. There were one or  
 16 two issues that I have wondered about since the attack.  
 17 One was that the dressings in the packs seemed to be  
 18 inadequate for these kind of injuries and we were using  
 19 clothing. I do mention that in the 7/7 inquest, this is  
 20 subsequently that I have read this, that trauma packs  
 21 should be placed -- it was recommended that trauma packs  
 22 be placed at key locations across London. I did wonder  
 23 if that had ever happened in Manchester.

24 And due to difficulties in paramedics assessing the  
 25 City Room, there seemed to be very few stretchers

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1 available, and I noticed that improvised advertising  
 2 hoardings and parts of the merchandise stall were used,  
 3 and my daughter was carried by a policeman. So I did  
 4 wonder if lightweight stretchers would be a better  
 5 option for venues.

6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And actually to be at venues you're  
 7 talking about, that they would keep a stock of them at  
 8 a venue?

9 A. Yes, that's what I wondered afterwards, or at train  
 10 stations.

11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right.

12 MS CARTWRIGHT: You then go on in the Kerslake Review to  
 13 make observations about assessments and reassessments.

14 A. Yes. I did mention that we were reassessed frequently,  
 15 but they did seem slightly chaotic. I didn't want my  
 16 comments to be in any way critical, but may help improve  
 17 the response in the future. Catherine was given a tag  
 18 with a grading, which we've talked about, but I felt  
 19 that not all personnel attending us seemed to be aware  
 20 of that system and Ann and I were not provided with  
 21 a tag. Now, you wouldn't necessarily expect every  
 22 bystander to be aware of that system, but I think  
 23 it would be good if people were aware of that system  
 24 because what it led to was that we were reassessed  
 25 frequently, being asked similar questions and trying to

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1 sometimes take our dressings off to look at the wounds  
 2 when they'd already been dressed by somebody else.

3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So perhaps there'd been no real  
 4 coordination going on?

5 A. Yes, it felt a bit like that at some point. People were  
 6 doing their best.

7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: When you're talking about -- would you  
 8 expect bystanders, ie members of the public, to know  
 9 about the triage system?

10 A. Well, I think it would be good for people to know  
 11 because as well as -- you know, this will or may happen  
 12 again and if people know the system that is in place to  
 13 deal with it, they would be better able to know what's  
 14 happening. So for example, if somebody's got a tag on  
 15 them and they came and they said, "Oh yes, you've been  
 16 assessed", because people want to help and that's great,  
 17 but it did lead to a slight frustration when somebody  
 18 had just been 2 or 3 minutes beforehand.

19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And someone else comes up and asks?

20 A. Yes, but they want to help.

21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Absolutely. It helps them to know how  
 22 to help, doesn't it?

23 A. Yes.

24 MS CARTWRIGHT: In terms of that evidence, doctor, we've  
 25 heard some evidence already that the area where you and

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1 your family were placed was essentially for the P3s, so  
 2 part of the casualty clearing station, but the P3 area.  
 3 Did you feel while you were in that area that you were  
 4 in a supervised casualty clearing station for P3  
 5 patients?

6 A. I think we were seen regularly, so I think I would say  
 7 yes. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Thank you. I think you were telling us about the  
 9 information you provided about the reassessment. Is  
 10 there anything else you want to say about that grading  
 11 system?

12 A. I said I wondered if the perceived lack of coordination  
 13 may have been due to, obviously, the overwhelming demand  
 14 placed on services by the sheer number of casualties and  
 15 confusion.

16 Q. Can I just then check, in terms of mentioning bystanders  
 17 and assessment, are you indicating that non-medically  
 18 trained bystanders were assisting in the assessment or  
 19 reassessment process?

20 A. People would come to offer help. Again, it comes back  
 21 to people were in plain clothes. I remember a nurse  
 22 coming and she was in plain clothes and she was offering  
 23 to help and asking us similar questions again. So  
 24 that's what I mean by bystanders.

25 Q. Thank you. Can I just ask, before we move off this

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1 topic, just to be clear, whilst you and your family were  
 2 in the area by Chetham's School of Music, did any of you  
 3 receive pain relief?  
 4 A. No.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Can I just go back to the — it looks  
 6 like the nurse, for example, is an off-duty nurse who  
 7 happens to be there —  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: — just as you were an off-duty doctor  
 10 but, for perfectly good reasons, unable to do much  
 11 actual medical work.  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You could have been in the same position  
 14 and you would automatically do the same thing, wouldn't  
 15 you? You'd go up to people and say, "How are you?  
 16 Anything I can do", all the rest of it. Did the  
 17 off-duty nurse seem to know about the triage system?  
 18 A. I don't recall that. I wasn't aware of it, so, you  
 19 know —  
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So it'd be a good thing to be in the  
 21 training for doctors?  
 22 A. Exactly, yes.  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's helpful, thank you.  
 24 MS CARTWRIGHT: You say this in your Kerslake account:  
 25 "Could members of the public and medical

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1 professionals in Greater Manchester be made aware of the  
 2 response plan to major incidents? A short summary could  
 3 be made available to explain the casualty grading and  
 4 triage system so that medical staff involved in  
 5 incidents as bystanders are able to act effectively."  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. And do you stand by that clarification?  
 8 A. Yes, I think that summarises what I'm trying to say  
 9 there.  
 10 Q. You also said this:  
 11 "Members of the public could be made aware of the  
 12 protocol to be followed during an incident."  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. And then finally, can I ask — you, also within the  
 15 Kerslake response, made an observation:  
 16 "Do major incident plans need to be upgraded to  
 17 reflect the high number of casualties involved or is the  
 18 current plan adequate?"  
 19 A. Yes. I guess that's everything this inquiry is looking  
 20 at, but I guess I was thinking out loud there about  
 21 whether they were robust enough to deal with that sheer  
 22 number of casualties.  
 23 Q. Was there anything in particular that fed into you  
 24 making that observation in Kerslake from what you and  
 25 your family experienced that night?

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1 A. Well, everything I've been through, really. I think  
 2 all — now I'm more aware of the grading system, but  
 3 also the need for a triage sieve at some point, that all  
 4 emergency services and professionals, and even  
 5 bystanders, it's good to know that there is a triage  
 6 system somewhere that all patients should be seen  
 7 through.  
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Just help me a bit: you've had the idea,  
 9 so you can help me about how one puts some of these into  
 10 effect. The P3s, they were all, we know, taken across  
 11 to the other side of the road, where Chetham's School of  
 12 Music is.  
 13 A. I think some were. I can only comment on my individual  
 14 experience.  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think we've heard that from others  
 16 too. Would it have been helpful if where the P3s were  
 17 kept was actually closer to the general triage system?  
 18 A. I think that may have been helpful because then if  
 19 somebody deteriorated, they could have been either moved  
 20 or reassessed by an experienced professional.  
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Right.  
 22 A. It's tricky really because you have to bear in mind,  
 23 where we were, facing the station, there was a wall of  
 24 ambulances in front of us. We could not see anything  
 25 happening there.

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1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: But putting the P3s in a different  
 2 place, as you say, makes it more difficult to upgrade  
 3 people if they have a sudden deterioration?  
 4 A. To a different place, yes.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's very helpful. Lots of people who  
 6 find themselves unintentionally at some appalling  
 7 disaster, hopefully not that many, realise their own  
 8 inadequacies when they've not been able to give as much  
 9 help as they might be able to give. So for example,  
 10 we've had an expert from the army talking about  
 11 tourniquets and the app, which seemed a really good  
 12 idea.  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: How do we do that with what you've been  
 15 talking about, making people familiar with the triage  
 16 system? Has your thinking gone anywhere down that line?  
 17 A. I think there have been efforts, haven't there, with  
 18 very short advertising campaigns with short words, isn't  
 19 it? Literally — well, I can't remember what it is now.  
 20 Hide, get help, whatever. I think it could be  
 21 potentially incorporated into that. I did listen to the  
 22 major —  
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Colonel.  
 24 A. His evidence. I downloaded the app and I've been  
 25 looking at it. I think the triage system, when I said

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1 I didn't know what it was, as soon as I saw what was  
 2 happening, it was immediately apparent to me what it  
 3 was.  
 4 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes.  
 5 A. So it doesn't really take that much to inform the public  
 6 about that. Literally, red, amber, green, isn't it?  
 7 I think that would be -- it's just getting it out there,  
 8 isn't it, when everybody is thinking about other things  
 9 and the media is saturated with other things? But  
 10 I think it would be important.  
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you.  
 12 MS CARTWRIGHT: Dr Burke, I think that covers the matters  
 13 you had raised in the Kerslake Review, but are there any  
 14 other observations or evidence you wish to give about  
 15 the emergency response?  
 16 A. I was asked, really, in there -- you know, you're asked  
 17 if there's anything that could be improved and you do  
 18 feel rather ... It's a bit like nitpicking. I guess Ann  
 19 and Catherine and I want to make... If and when this  
 20 happens again, we want everybody to be prepared. And  
 21 people did the best that they could on the night and  
 22 we're very grateful for that. But it's the future,  
 23 really, that I wanted to focus on.  
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think it's been perfectly clear to the  
 25 inquiry that there were a lot of heroes out there, but

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1 equally that doesn't mean that things can't be improved.  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's what we're all trying to do.  
 4 A. And what you have said, sir, about people feeling they  
 5 didn't do their best. I felt that, and still do, and  
 6 unfortunately that feeling of guilt doesn't leave you.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I don't think you should be feeling it.  
 8 A. But you have to live with it.  
 9 MS CARTWRIGHT: That concludes my questions. Sir, I'm  
 10 conscious, we're already over the hour where we had  
 11 indicated we would be dealing with witnesses, but  
 12 I understand there's only potential questions from  
 13 Mr Weatherby on behalf of the families, so rather than  
 14 breaking now, if I ask Mr Weatherby how long he  
 15 envisages he will be in questioning as to whether we  
 16 take a break now.  
 17 MR WEATHERBY: I will be no more than 3 or 4 minutes at  
 18 most.  
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are you happy with 3 or 4 minutes?  
 20 A. Yes, of course.  
 21 Questions from Mr WEATHERBY  
 22 MR WEATHERBY: First of all, on behalf of the families, can  
 23 I thank you very much for the evidence you have given  
 24 and the clear way that you have tried to assist us all.  
 25 Just two very quick points. Firstly, in terms of

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1 equipment and lessons learned, you have referred to  
 2 lessons which were or recommendations which were made  
 3 after 7/7. So can I just get a bit of clarity from you  
 4 here? You're suggesting that in places where the public  
 5 have a large access, such as stations, arenas, stadiums,  
 6 that we should expect to have better or certainly  
 7 first aid packs and first aid packs with proper  
 8 dressings and tourniquets; would that be fair?  
 9 A. Yes, listening to the colonel's evidence, the  
 10 tourniquets in the packs would be good. Just bigger  
 11 dressings, I think, because the first aid, the ones  
 12 I saw, just had the bandages that you would get in  
 13 a first aid kit that you bought from... outdoors.  
 14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You don't know, do you, where they came  
 15 from?  
 16 A. No.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We know people came with them from  
 18 police cars as well as ambulances and paramedics having  
 19 them.  
 20 A. To be fair, the dressing packs that were used in the  
 21 City Room, maybe they were more substantial. I can't  
 22 comment on that.  
 23 MR WEATHERBY: Absolutely. So far as you can comment, your  
 24 observation would be that venues and places to which the  
 25 public have significant access in numbers should have

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1 adequate first aid and trauma packs?  
 2 A. I think that would be a good idea, and some form of  
 3 lightweight stretcher. You don't need a full-weight  
 4 stretcher, but you need some form of carrying people.  
 5 Q. Your experience on the night, given where the explosion  
 6 occurred and the distance and the stairs down to where  
 7 the casualty clearing stations were, it would have been  
 8 helpful, wouldn't it, to have had stretchers that were  
 9 easily used by non-technical people?  
 10 A. Yes, I'd agree with that.  
 11 Q. Therefore going forward, places like the arena and  
 12 stations and high-footfall public places, wherever  
 13 possible, should have easy to use, lightweight  
 14 stretchers, shouldn't they?  
 15 A. Well, I would agree with that, yes.  
 16 Q. Just one other point. You've been asked a lot of  
 17 questions, so I don't need to go over it, but you've  
 18 been very generous, very appropriately generous, if  
 19 I may say, to all the people that helped, and as the  
 20 chair says, there were many heroes. You've also  
 21 constructively raised some points. For example, in your  
 22 Kerslake statement you refer to reassessments seemed  
 23 slightly chaotic and that dressings that were applied by  
 24 one person were then removed by another person a few  
 25 minutes later. So not everything worked, no doubt

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1 because of the circumstances, as smoothly as it might.  
 2 Can I just ask you, as an overall impression,  
 3 although everybody was obviously trying their level best  
 4 in very difficult circumstances, in terms of the  
 5 organisation of it, was it apparent that there was any  
 6 real degree of organisation to the area in which you  
 7 were situated outside?  
 8 A. Yes, I would say there was an organisation because  
 9 we were seen at regular intervals. But I'm not aware  
 10 whether that was then -- what the supervision of that  
 11 was.  
 12 Q. Sure.  
 13 A. I couldn't comment on that. It must be very difficult  
 14 because the person in charge is going to be pulled here,  
 15 there and everywhere.  
 16 Q. Yes. I'm not for a moment suggesting it's easy, I'm  
 17 just trying to drill down into your experience. So in  
 18 terms of what we've discussed, it would be helpful to  
 19 improve the availability of first aid medical equipment  
 20 and stretchers. Also in terms of looking at a response  
 21 to large-scale incidents like this, would you agree,  
 22 more information to off-duty medical people, as you've  
 23 spoken about and written in your Kerslake statement?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. But also looking again at the levels of organisation and

1 the way that an emergency response can be better  
 2 organised so that there is a less chaotic response?  
 3 A. Well, it's difficult because you can't have -- the  
 4 number of people who were there that night, say you  
 5 doubled that and you had more people, what do they do  
 6 the rest of the time? They're not always -- they're  
 7 just hanging around doing nothing, waiting for the next  
 8 event. So I think it is very difficult for me to  
 9 comment on that. But I think overall, the education of  
 10 everybody is the important thing.  
 11 MR WEATHERBY: Yes, okay. Thank you very much. That's very  
 12 helpful, doctor. That's all I have.  
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I just want to follow up on a couple of  
 14 things that have just been asked of you. Have you any  
 15 idea, as a rough number, of the walking wounded, as  
 16 they've been described, the P3s, who were actually over  
 17 by Chetham's school?  
 18 A. It's a long wall and I was aware of people either side  
 19 of me. As I went down to the bus, I was aware of people  
 20 that I was passing. So I would say maybe 15 to 20,  
 21 maybe. That's a rough guess.  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: You've perfectly reasonably said about  
 23 people who were there, how it's difficult to tell about  
 24 the supervision and things like that. We know that  
 25 at the casualty clearing station, inside, there were at

1 least a couple of people who were in charge of the  
 2 situation and were making sure the right people were  
 3 seen at the right time and re-examined. From what  
 4 you have said, that doesn't appear to have been the  
 5 situation where you were.  
 6 A. Yes. It is difficult to remember even.  
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay.  
 8 A. But I know that --  
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We can look at it when we hear some more  
 10 evidence as to whether there was actually someone in  
 11 charge of the P3 area. But that would be a good idea so  
 12 far as you're concerned?  
 13 A. I think it would be a good idea to look at it and work  
 14 out what was happening --  
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay.  
 16 A. -- because I'm only aware of what was really happening  
 17 in my immediate vicinity.  
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: This is just something I should have  
 19 asked you before: you said some of the armed police  
 20 stopped to see whether you needed assistance.  
 21 A. Well, they stopped --  
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay.  
 23 A. Because they had a job and I think they were  
 24 (overspeaking) securing the area immediately afterwards.  
 25 Yes, they didn't really offer assistance and I wouldn't

1 have expected them to.  
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Well, exactly. That's why I wanted to  
 3 know. Thank you.  
 4 MS CARTWRIGHT: That would conclude Dr Burke's evidence.  
 5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm really grateful to you for coming  
 6 and telling us and the helpful evidence that you have  
 7 given. From my point of view, if you are feeling  
 8 guilty, you shouldn't.  
 9 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, before Dr Burke leaves, could  
 10 I acknowledge that present in court today has also been  
 11 his wife.  
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm aware of that, thank you.  
 13 MS CARTWRIGHT: That concludes the evidence we have for  
 14 today. Please can we adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow?  
 15 We have three witnesses scheduled for tomorrow, two in  
 16 person and one over the video link.  
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Again, it's a matter of  
 18 categorising how long people are going to take and it's  
 19 not easy to estimate that necessarily. Thank you.  
 20 (2.17 pm)  
 21 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
 22 on Tuesday, 13 April 2021)  
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