

OPUS2

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Day 138

July 22, 2021

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Thursday, 22 July 2021

1
2 (10.00 am)
3 (Delay in proceedings)
4 (10.12 am)
5 MS CARTWRIGHT: Good morning, sir.
6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Good morning.
7 MS CARTWRIGHT: The gentleman in the witness box is
8 Mr Hibbert.
9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Good morning, Mr Hibbert.
10 A. Morning.
11 MS CARTWRIGHT: You'll recall back in April, on 14 April of
12 this year, we read the statement of Mr Hibbert.
13 Subsequent to that statement, Mr Hibbert has provided
14 a further detailed statement to give relevant evidence
15 he has about his and his daughter's experience on
16 22 May 2017.
17 I want to set out at the outset that Mr Hibbert
18 today wishes to --
19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Before you say that, thank you very much
20 for coming to give your evidence to me. Thank you.
21 MS CARTWRIGHT: Mr Hibbert wishes today to talk about his
22 daughter, who was not named on the last occasion, and so
23 we will today be discussing Eve, we will also be
24 discussing, and Mr Hibbert wishes to give evidence about
25 his injuries, but also Eve's injuries, and so I make

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1 that clear at the outset because some people, in
2 particular, may find that evidence distressing. So if
3 people wish not to view all of the evidence, then
4 obviously they know what is going to come. I will try,
5 before we deal with the post-detonation aspect, to make
6 that clear again but we do envisage that there are
7 aspects of the evidence today that are distressing, but
8 Mr Hibbert is anxious that his full experience is made
9 known to the inquiry.
10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. I know that you will tell me
11 if you want a break or you want to carry on, it's
12 entirely up to you.
13 A. Thank you.
14 MR MARTIN HIBBERT (sworn)
15 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT
16 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could you please tell the inquiry your full
17 name.
18 A. Martin Stuart Hibbert.
19 Q. As I've already identified, we have already read your
20 statement, the first statement in April of this year,
21 but subsequent to that you have provided a witness
22 statement with the assistance of Greater Manchester
23 Police, dated 8 July of this year. At the outset, can
24 you confirm, are the contents of that statement true to
25 the best of your knowledge and belief?

2

1 A. Yes, they are.
2 Q. The process that has taken place at Greater Manchester
3 Police is that they have shown to you the sequence of
4 events as to your post-detonation experience, but also
5 that of Eve, to help you understand the events of the
6 night?
7 A. Correct.
8 Q. I think on the basis of having reviewed that sequence of
9 events, you have wished to give your further evidence in
10 this statement?
11 A. Correct.
12 Q. Thank you. On the last occasion when I read your
13 statement, it dealt with the events of the day and how
14 you and Eve came to go to the concert. Perhaps in your
15 own words, if you could just describe that day as you
16 and Eve made your way, having collected her, to the
17 concert, please.
18 A. Yes. On the Monday afternoon, I'd travelled over from
19 West Yorkshire, where we were living at the time. We
20 collected Eve from school, went back to my mum's just to
21 get changed and freshen up, and then we drove into
22 Manchester. The tickets had actually been a Christmas
23 present, so we'd booked to go to one of our favourite
24 restaurants in Manchester, San Carlo, and like I said in
25 my statement, it was just a typical brilliant Manchester

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1 day: the sun was shining, it was a beautiful day. Eve
2 had got me ready for the concert, constantly playing the
3 CDs, and I was fully ready for it. Going to concerts is
4 something that we did, it was daddy and daughter time,
5 and we loved it. So it was just another of those
6 wonderful daddy and daughter times.
7 We parked at the arena, I had VIP tickets, we were
8 in a box --
9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Just remind me of her age, I am really
10 sorry.
11 A. She was 14 at the time. So we'd parked at the VIP
12 parking under the arena, we walked to San Carlo, had
13 a lovely meal, and I remember -- I think I put it in my
14 statement -- I remember looking across and she looked
15 beautiful and I remember saying to Eve, "This is when
16 I'm going to be getting knocks at the door", because she
17 looked stunning. I remember thinking to myself, which
18 is why I took that infamous picture, because I never
19 used to share Eve on social media, but I just looked at
20 her and I could see that she was becoming a woman and
21 I knew I'd be getting knocks at the door and I wanted to
22 embrace it and, in a way, celebrate it, if that's the
23 right word, and that's kind of way I took that picture
24 of us, which is obviously the infamous picture of us at
25 San Carlo, raising a glass, because I knew that probably

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1 after that night, she'd be taking her exams and, you
 2 know... My little princess ...
 3 Q. We know that you have seen then the sequence of events
 4 that shows the time that you and Eve entered the arena
 5 and your packing in the VIP package meant that you
 6 avoided the crowds?
 7 A. Correct.
 8 Q. We see you entering the arena at 8.03?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. If you want to tell us a little bit about your
 11 experience of the concert that night, please.
 12 A. Yes, it was amazing. It was the first time Eve had been
 13 in a box, so again because it was a Christmas present
 14 I wanted her to kind of be treated like a princess and
 15 the fact that she could just go and grab drink when she
 16 wanted or a bit of food, she loved that. I think there
 17 was copious amounts of dad dancing, as they call it.
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I have never done that, I'm afraid!
 19 A. You need to, definitely, I recommend it.
 20 MS CARTWRIGHT: I'm sure you have, sir!
 21 A. But I remember — I'm an avid Man United fan and I have
 22 been all over the world watching them, but the screams
 23 when Ariana Grande came out, I've never experienced
 24 anything like it, to the point where I had to cover my
 25 ears, it was piercing. That's what I remember,

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1 a fantastic concert. But we'd always made the decision
 2 we were going to leave during the encore and that will
 3 obviously stay with me.
 4 Q. We can see in your witness statement that you have had
 5 that "what if" thought if you'd stayed that little bit
 6 longer.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Mr Hibbert, we are going to move forward now to as you
 9 made your way out of the concert bowl and the route you
 10 took. We know that you found your way taking the route
 11 into the City Room. You have also been shown the image
 12 of you and Eve timed at 22.30.53, where you are captured
 13 in the City Room.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. You also tell us that that's enabled you to see your
 16 proximity to the bomber and I think that's assisted you
 17 also in understanding how close you and Eve came to him.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Unless you wish to deal with that, I'm not going to give
 20 the full details of that, but if you wish to give that,
 21 Mr Hibbert.
 22 A. Only, obviously, initially when I was in hospital,
 23 initially the police liaison said we were actually
 24 10 metres away, so that's kind of what I've always had
 25 in my head — even 10 metres is a very small amount, but

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1 it was when I saw the sequence of events that I kind of
 2 questioned that that didn't look like 10 metres but it
 3 then actually turned out that it was probably 5 or
 4 6 metres, which again — it just beggars belief how
 5 we are still here given our proximity to Mr Abedi.
 6 Q. So we're going to move now to post-detonation. As we've
 7 already flagged and highlighted we are now going to be
 8 dealing with your experience, but also your injuries.
 9 So if anyone would wish to now disconnect, I would
 10 advise them to do so or leave the room.
 11 Mr Hibbert, can you just explain what you then
 12 experienced of the detonation, please?
 13 A. I hear an almighty bang. I kind of put it — I'm
 14 interested in military history and that's how I kind
 15 of — the rationale in terms of how it felt and how it
 16 sounded. If you've watched war movies and World War II
 17 movies, that almost high-pitch, piercing sound, and
 18 a disorientation. That's what it felt like. I felt
 19 like I'd been hit by a 10-tonne truck. I was panicking
 20 because I felt like I couldn't breathe. I remember
 21 falling to the ground and just not knowing really
 22 instantly what had happened. But I knew something
 23 serious had happened.
 24 Q. You go on to tell us that you then looked to see where
 25 Eve was.

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1 A. Yes, obviously I can see I'm losing a lot of blood. I'm
 2 choking on blood and I can see a very big pool of blood.
 3 I didn't know at the time I'd suffered so many injuries,
 4 but I knew I was losing a lot of blood. And then that's
 5 when I saw...
 6 Q. I think that's when you saw the extent of the injury
 7 that Eve had sustained —
 8 A. Yes. I could see she'd taken ... I could see she'd
 9 got ... It was almost like she'd been shot through the
 10 head and I could see her brains.
 11 Q. I think you describe that you noticed that she was
 12 bleeding from the mouth and she was gasping for breath.
 13 A. Yes, she was bleeding and she was gasping for breath.
 14 So I could see she was dying in front of my eyes and
 15 I knew that I was dying. But — a lot of people have
 16 asked me — I wasn't in any pain, I wasn't panicking,
 17 the only thing that kept going through my mind was:
 18 you've got one job to do now and it's to make sure that
 19 Eve gets out and that's what I did.
 20 Q. Perhaps then, so we have an understanding of your
 21 position, could you just give a description of your
 22 injuries, please?
 23 A. So I suffered 22 shrapnel wounds, the two most serious
 24 were — the one that hit me in the centre of the back,
 25 totally severed my spinal cord, so I'm paralysed from

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1 the waist down, I have got a T10 complete spinal cord
 2 injury, which means in layman's terms I'm paralysed from
 3 the belly button down. The one they were more concerned
 4 about was the one that hit me in the side of the neck
 5 and severed two of my main arteries. The guardian angel
 6 that was over both of us -- that bolt didn't go straight
 7 through my neck, it -- for some unknown reason
 8 I swallowed it and it ended up in my stomach, which
 9 again has just baffled the experts and nobody can --
 10 bearing in mind how fast they were travelling and how
 11 close we were, nobody can give an explanation how that
 12 has happened, but it did.

13 And then all the other 20 shrapnel wounds were
 14 basically all of my back and my buttocks, my legs my
 15 tibia and fibula were shattered, my ankles. Yes, I had
 16 holes all over me.

17 Q. You've already described the injuries you saw to Eve and
 18 do you want to at this stage then give any other
 19 evidence about Eve's injuries that she sustained?

20 A. Yes, that was obviously -- I don't know how it did, but
 21 one bolt -- like I said, thankfully where we were stood
 22 and where I was, thankfully I shielded her from the
 23 explosion. I don't know how or why one bolt got
 24 through, why it didn't hit me -- it did and obviously it
 25 caused a very significant brain injury. She had a few

1 others around, like myself, around her legs and her
 2 ankles, but they were -- the one that obviously got
 3 through caused the damage.

4 Q. You describe in your witness statement that:
 5 "Everyone was running around and it seemed like it
 6 took ages for the paramedics to arrive."

7 A. Yes. A sense of -- and I know I wasn't alone, but can
 8 I talk about when I'm doing my motivational talking --
 9 almost a sense of the acceptance of the situation, that
 10 I'm dying and I am not going to make it, so to go
 11 through that process over an hour -- I told Chris, the
 12 security guard that was with me, because I could feel my
 13 body shutting down, I was fighting to stay awake, just
 14 to ensure that Eve got out, but I kind of came to the
 15 conclusion that I wasn't going to make it, so I told
 16 Chris, if I didn't make it, to tell my wife that I loved
 17 her and that I'd hopefully done everything that I could.

18 I was just bothered about Eve, really. I didn't
 19 think I was going to get out and I just kept saying,
 20 "Where is everybody? Where are the paramedics?", and
 21 I think I just kept getting fed up of being told,
 22 "They're on their way, they're coming".

23 I knew I'd been there an hour. I knew that as soon
 24 as I woke up, that all this narrative about people being
 25 there straightaway, I knew straightaway, and that's why

1 I was vocal because I knew when I was in the spinal unit
 2 something catastrophic had happened and that the
 3 response wasn't what it should be. And for me to go
 4 through that, and be awake through the majority of it
 5 and to survive it, I wasn't going to allow another
 6 Hillsborough or something like that, I was focused on
 7 the truth coming out on what I'd experienced.

8 Q. I'm going to ask you now, Martin -- you are aware from
 9 your witness statements, a significant concern that you
 10 have had is the fact that Eve's head was covered.
 11 Mr Greaney QC, when he opened chapter 9, identified that
 12 that was an issue in terms of what happened to Eve and
 13 obviously we know Eve is alive today. You have detailed
 14 in your witness statement that you were made aware of
 15 from the sequence of events as to what you saw and what
 16 you recall, but also assisted by other images that
 17 Greater Manchester Police have shown to you.

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. I think it's also correct that, even subsequent to you
 20 providing a witness statement, Greater Manchester Police
 21 have shared with you as much information as they have as
 22 to the covering of Eve. If I can ask you just at a high
 23 level, I think it's right, isn't it, you witnessed Eve
 24 being covered on two occasions?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. You have indicated outside that plainly you are aware
 2 from what has been shown to you from Greater Manchester
 3 Police as to who was interacting with Eve at different
 4 times --

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. -- and that has facilitated your recollection of what
 7 happened to her.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So could I ask you in terms of what you saw, without
 10 giving the details of the individuals, please?

11 A. Yes. I've always -- and it's obviously only through
 12 that sequence of events that I now know it was T-shirts
 13 and posters. I've always from day one said that
 14 I looked over, one moment she was there, I could see
 15 her, and then the next minute she was fully covered.
 16 And I remember saying to Chris, you know, "Why is she
 17 covered, she's still breathing?" Obviously I didn't
 18 know what had gone on before, during and after, but it
 19 was obviously because people thought that she'd died.
 20 But given that I was close to her, I could see, even
 21 though I knew she was dying, that she was still
 22 breathing. And you could see that, it was almost
 23 gasping for breath. So it wasn't like you're
 24 asleep--breathing where you could maybe get it mixed up,
 25 you could see her lips quivering and really gasping for

1 breath.
 2 That was always a big frustration of mine that if
 3 I'd have lost consciousness, Eve wouldn't be here. So
 4 that has always been a big frustration and then when
 5 I saw the sequence of events from Greater Manchester
 6 Police, and I saw the two or three individuals that
 7 could have done that, and I couldn't see that the usual
 8 ABC checks had been given, and then obviously I've read
 9 statements from those particular people involved and
 10 their recollection of it is that she had an unsurvivable
 11 injury, so they were just going to leave her and cover
 12 her up.
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I really understand your concerns,
 14 obviously, and these are matters which we will
 15 undoubtedly look at.
 16 A. Thank you.
 17 MS CARTWRIGHT: In that room, you were able to ensure that
 18 the coverings were removed from Eve.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And you've already told us that your priority with those
 21 you were speaking to around about was to get Eve out.
 22 A. Correct. That's all I was bothered about and that's --
 23 when I read some of the statements of the paramedics and
 24 some of the people that interacted with us, when they've
 25 asked me about me and I've always said, "Don't worry

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1 about me, just get my daughter out". You know what
 2 I mean? Because you don't know, obviously, if that did
 3 happen or if you did say those things, but the
 4 paramedics and everybody said, you know, I was concerned
 5 about my daughter, which I think any dad would be. So
 6 it's not -- I don't mean to say it's anything special,
 7 but to know that and to read that has been very
 8 comforting.
 9 Q. Thank you. You describe in your witness statement that:
 10 "Everyone was saying the paramedics were on the way,
 11 people were panicking, they were confused and shouting,
 12 'What do we do?' I don't think people could believe
 13 what had happened, this was a bit of a shock, people
 14 kept coming to reassure us, asking if we were okay and
 15 telling us the paramedics were on their way. It seemed
 16 like forever."
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. You then go on to describe that you've witnessed now and
 19 seen from the SoE your removal on a makeshift stretcher.
 20 Do you want to just give your evidence about your
 21 recollection about that, please?
 22 A. Obviously, in terms of my recollection with GMP or
 23 actually on the night?
 24 Q. First of all on the night.
 25 A. I don't have any recollection of being on the stretcher,

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1 so my last recollection is -- I thought it was me seeing
 2 Eve being taken out but it must have been me being taken
 3 out because obviously I now know that I was taken first,
 4 which went against what I did want because I did tell
 5 them to take Eve first. So that's kind of when --
 6 because I fought to stay alive for an hour, I just
 7 couldn't do it any more, and that's when I kind of gave
 8 up. So my recollection from being taken out of the
 9 City Room -- literally, I don't have any recollection at
 10 all.
 11 Q. You now are aware of the timings and I think --
 12 A. Of course.
 13 Q. -- just for completeness, that you were taken out of the
 14 City Room -- so we can see that at 23.21.57, you were
 15 placed on a makeshift stretcher. And then you're
 16 captured on the footbridge outside the City Room --
 17 A. Correct.
 18 Q. -- at 23.22.56.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And just to then identify the relevant timings for Eve
 21 because, as you've already told us, she was taken out
 22 after you.
 23 A. Correct.
 24 Q. Eve is captured being taken out of the City Room at
 25 23.25.55.

15

1 A. Correct.
 2 Q. Do you have any recollection of your time down in the
 3 casualty clearing station area?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. And again, just to identify that you arrived in the
 6 casualty clearing station at 23.25.54.
 7 A. Correct.
 8 Q. In terms of Eve, she is captured at 23.29.49, having
 9 been taken through the casualty clearing station and out
 10 on to Victoria Approach.
 11 A. Yes. That's always been -- again, since knowing and
 12 viewing the sequence of events, obviously given our
 13 injuries and that we were in the City Room for an hour,
 14 to then go downstairs, be P1-ed at quarter past 11, to
 15 still be downstairs almost 2 hours -- I'm not too
 16 bothered about me, but again, knowing what people were
 17 saying in the City Room about Eve's injuries, the fact
 18 that she's still down there, given her injuries, it's
 19 just baffling why she wasn't put into an ambulance
 20 straightaway from the City Room.
 21 Again, it's just a miracle that she's still with us,
 22 given the extent of her injuries. So that is a big
 23 frustration given where we were and the amount of blood
 24 that I'd certainly lost and given Eve's injuries, the
 25 fact that we're still even in the vicinity nearly

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1 2 hours later is -- just no words for it.
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And I hope you will be aware that those
 3 are things we are looking at very carefully and will
 4 continue to do so.
 5 MS CARTWRIGHT: Just to identify, Eve left the scene at
 6 00.18?
 7 A. Correct.
 8 Q. I know that you are particularly keen to identify to the
 9 chairman the praise that you have for the paramedics
 10 that took you to hospital.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. I wonder if you could just give your evidence about --
 13 perhaps if we first of all name the two paramedics.
 14 A. Yes. I don't know the other gentleman, but the one that
 15 I've become very close friends with is a gentleman
 16 called Paul Harvey. He's with me today on my lapel.
 17 Paul is an experienced paramedic, 20 years -- I think he
 18 celebrates his 20 years this year. A beautiful man,
 19 beautiful family. But he had been instructed to take me
 20 to Wythenshawe Hospital, which at that time probably
 21 would have been maybe a 25/30-minute ambulance journey.
 22 But because he knew of my injuries and he knew
 23 I probably wouldn't survive that journey, he actually
 24 took it upon himself to ignore that and do the right
 25 thing and take me to Salford Royal, which is a 10-minute

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1 journey, where he knew there was a major trauma unit and
 2 where I'd probably get the correct help. So I think
 3 another frustration I had, and again no disrespect to
 4 paramedics, but maybe if I'd had a new paramedic that
 5 was following orders, I might not be sat here today. So
 6 Paul knows he doesn't have to buy beer now for the rest
 7 of his life.
 8 But again it's another -- of all these things that
 9 happened during that night, all these events where if it
 10 had been somebody else or something different, it could
 11 have been a totally different end. So I owe Paul my
 12 life, basically, because he took me to Salford Royal and
 13 give me some life-saving medication in the ambulance to
 14 clot, because I was still bleeding. Even though I'd
 15 tourniquets put on to me, I was still bleeding quite
 16 heavily and in the ambulance I was starting to vomit
 17 blood as well, so he knew I was -- they were losing me,
 18 basically.
 19 So he made a life-saving decision to take me to
 20 Salford Royal.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Let me acknowledge as well what
 22 a wonderful job he did.
 23 A. Thank you, I'm very grateful.
 24 MS CARTWRIGHT: Mr Hibbert, the inquiry has the statement or
 25 the self-administered interview of that second

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1 paramedic. I'm sure I'm about to pronounce his name
 2 incorrectly: that is Michal Walczak. Sir, just for your
 3 reference, {INQ020129/5}. His account identifies:
 4 "We were requested for transfer to hospital. As one
 5 of the penetrating wounds was midline posterior aspect.
 6 We have asked transport officer to deviate from initial
 7 destination onto receiving facility with neurosurgery
 8 ward."
 9 Mr Hibbert, you've already identified about one of
 10 the medications that you are now aware of that you have
 11 received. I think it's right, isn't it, that the blood
 12 clotting agent you received, we can see from the
 13 pre-alert that was made then to Salford Royal
 14 Hospital -- and again, sir, for your reference it's
 15 {INQ024103T/1}, it is clear that you had been given
 16 1 gram of a medication called TXA.
 17 A. Correct.
 18 Q. And that's a blood clotting medication?
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. Thank you.
 21 Mr Hibbert, Martin, you've already given a summary
 22 of your injuries. I wonder now if you want to give an
 23 overview, as I know you do, about the impact of those
 24 injuries and also the treatment and support that you've
 25 received subsequently.

19

1 A. Obviously, I'm spinal cord injured, it's a complete
 2 injury, so I'll be confined to a wheelchair now for the
 3 rest of my life. But given what happened on the night
 4 and the fact that for an hour I was dying and didn't
 5 think I was going to make it out, I've said numerous
 6 times, when I was told I wasn't going to walk again and
 7 I'm just thankful to be alive and to be here, so I'll
 8 take it, because I know that there are 22 families that
 9 weren't so lucky. I'm very thankful for that, that
 10 we're still here, we're both here, even with our
 11 injuries, and obviously it is a big change. You know,
 12 I was on copious amounts of drugs and medication, which
 13 I've made the decision to come off naturally. So I'm
 14 now trying to cope with depression and PTSD without
 15 medication, which I'm being successful in, for 18 months
 16 now, which I find some days is a greater battle than the
 17 spinal cord injury.
 18 Every day is a new day. My wife overnight became my
 19 carer. People don't see that, the impact that it has
 20 with your wife, your children, even your friends. My
 21 friends were very heavily impacted by what had happened
 22 and people forget that, the ripple that it has.
 23 People just think it affects me and Eve and those
 24 close to us, but there has been a ripple effect and my
 25 friends and close friends have been heavily impacted by

20

1 it too.
 2 I'm a trustee now at the Spinal Injuries
 3 Association, a charity that has allowed me to live
 4 a fulfilled life, and I do a lot of motivational talking
 5 now. So I try and bring some good out of that bad night
 6 and try and motivate and inspire others like myself that
 7 are being told they're not going to walk again, that
 8 actually you can live a fulfilled life. So I'm doing
 9 everything that I did before I was injured, if not more.
 10 I try to inspire and motivate able-bodied people too and
 11 I believe I do that from the messages that I get.
 12 There are complications with a spinal cord injury,
 13 so I have been blue-lighted into hospital now four times
 14 with sepsis, that's been four close calls, and various
 15 others, which I won't get into today, you know, around
 16 the bowel and the bladder and lots of other things
 17 that ...
 18 People just look at me and think I can't walk.
 19 There's hundreds of things which — it's not to talk
 20 about today, but every day is a new day and I'm still
 21 learning.
 22 Shall I talk about Eve and where she is?
 23 Q. Yes, please. Thank you.
 24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: She is happy for you to do that?
 25 A. She is and from her mum as well, yes. I've got the

21

1 green light.
 2 Eve was in hospital for 10 months. I've recently
 3 been told that the coroner was actually ringing Eve's
 4 ward every day. We believe she is the only person to
 5 survive that injury in the world. There's been a paper
 6 written on her, so if anybody else suffers that injury,
 7 they know how to care for them and get them through it.
 8 Manchester Children's Hospital is an amazing place,
 9 what they did for Eve and Sarah, her mum, was amazing.
 10 What an amazing place.
 11 So she was in hospital for 10 months. Initially,
 12 when I first saw her, when I started going over from the
 13 spinal unit, I was told she would probably be in
 14 a vegetative state, she probably wouldn't be able to
 15 see, hear, speak, move, she probably wouldn't have any
 16 memory. I think what the medics didn't realise is that
 17 they were dealing with a Hibbert and we're a bit
 18 stubborn. She can see, she can hear, she can now talk,
 19 she's eating. I've got a beautiful video that I'd love
 20 to show you one day of her actually walking now,
 21 unassisted. She makes me proud every day.
 22 She's going to need care probably for the rest of
 23 her life. My ex-partner Sarah has had to give up work
 24 to care for her. She needs 24-hour care. But she's
 25 still there, she's still Eve, she's still alive. I keep

22

1 telling her she will inspire the world when she's ready
 2 to do it, but for now, she's 18 in October, and as well
 3 as being a woman and, not that I know, but I can imagine
 4 all that comes with being that age and being a woman.
 5 She's had to deal with some very traumatic injuries
 6 and seeing her friends learning to drive and graduate
 7 and going to university, so she suffers really badly
 8 with PTSD and no doubt depression and all neurological
 9 defects, but she's a little princess and she'll inspire
 10 the world.
 11 Q. Martin, you've already touched upon some aspects of your
 12 views on the emergency response and I want to in
 13 a moment capture all that you want to say about that.
 14 But briefly, before doing so, just for completeness, we
 15 didn't identify finally the time of leaving and arrival
 16 at hospital for you and Eve. So I just want those times
 17 to be captured please before we deal with that last
 18 aspect.
 19 You left for hospital at 00.24.47, so that's 1 hour
 20 and 53 minutes post-detonation. And you were taken by
 21 the paramedics, we've already identified, arriving at
 22 hospital 8 minutes later at 00.32.07.
 23 A. Correct.
 24 Q. That being 2 hours and 1 minute post-detonation.
 25 Then for Eve, she left the scene at 00.18 and

23

1 arrived at hospital at 00.25.
 2 A. Correct.
 3 Q. Thank you.
 4 Mr Hibbert, Martin, if we can please then just
 5 capture other aspects of your concerns about the
 6 emergency response. Could I ask you, first of all,
 7 you have given an account within your witness statement
 8 about concerns about unqualified medical staff. Perhaps
 9 if you give your concern at a high level that you have,
 10 please.
 11 A. I always said when I was in the spinal unit and when
 12 I came out of hospital that I felt that qualified people
 13 weren't making the right decisions and I got a lot of
 14 stick for what I said on TV at the time because I said
 15 that I felt that people were playing God or being
 16 a Roman emperor, kind of giving the thumbs up or thumbs
 17 down, when they didn't have the necessary qualifications
 18 to make that judgement.
 19 I got a lot of stick at the time because there
 20 wasn't obviously what we know now. I got a lot of flak
 21 for saying that from members of the public and even from
 22 members of the police and fire, but I stand by it and
 23 obviously now, what's obviously been written in the
 24 report, it was right what I said.
 25 That still is a concern that especially with Eve,

24

1 that people were looking at her injury and saying that
 2 it wasn't survivable and they just covered her up, even
 3 though she was alive and they weren't qualified to make
 4 that kind of choice, and even if they were, you do your
 5 damndest to ensure survivability and preservation of
 6 life. You don't make that decision yourself and walk
 7 away and I don't think I'll ever get my head round that.
 8 I have spoken to other medics and other emergency
 9 professionals and they can't believe that that has
 10 happened: even if you think somebody's not going to
 11 survive, you do your best, you don't leave somebody and
 12 cover them up.
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: These are all very important issues for
 14 us and if you've been able to watch some of the evidence
 15 of the inquiry --
 16 A. I have, yes.
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: -- clearly some of the issues are not
 18 that straightforward, but believe me, we will look at
 19 them as closely as we can.
 20 A. But I know as well, not just the actual personnel, but
 21 I know at the time as well, T-shirts were being used to
 22 compress on my neck. I know they didn't have the right
 23 supplies, they had first aid kits that would treat
 24 little girls that aren't wearing the right shoes. You
 25 know what I mean? They weren't -- they had plasters and

25

1 scissors and bandages. They didn't have the right
 2 equipment, but I could feel that, I could sense that,
 3 with everything else that was going on. Do you know
 4 what I mean? To go through that, to know that you're
 5 dying and to be left alone and to know that nobody's
 6 coming and that you're not getting the right help and
 7 support, it's an awful thing to go through.
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I can well understand.
 9 A. Just honestly, I can't think of the words to say: you
 10 just feel alone and nobody cares. It was awful.
 11 MS CARTWRIGHT: Martin, you have already touched on your
 12 concern as to once you got out of the City Room that it
 13 took a long time for you to be placed in an ambulance
 14 and you say this:
 15 "If I accepted that the City Room was had ever
 16 declared a hot zone and this had been the explanation
 17 for it, taking an hour for us to be evacuated, it is
 18 still over an other hour after being marked P1 that we
 19 were kept on the railway concourse."
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. "This means that it was around 2 hours at the earliest
 22 before either of us were placed in an ambulance."
 23 A. Correct.
 24 Q. And you make a comment about how difficult it's been for
 25 you to have heard the evidence of Mr Sexton as to the

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1 role of the Fire and Rescue Service could have played on
 2 the night.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. I think you describe that:
 5 "Given that they assist in building collapses, road
 6 traffic accidents, floods and other emergencies, I felt
 7 that the severity of the circumstances we were left in
 8 was being undermined."
 9 A. Correct.
 10 Q. Thank you.
 11 A. I've always had the -- in that situation when people
 12 were telling me that they're coming, to have seen
 13 a fireman come through would have just been, you know...
 14 Knowing what they can do...
 15 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And I think all the firefighters really
 16 do appreciate that.
 17 A. I know, I know.
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think we've heard their expressions of
 19 remorse for what's happened.
 20 A. I know, yes.
 21 MS CARTWRIGHT: You have also indicated that:
 22 "Having heard almost all the professionals giving
 23 evidence of being unfamiliar with one of the largest
 24 venues in Manchester, such as the evacuation routes and
 25 contingency plans, it has caused [you] to wonder how

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1 [yours] and Eve's treatment could have been different
 2 had there been strategic planning and marshalling of the
 3 emergency vehicles, [which we have heard which would be]
 4 standard practice at a major incident, we may not have
 5 waited for so long before being taken to hospital."
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. You have also told us about the dispatch of you and the
 8 advocacy that the paramedics did for ensuring that you
 9 went to Salford?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Then please, you also have indicated about the concern
 12 that you have about what was told in the aftermath and
 13 what you'd heard from the criminal trial about the
 14 involvement of the bomber.
 15 Then finally, please, you go on to express a view
 16 about the families of the deceased and survivors.
 17 Perhaps if I then just read this for conclusion and then
 18 ask for any comment:
 19 "I am proud of the dignity with which the families
 20 of the deceased and survivors have conducted themselves
 21 in the search for the truth. The bereaved families are
 22 central to my thoughts and prayers. I have been proud
 23 to have taken the lead in advocating on behalf of the
 24 survivors for the truth and to have lent them my voice
 25 when they felt they did not have one. It is an insult

28

1 to our injury that medals have been given to certain
 2 professionals where the evidence shows their
 3 professional and moral duty was not acted upon
 4 appropriately."

5 You go on to say:
 6 "When the inquiry ends, myself, my daughter, her mum
 7 and my wife will still be living our forever changed
 8 realities. Over 4 years on, I have yet to have my home
 9 adapted to better cope with my injuries. I am lucky
 10 that I am a relatively young man and have good upper
 11 body strength, but I still have ongoing complications
 12 and I fear how my life will change as I age. My
 13 daughter also needs lifelong care. I applaud the public
 14 for their support and I commend Martyn's Law and I
 15 desperately hope this inquiry achieves its terms of
 16 reference and that less people suffer in the future."

17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll do our best.
 18 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, do you have any other questions for
 19 Mr Hibbert?
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No, thank you.
 21 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could I just check if my learned friend
 22 Ms Roberts has any questions. I think Mr Weatherby's
 23 camera came on. Mr Weatherby, do you have any questions
 24 for Mr Hibbert?
 25 MR WEATHERBY: Sorry, I jumped in there. I don't have any

29

1 questions for Mr Hibbert, but can I just address him,
 2 please?
 3 Mr Hibbert, as you know, I represent the bereaved
 4 families. On their behalf, I would like to acknowledge
 5 how difficult it must be for you to give what is very
 6 important evidence indeed. And on their behalf,
 7 I acknowledge the devastating ongoing effects. The
 8 bereaved families are obviously in a position to
 9 understand that, and on their behalf they wish you and
 10 your amazing daughter Eve and your wider family and
 11 friends the very best for the future. Thank you very
 12 much.
 13 A. Thank you, Mr Weatherby.
 14 MS CARTWRIGHT: Mr Cooper's light is on.
 15 MR COOPER: May I also, on behalf of the families, endorse
 16 entirely what Mr Weatherby has just said. Again
 17 thank you for your evidence and you are an inspiration
 18 to all of us, as is Eve. Please pass on our best wishes
 19 to her.
 20 A. I will, thank you.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Your evidence is important and what has
 22 been even more important is that it is balanced. So
 23 rightly, there are things you have criticised, but there
 24 are also things you have praised and things that are an
 25 inspiration to everybody. So we have all been very

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1 moved by your evidence. But we've been inspired by it
 2 too and you're obviously doing the very best you can to
 3 make the best of your life with these injuries, as
 4 indeed is Eve, and everybody here wishes you both the
 5 best of luck in the future.
 6 A. Can I say a couple of things as well?
 7 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think I'm meant to have the last word!
 8 Do carry on.
 9 A. To you, I don't think you'll probably ever appreciate
 10 giving me access to the sequence of events or from
 11 myself, my wife and my family, I felt up until I'd seen
 12 that like I'd not slept for 4 years. I know you were
 13 concerned about me viewing it and I know Greater
 14 Manchester Police were, but I see it every night, you
 15 know, and it keeps me awake. But not knowing what had
 16 happened to us, it was just eating away at me, so I just
 17 wanted to thank you for trusting me to view it and to
 18 read it, but just to let you know that I'm actually
 19 sleeping through now because I know what's happened to
 20 me. And even knowing that Eve was only really ever
 21 10 feet away from me, even when we were down on the
 22 concourse, because I thought I'd left her and that I'd
 23 failed as a dad and all these other things that go round
 24 in your head. So I just wanted to say a thank—you to
 25 you for allowing me to view that.

31

1 Then secondly, I wanted to thank Mark Rowley and
 2 Mike Russell at Greater Manchester Police who put that
 3 together, the sequence of events and the witness
 4 statements, the time taken. I was there for 3 hours to
 5 go through that —
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And we really appreciate the amount of
 7 work they've done, hundreds of hours of work, putting
 8 all this together. But I am glad it's been a help to
 9 you.
 10 A. I just wanted to put that on record and say from myself
 11 and my family, to you and GMP that we are very grateful.
 12 MS CARTWRIGHT: Thank you, Mr Hibbert.
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: We'll have a quarter of an hour break.
 14 Thank you very much.
 15 (10.59 am)
 16 (A short break)
 17 (11.26 am)
 18 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, can I apologise that you've been kept
 19 waiting.
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: That's not a problem.
 21 Witness statement of GARY BLAMIRE (read) (summarised)
 22 MS CARTWRIGHT: There are now six statements to be read that
 23 form part of chapter 9 and the first of those statements
 24 that I'm going to read is a statement of Gary Blamire
 25 dated 28 May 2017. His statement reads as follows:

32

1 "On 22 May 2017, I drove into Manchester city centre
2 from my home address. I was taking my daughter and her
3 friend to see the Ariana Grande concert at the MEN Arena
4 Manchester."

5 He then gives details of his daughter's name and her
6 friend :

7 "Also in the car was my wife, Dianne, and my son.
8 We planned to drop my daughter and her friend off near
9 the MEN Arena and then my wife, my son and I were going
10 to head into Manchester to get something to eat.

11 I parked near the Steven Charles Snooker Centre and my
12 wife escorted our daughter and her friend to the arena.
13 She said they had gone in an entrance which took them
14 through a tunnel and up into the foyer by Victoria
15 Station. She said that she had arranged to meet the
16 girls in that foyer after the concert. She said it
17 seemed like a safe place to meet them so they didn't
18 have to wander about in Manchester looking for us.

19 "My wife, son and I went into the Smokehouse in the
20 city and got a meal to eat. At the end of the meal, we
21 walked back to the car and drove our son back to our
22 house as he had a French exam the following day and
23 wanted to do some revision. We set off back to
24 Manchester and parked my vehicle on Park Street near the
25 snooker centre, just around the corner from the

33

1 MEN Arena.

2 "We were a little bit early, it was about
3 21.45 hours, so we decide to walked around Victoria
4 Train Station and look at the new roof which we hadn't
5 seen. As we walked around the train station, Dianne
6 and I were chatting, not really paying any attention to
7 anything around us. I didn't see anything out of the
8 ordinary or suspicious. We walked around for about 15
9 to 20 minutes and then decided to go up to the foyer in
10 case the concert ended early.

11 "We walked from the train station up a ramp to the
12 foyer. There we waited for our daughter and her friend.
13 We waited quite close to the box office. From there, we
14 could see the arena doors easily. The doors were shut
15 but every now and then they opened as someone left and
16 we could see all the lasers from the performance inside.

17 "People were regularly exiting the arena via the
18 doors in twos and threes, mainly adults with younger
19 children who probably wanted to get away because the
20 kids were quite young. I remember talking and joking to
21 my wife that maybe people were leaving early because the
22 performance might not be very good. There were quite
23 a few other people in the foyer, mainly other adults who
24 I presume were waiting for children.

25 "Dianne and I were chatting and looking at the

34

1 arena doors, not really paying attention to what was
2 going on around us. We heard the last encore and, not
3 long after that, there was a really bright flash and
4 a crackling sound. It was an explosion.

5 "I was blown off my feet on to the floor. My wife
6 must have been as well because she was now about 3 feet
7 away from me and we were on the floor. I immediately
8 tried to get up but I couldn't."

9 Mr Blamire gives details of the injury he had
10 sustained:

11 "I could just hear people screaming and shouting
12 names. There was a lot of commotion all around me.
13 I remember looking at my wife. She was in the doorway
14 of the arena now, I kept telling her to leave me and go
15 and find our daughter and get her safe. She didn't want
16 to leave me, but I kept telling her to find our
17 daughter.

18 "I didn't know what had happened, but I knew Dianne
19 had to find our daughter. I thought there may be
20 some pyrotechnics to do with the show had blown up or
21 gone wrong. Dianne eventually left to go and find our
22 daughter."

23 Again, Mr Blamire gives details of the injuries he
24 sustained:

25 "Before the explosion, I didn't hear anything out of

35

1 the ordinary and following the explosion, I don't recall
2 smelling anything at all. All I could hear was the
3 panic of people all round me.

4 "The blast mainly hit my left—hand side. As I laid
5 there, I heard people administering first aid upon
6 people who lay close by me. There were armed police
7 at the scene and other unarmed police. Lots of people
8 asked me how I was but I told them I wasn't that bad and
9 to work on other people. I think some people, maybe
10 paramedics, were working on a girl behind me."

11 He gives a description of that girl :

12 "I'd felt like I was there for such a long time
13 before some police officers got me into a really narrow
14 chair which had wheels but wasn't like a proper
15 wheelchair. They managed to lift me and get me
16 downstairs into the station. The police officers behind
17 me must have been strong because they took most of the
18 weight as they lifted me downstairs.

19 "Once I was downstairs, they assessed my injuries
20 and graded me as a number 2. I was waiting for what
21 seemed like a long time when I was there. I started to
22 get very cold, but everyone who was helping was
23 brilliant and kept giving me blankets and checking I was
24 okay.

25 "I was taken by ambulance to hospital..."

36

1 And he then gives full details of the injury that he
2 had sustained.
3 Sir, that concludes the aspects of the statement of
4 Mr Blamire that are to be read.
5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
6 Witness statement of DIANNE BLAMIRE (read) (summarised)
7 MS CARTWRIGHT: I'm next going to read the statement of
8 Mr Blamire's wife, Dianne, who you heard reference to
9 in that statement.
10 Her statement is dated 30 May 2017:
11 "On the evening of Monday, 22 May 2017, I travelled
12 into Manchester city centre with my husband, our
13 daughter and her friend."
14 She gives the similar background that Mr Blamire did
15 about their time before going to the arena:
16 "Gary and I came back into Manchester, arriving
17 around 21.45. We were a bit early, so we decided to
18 have a walk around Victoria Station. We were walking
19 round for about 15 minutes, then made our way up to the
20 arena foyer to wait for the girls.
21 "I didn't see anyone or anything that aroused my
22 suspicions at all. Gary and I stood in the foyer
23 between the box office and the centre of the room.
24 We were watching the children coming out of the
25 auditorium and Gary commented that some of them didn't

37

1 look happy. I thought that it may be because they were
2 leaving before the end of the concert as the music was
3 still playing.
4 "Gradually, more people came out and about 3 minutes
5 after the final song, I turned to face Gary which meant
6 I was facing the centre of the room and Gary was facing
7 the arena doors. As soon as I did that, the bomb went
8 off.
9 "All I really remember was that Gary was in front of
10 me and it was suddenly all grey behind him, like smoke.
11 There was a look of horror on his face which I could see
12 through the instant dark greyness. There was a burning
13 type of smell but not like a fire, more like dirty
14 smoke. I don't think I sensed any heat. Before I knew
15 the details of what had happened, I thought it was much
16 further away than it was, like outside the foyer and
17 down.
18 "It felt like the force had come through the door.
19 It took me off my feet but I managed to support myself.
20 Gary caught the brunt of it. I didn't see a flash or
21 light, I just felt the force and saw the greyness. Gary
22 was knocked off his feet."
23 Mrs Blamire then gives of description of other
24 things that she saw at that time and the injuries that
25 she saw:

38

1 "I ran to near where the doors are to the outside
2 and called our daughter and managed to get through.
3 I asked if she was outside as I didn't want to go
4 outside if she wasn't there as I wouldn't have been able
5 to get back in. She mentioned something about the
6 Travelodge so I knew she was out. I told her to stay
7 with people and that I would find her. I went outside
8 and asked someone where it was. I called Gary and asked
9 if he was okay and he told me that there were people
10 worse than him.
11 "He told me at one stage to come for the car keys,
12 but I told him they wouldn't let me back in. Our
13 daughter had been moved to Dutton Street so I got the
14 directions on my phone and found the girls. I told my
15 daughter's friend to call her mum but she was
16 struggling, so I took the phone off her and spoke to
17 her. She told me that her father was on the way.
18 "We started walking down Bury New Road, but by the
19 time we got to the Grosvenor Casino my leg was hurting
20 so we stopped. It seemed like a good landmark to wait
21 to meet our daughter's friend's father. My idea was to
22 drop our daughter off and find out where Gary had been
23 taken, but he saw my injuries and took us to my friend's
24 instead."
25 Then she describes that her friend's husband took

39

1 her to hospital and goes on then to give a description
2 of her injuries and her time at hospital.
3 Sir, that concludes the aspects of Dianne Blamire's
4 statement that I'm going to read to the inquiry.
5 Witness statement of SUSAN SMITH (read) (summarised)
6 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, the next witness statement that will be
7 read is the witness statement of Susan Smith. Her
8 witness statement is dated 31 May 2017:
9 "I am making this statement in relation to the
10 bombing in Manchester on Monday, 22 May 2017 at the
11 MEN Arena.
12 "At approximately quarter to five in the evening of
13 Monday, 22 May 2017, my daughter, Joanne McSorley,
14 picked me up in her car from my home address. We
15 travelled in her car to Manchester with..."
16 And she gives details of her granddaughters:
17 "At approximately 6.20 we arrived in Manchester for
18 the Ariana Grande concert. Joanne parked her car in the
19 Total car park near to the MEN Arena. We all exited the
20 car park down a flight of steps and across the road. We
21 then entered the MEN Arena, walking along the tunnel,
22 which opens out into the foyer. This is the same foyer
23 where the attack took place later on."
24 Then she describes her granddaughters going into the
25 concert:

40

1 "I didn't notice anything strange in the foyer, it
2 was just very busy."
3 She then describes her time in Manchester with her
4 daughter:
5 "We decided to eat at the Harvester pub within the
6 Printworks whilst my granddaughters were at the concert.
7 We had a meal and a chat and left the pub at
8 approximately 10.10. We walked back the same route, but
9 I can't describe it."
10 She then goes on:
11 "I remember going up in a lift with Joanne. From
12 the lift we walked across a walkway, which is over the
13 railway station. We then walked into the foyer through
14 a set of doors. We were talking throughout. I didn't
15 notice anything different. The foyer area wasn't too
16 busy at this time. It was approximately 25 past 10.
17 "We walked over to a flight of stairs nearer to the
18 box office so I could sit down. There were a lot of
19 people around the stairs, so we walked to a second
20 flight of stairs furthest away from the box office.
21 "I leant against the handrail at the bottom of the
22 stairs for support as I didn't want to sit down. My
23 daughter, Joanne, was stood next to me.
24 "We looked over to the merchandise stall, which is
25 next to the walkway and arena exit. The stall looked

41

1 quiet so we both walked over to have a look whilst we
2 waited for my granddaughters to come out. Joanne and
3 I were talking about the price of the hooded jackets,
4 tops and see if there was a chair to use to sit down.
5 There wasn't, so we leant against a wall next to the
6 merchandise stall by a large window. Near to the window
7 were large circular black plastic bins. Joanne was
8 stood next to me.
9 "The foyer was getting busier. The music was still
10 playing, but some people were now coming out probably to
11 catch the train. I was looking towards the doors
12 waiting for them to come out. One of my granddaughters
13 was wearing a red jacket so would stand out. Joanne had
14 texted the girls to tell them where we were waiting.
15 "I think we'd been in the foyer for about 10 to
16 15 minutes before the bomb went off. I remember hearing
17 and seeing at the same time a loud bang and a flash of
18 light. The bang was very, very loud. I was knocked
19 sideways by the force of the explosion but because I was
20 leaning against a lip on the wall, I didn't fall over.
21 It went very quiet afterwards.
22 "I looked around but I could see stars as my
23 eyesight was blurred. This was only for a few seconds.
24 I saw Joanne lying on the floor at my feet. I knew
25 straightaway that a bomb had gone off. I was stood with

42

1 my back to the wall and Joanne at my feet."
2 Then she gives a detailed description of the
3 injuries that she saw her daughter had sustained:
4 "It felt like a while before any help came.
5 A homeless man took a load of T-shirts from the
6 merchandise for people to use."
7 She gives further details about what she saw:
8 "The next thing I remember seeing was four or five
9 police officers with big guns and someone with a green
10 top dealing tell me to sit on the floor. I think she
11 may have been St John Ambulance. I told her I couldn't
12 sit on the floor. She sat on the floor to look after
13 Joanne. I told Joanne I wouldn't go far. I walked over
14 to the doors to the arena to make sure there were no
15 kids in there. I was taken elsewhere until help
16 arrived. Two people helped me out. I saw the seriously
17 injured being taken out. I waited until Joanne was
18 taken out and travelled in the ambulance with her to
19 hospital."
20 She then gives descriptions of her injury and the
21 treatment she received.
22 That concludes the aspects of Susan Smith's
23 statement that are to be read.
24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
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43

1 Witness statement of LEWIS BRUNTON (read) (summarised)
2 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, the next statement that will be read
3 is that of Lewis Brunton dated 26 May 2017.
4 "On Monday, 22 May 2017, I travelled from Liverpool
5 with my daughter and partner, Anna, to take them to the
6 MEN Arena in Manchester. This was so that they could
7 both go to the Ariana Grande concert that evening."
8 He describes hiring a car near to Liverpool Airport
9 to take them on that journey. His statement then goes
10 on:
11 "We made our way to the lift which took us to the
12 box office area, not far from Victoria Station. We
13 arrived and I could see a large queue of around
14 100 people. We decided that I'd leave them there and
15 meet after the concert. My intention was that I'd spend
16 the evening in Manchester, have some food and a walk
17 around."
18 Then he describes his time in Manchester doing just
19 that:
20 "By this time it was about 9.45 pm, my legs were
21 sore at this point from walking around Manchester for so
22 long. As a result, I found some steps to sit in to rest
23 them and then I would get up, have a walk around, and
24 sit down again.
25 "When I entered Victoria Train Station at around

44

1 9.45 pm I walked in past a computerised advertisement.
 2 I think it is not far from a small pub, maybe
 3 a Wetherspoon's. I walked along for a short time before
 4 climbing the steps back up towards the box office and
 5 the foyer area. I hung around there for a while. The
 6 steps that I refer to where I sat and rested on for a
 7 while are directly opposite the MEN Arena entrance/exit.
 8 The foyer where I was waiting is a large open area, the
 9 box office windows are to the right."

10 Then he describes the arena and the City Room that
 11 we all now well understand the layout:

12 "Whilst in this area I could see a number of
 13 security staff stood on the doors. It was reasonably
 14 quiet when I first got there with not that many people
 15 there. I can remember that around 10.10 pm it started
 16 to get busier. More people were leaving the arena by
 17 the doors and others started to arrive who didn't seem
 18 to have been at the concert. Some may be there to pick
 19 people up, others to buy merchandise from the stall. As
 20 more people arrived, I decided I would move closer to
 21 the exit so that Anna and my daughter could see me
 22 easily. I figured that lots of people would be leaving
 23 soon.

24 "When they opened the doors, people left, I could
 25 hear the music. It seemed very loud. The music stopped

45

1 and then started again; I guess she was doing an extra
 2 song.

3 "More and more people began exiting through the
 4 doors, I moved towards the right corner, not too far
 5 from the box office on my right-hand side. I would say
 6 I was around 3 to 4 metres from the nearest exit door,
 7 which is in front of me. I could see adults and
 8 children coming out and I think the music was still
 9 going on. I was concentrating on the exit doors so as
 10 not to miss Anna and our daughter leaving.

11 "Out of nowhere, no warning or anything, I heard
 12 a really loud thud or boom with a flash. It all seemed
 13 to come from my left-hand side. I felt the whole
 14 building shake. It was the loudest thing I think I've
 15 ever heard. The shock was massive.

16 "The next I think I realised was that I was on the
 17 floor. I think I was lying on my right-hand side, but
 18 I'm not sure. I don't think I was knocked unconscious
 19 but I felt disorientated. I could see smoke and hear
 20 alarms going off."

21 Then he describes, as he was lying down, looking
 22 around and the debris that he saw at that time:

23 "I could see people on the ground. I could hear
 24 someone shouting, 'The bastards, bastards', and I knew
 25 it must have been a terrorist attack."

46

1 And he goes on to describe what he saw at that time
 2 and also his injuries :

3 "I began to try and phone both Anna and our
 4 daughter. I took my phone from my pocket and tried to
 5 dial them. I was confused and disorientated and
 6 struggled to get hold of them. It was only after
 7 a short while that I realised I was in the message app
 8 on my phone, which is why it didn't work. Eventually,
 9 I managed to get hold of Anna and told her I had been
 10 injured in the blast. I think I was there for around
 11 10 minutes with all the chaos going on around me.

12 "After a while, two armed police officers came over
 13 to me and asked if they could move me to safety, into
 14 the ambulances. They both picked me up with my arms
 15 round their necks and they helped me down the stairs
 16 from the foyer."

17 He gives a description again about what he saw when
 18 he was taken from the room:

19 "I was put on the floor near to an exit and I was
 20 handed a card with a number on. I think this referred
 21 to how badly I was injured. Whilst I was still
 22 upstairs, I realised that I was injured."

23 And he gives a description of his injuries. Then he
 24 describes that:

25 "After sitting on the floor for a while,

47

1 I eventually got taken by ambulance to hospital where
 2 I was treated."

3 Sir, that concludes the statement of Lewis Brunton.
 4 Witness statement of LAUREN EVE THORPE (read) (summarised)
 5 MS CARTWRIGHT: I'm next going to read the statement of
 6 Lauren Eve Thorpe. She is a witness who, in addition to
 7 giving the witness statement dated 28 May 2017, is one
 8 of those individuals that were interviewed as part of
 9 the ITV "100 Days" series from August 2017:

10 "I am Lauren Thorpe and I live with my family.

11 "About quarter to 7 on the evening of Monday,
 12 22 May 2017, I went to the Ariana Grande concert at the
 13 Manchester Evening News Arena in Manchester city centre.
 14 The tickets were a Christmas present for my 8-year-old
 15 daughter and my partner, Adam Harrison, also came with
 16 us.

17 "We parked our car in the Euro Parks open car park
 18 in the Greengate area."

19 And then she gives a description of what they were
 20 wearing:

21 "We were seats 12, 13 and 14 in the front of row A
 22 of block 206 towards the back of the stadium. We stayed
 23 for the whole concert but left quite soon after the last
 24 song via the exit between 206 and 207.

25 "We came straight out into the box office area and

48

1 headed left from the exit towards the stairs to take you
2 down to the car park. Slightly ahead of me, holding our
3 daughter's hand, as we came through the crowd.
4 "We were near the stairs when I heard it go off. It
5 was just a loud bang and I instantly knew it was a bomb.
6 I saw a flash to my right side, just behind me. The
7 next bit is blurred and it is difficult to remember
8 exactly what happened. Our daughter fell to her knees
9 and dropped the Ariana Grande sign she had made before
10 the concert. Adam picked her up and said, 'Go!'
11 "We ran down the stairs. There were other people
12 at the bottom of the stairs. Adam stood on one of them
13 in the rush and twisted his left ankle and fell. He
14 dropped our daughter and I fell over him too.
15 "People were rushing past us. Adam picked up our
16 daughter and we got out. We went down the steps into
17 a car park and came to a wall and a disabled parking bay
18 on the right-hand side."
19 Then she describes the injuries and how her daughter
20 was at that time:
21 "A lady with her daughter in a wheelchair helped us.
22 She gave me a thing to tie around my left leg.
23 A gentleman helped wrap it round my leg and then went to
24 get a police officer, Sergeant Dave Cawley, to help our
25 daughter.

49

1 "We tried to sort out an ambulance but the traffic
2 was too bad and he ran across the car park carrying our
3 daughter towards the police vans. We were put into
4 a BTP van and driven by Cath Brewer to hospital where we
5 received treatment for our injuries.
6 "I don't recall anything unusual at the concert,
7 I just remember walking out and seeing so many parents
8 waiting, staring back at me waiting for their children.
9 No one looked out of place. But when I heard the bang
10 I knew immediately in my head what was going on."
11 She goes on to give further details of the injuries
12 that had been sustained.
13 Sir, that concludes the statement of Lauren Thorpe.
14 Witness statement of YVONNE CLAYTON (read) (summarised)
15 MS CARTWRIGHT: I'm next going to read the statement of
16 Yvonne Clayton. Her statement is dated 1 June 2017:
17 "On Monday, 22 May 2017, I travelled to Manchester
18 with my partner, Andrew Scullion, my son, aged 15 years
19 old, and his friend, who was 16 years old, but I can't
20 recall her surname."
21 She describes that her son was a massive fan of
22 Ariana Grande:
23 "He had told me that the tickets were available on
24 Ticketmaster, but time was running out to get them.
25 I knew it would mean a lot to him if we were to go, so

50

1 I bought two tickets for him and his friend around
2 3 months ago now. I can recall..."
3 And she gives then the details and the prices of the
4 tickets:
5 "We had planned to travel over to Manchester by car
6 and on Monday the 22nd, at 14.45, I picked up my son's
7 friend. I then drove and collected my son."
8 Then she describes waiting for her partner and then
9 the journey to Manchester:
10 "We arrived at 17.45 hours, as I have since looked
11 at the parking ticket issued to us when we entered the
12 car park. The car park was rather busy and we didn't
13 actually find a space and get parked until we got up to
14 the seventh level of the multi-storey car park which was
15 attached to the arena. We then walked over to the lifts
16 where there were two lifts. However, one of the lift
17 doors was already open so Andy and I stepped into the
18 lift. We'd already separated from our son and his
19 friend."
20 She goes on to give a description of the rest of
21 that evening:
22 "I would describe the foyer as a big open space with
23 a big set of grey and white coloured doors that leads
24 into the arena."
25 She describes about the queueing up and going in and

51

1 the separating from her son and then the time she spent
2 in Manchester. She says this:
3 "My son had been texting me since we had separated
4 and I have since reviewed my mobile phone and the
5 following texts were sent between us whilst we were
6 having our drink in the pub and eating the Italian meal
7 in the restaurant."
8 She then details the text messages:
9 "At 18.32 hours I received a text message from our
10 son saying, 'Nothing in here to eat, just popcorn
11 stands. OMG we have such a good view'. I then replied
12 saying, 'Well enjoy. We should have eaten before'.
13 "At 18.44 hours I got a further text from our son
14 saying, 'I know it's okay, going to turn phone off to
15 save battery'.
16 "At 19.34 our son texted me saying, 'Still hasn't
17 started, people still coming in'.
18 "At 20.02 he sent, 'First act been on. Really,
19 really good'.
20 "At 20.32 he sent another message to me saying,
21 'Ariana on in 10 minutes', followed by another message
22 at 20.33, 'I'm too excited, I'm going to cry'.
23 I replied to him saying, 'Is she good? LOL', at 20.35.
24 "At around 21.30 to 21.45 hours we left the Italian
25 in the Printworks and walked back to the arena. I think

52

1 we retraced our steps, but I was just relying on Andy to
 2 get me back. I wasn't paying particular attention to
 3 our route.
 4 "We got to the foyer having come through the doors
 5 linking the arena and Manchester Victoria and stood near
 6 to the steps at the back that were next to the doors
 7 leading to the station. I was aware that we were stood
 8 in a different location to where we'd agreed to meet our
 9 son, but I wasn't overly concerned as we were back
 10 early."
 11 She then describes her partner taking a comfort
 12 break. And then she says:
 13 "While [her] partner was away I became aware of
 14 a female complaining to her friend about her legs
 15 hurting and the fact she wanted to sit down. I also
 16 noticed that she had a walking stick with her and so
 17 I spoke to her, stating that the pillars with the seats
 18 around it had a space on it and I indicated over to the
 19 pillar. But the lady politely declined saying, 'No,
 20 people don't move for you, I'll stay here'.
 21 And then she describes the time had when her partner
 22 came back and two security staff dressed in yellow had
 23 told her that the concert would finish at 22.30 hours
 24 and they describe that time as she was waiting:
 25 "[She] received a further text at 22.07 from her son

1 saying, 'Not over yet, still ages left', and [she] sent
 2 a text back saying it wasn't a problem and, 'What time
 3 do you think it was going to finish?', to which he
 4 replied, '10.45'.
 5 "By this time, more and more people were coming and
 6 standing around obviously waiting to collect people from
 7 the concert."
 8 And again she described the further time as they
 9 waited in the City Room for the concert to finish:
 10 "As I sat there I could hear Ariana Grande singing
 11 whilst I was just looking round the foyer and tapping my
 12 feet to the music. It was while looking around to my
 13 left and a little behind me I noticed a couple."
 14 And she describes the couple she saw and noting how
 15 happy they seemed:
 16 "I can also recall hearing it go quiet inside the
 17 arena and then hearing Ariana Grande talking and the
 18 crowd were cheering. She then started to sing another
 19 song. At this point I looked at my watch and saw it was
 20 22.30 hours.
 21 "Then there was an unimaginable, massive, massive
 22 noise, like bang, bang, and all I saw was a big black
 23 object, grey smoke and debris flying from left to right
 24 in front of me. I have never heard anything so loud in
 25 all my life."

1 She gives further descriptions about what she felt
 2 at that time:
 3 "I heard Andy shout, 'It's a bomb!' At this point
 4 I didn't know what was happening. Then Andy took hold
 5 of my arm with one hand and put his other arm around my
 6 shoulder and turned me to the right to face towards the
 7 car park doors leading out towards the foyer. It felt
 8 like we moved so quickly.
 9 "Having thought about the explosion since, I think
 10 it came from the far left near to where the T-shirt
 11 stand was. As we were running away, I think I was
 12 hunched over and mainly looking at the floor whilst
 13 heading down some steps towards the car park. I took my
 14 left hand away from my head and instantly noticed it was
 15 covered in blood."
 16 She goes on to describe her injuries and her time
 17 then in the car park whilst she sought to get assistance
 18 with her injuries:
 19 "A male in uniform with a fluorescent jacket came
 20 over and put a bandage or something around my neck and
 21 said to keep pressure on it."
 22 Then she describes:
 23 "A lady in a fluorescent jacket [coming] over and
 24 passing a bandage to [her] partner and told us to keep
 25 pressure on the wound.

1 "By now, Andy was now talking to our son and I was
 2 just so relieved that he was okay and I think I calmed
 3 down a little knowing he was okay."
 4 She gives a further description about her injuries
 5 and what she felt at that time:
 6 "Not long after this, the policeman in uniform came
 7 over. He was busy saying things, looking at my neck and
 8 speaking to Andy, but I wasn't really paying attention
 9 to what was happening at this point. I can recall he
 10 disappeared. I was feeling bad at this point and said
 11 to Andy I felt like I was going to faint. I remember
 12 Andy saying, 'Stay with me, stay with me'. A short time
 13 later the policeman came back over to us. Andy was on
 14 the phone to our son and was trying to find out where
 15 he was. Andy wasn't sure and told the policeman what
 16 our son was telling him and the policeman stated he was
 17 around the other side of arena and he wouldn't be able
 18 to get there. He told Andy to tell our son to get
 19 a taxi to the hospital."
 20 She then describes the assistance that she was given
 21 and further details of her injury:
 22 "We got to the police car and I sat behind the front
 23 passenger seat and Andy got in next to me sitting behind
 24 the policeman in the driver's seat. We moved a short
 25 distance and then the policeman had to get out to move

1 some cones before setting off again. The policeman told
2 us he was called Dave and said he was taking us to
3 a particular hospital. He was driving quite fast and
4 had his siren and blue lights on."

5 Then she describes what happened at hospital and the
6 treatment she was given and gives an analysis of that
7 treatment.

8 She finishes her statement saying this:

9 "I would feel unsafe to go a concert. The fact
10 there were no checks on people and they were just freely
11 walking about in that foyer from the car park, I would
12 feel scared now. I think I will always feel unsafe in
13 any crowded place from now on. We're so thankful to
14 everybody who helped us, the policemen and the medical
15 teams, but my heart breaks for the families who have
16 lost loved ones."

17 That concludes the aspects of Yvonne Clayton's
18 statement that are to be read.

19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

20 Witness statement of PAUL COSTELLO (read) (summarised)

21 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, in terms of the final aspects of the
22 evidence that was indicated that would be read, the
23 inquiry have received a statement from Paul Costello,
24 dated 24 May 2019, which gives some detail as to the
25 number of those that were injured and, sir, just very

57

1 briefly, I'm going to summarise just some aspects of
2 that statement.

3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

4 MS CARTWRIGHT: It's clear that from 2019 there has been an
5 update on an ongoing basis of updating, so I don't want
6 it to be misunderstood if these figures are not fully
7 accurate but it gives a general understanding of the
8 extent of those that were victims of the attack:

9 "At the time of preparing the statement, I can see
10 that the total number of victims, not including the 22
11 who lost their lives, numbered 940."

12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm sure I should know, but
13 Mr Costello's position is?

14 MS CARTWRIGHT: He is Detective Sergeant Paul Costello of
15 the Greater Manchester Police, who was at that time
16 stationed in Counter-terrorism Policing North-west. He
17 provided an awful lot of the information to the judge
18 in the criminal case as to the impact on the victims.

19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

20 MS CARTWRIGHT: As I've already indicated, he gives a figure
21 at the time of that statement of 940. But it is known
22 that that number increased because the calculations
23 include those who had been affected by the trauma as
24 well.

25 He goes on within that witness statement to give

58

1 numbers as to those injured, he describes that:

2 "There were 337 victims who were in the foyer, and
3 92 in the immediate vicinity of the foyer at the time of
4 the detonation.

5 "Of the 429 victims in or in the immediate vicinity
6 of the foyer at the time of detonation, 237 were
7 physically injured, 91 of which seriously or very
8 seriously."

9 Sir, he breaks down within the witness statement the
10 very seriously injured as 28, the seriously injured 63,
11 and the injured who required hospitalisation as 111.

12 I'm not going to summarise any other aspect, and
13 again I appreciate that that was the figures given
14 within that statement and there have been some
15 adjustments subsequently.

16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.

17 MS CARTWRIGHT: That would then conclude the evidence that's
18 intended to be read within chapter 9.

19 Sir, as you know, we are next to hear evidence from
20 Claire Booth and then Bradley Hurley. They had been
21 given indications as to when they would start their
22 evidence. I'm wondering -- I appreciate it's only
23 12.05, but I wonder if you are content, and if others
24 are content, and perhaps those -- particularly if
25 Mr Cooper could indicate -- whether in fact it would be

59

1 appropriate to take our luncheon break now and commence
2 the evidence of Claire Booth slightly earlier than she
3 was scheduled to start her evidence, and again I'll ask
4 Mr Cooper to make observations.

5 She was scheduled to commence her evidence at 1.30.
6 I'm wondering, if we are able, if we take our hour's
7 lunch now and start a little after 1 o'clock this
8 afternoon. Obviously if Mr Cooper is content -- and
9 I can see Claire Booth nodding too.

10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm happy to do whatever Claire Booth
11 would like to do having a short break now and then do it
12 or whether she would like to have lunch.

13 MR COOPER: Can I just take some brief instructions?

14 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Please do, yes, and please feel free to
15 make whatever choice you like, all right?

16 (Pause)

17 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, I know from the detail that's in
18 Claire Booth's statement that she is anxious that all of
19 that statement is received by you.

20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes.

21 MS CARTWRIGHT: So if we take a usual break at 1 o'clock,
22 I don't think we will have concluded her evidence by the
23 usual luncheon adjournment.

24 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Just work it out between you
25 which is best.

60

1 (Pause)

2 MR COOPER: I have spoken to Ms Booth. She would prefer, if

3 the tribunal are agreeing to have lunch now, an early

4 lunch and then to commence afterwards.

5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay. Are you happy to start at just

6 after 1.00 if we take lunch now? Okay, thank you very

7 much.

8 (12.05 pm)

9 (The lunch adjournment)

10 (1.05 pm)

11 MS CARTWRIGHT: Good afternoon, sir.

12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Good afternoon.

13 MS CARTWRIGHT: Perhaps if the witness — first of all, it's

14 Claire Booth in the witness box and can I ask first of

15 all for her to be sworn and then I'll make a few brief

16 introductory comments.

17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much for coming to give

18 your evidence.

19 MS CLAIRE BOOTH (affirmed)

20 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT

21 MS CARTWRIGHT: Whilst Claire Booth gets settled, can I make

22 a few introductory comments, please.

23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Please do.

24 MS CARTWRIGHT: Claire Booth this afternoon is going to be

25 giving her account of her experience of being a victim

61

1 of the arena attack. Inevitably in doing so, she is

2 going to touch upon her sister, Kelly Brewster, who died

3 in the attack. So from the outset, I want to

4 acknowledge that we will be hearing evidence about

5 Kelly Brewster this afternoon.

6 Secondly, Claire has made clear that she wishes to

7 give details of the injuries she sustained, but also the

8 treatment she received. She does so with full awareness

9 and full consent to giving that evidence.

10 But she is also going to give evidence about her

11 daughter Hollie and Hollie's injuries and the treatment

12 Hollie received, and again she does so, both consenting

13 as a mother, but also Hollie herself, who is present at

14 court, has similarly indicated she wishes her mother to

15 be her voice today.

16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you. Just tell me how old Hollie

17 is, will you?

18 A. She was 12, she's 16 now.

19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

20 MS CARTWRIGHT: Can I ask you, first of all, to give your

21 full name?

22 A. Claire Louise Booth.

23 Q. For your purposes and for anyone else watching at the

24 moment, we will not be showing at any point during your

25 evidence any image or displaying any CCTV or body-worn

62

1 footage.

2 A. Okay, thank you.

3 Q. Today you're going to be speaking in respect of the

4 witness statement you provided to the inquiry dated

5 7 June 2021. It's right, isn't it, that you have

6 indicated that you are particularly anxious that every

7 aspect of what you've recorded in your witness statement

8 is adduced in evidence today?

9 A. Yes, please.

10 Q. So we're going to start then, please, with the period of

11 pre-bomb detonation. You say this in your witness

12 statement:

13 "On 22 May 2017, I attended the Ariana Grande

14 concert at Manchester Arena with [your] sister,

15 Kelly Brewster, and [your] daughter Hollie."

16 Who you have told the chairman was 12 at the time.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You tell us you purchased the tickets for Hollie as

19 a gift, either for Christmas or her birthday, which

20 falls in December.

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. And you tell us Hollie was a huge Ariana Grande fan.

23 A. She was.

24 Q. Were you an Ariana Grande fan?

25 A. Not particularly.

63

1 Q. You say that the three of you had already seen her

2 perform live in Manchester in 2015.

3 A. Yes, we did, yes.

4 Q. And she'd put on a really good show, so Kelly and you

5 were more than happy to take Hollie again for the second

6 time?

7 A. Yes, we were.

8 Q. You tell us about what you did that day. I think it's

9 right you worked half of that day and left work at

10 1 o'clock?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you collected Hollie from school?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At about 2.30, and you went home and got changed before

15 picking Kelly up from work at 4 o'clock?

16 A. Yes, that's right.

17 Q. I'm going to ask you now — and I know it's completely

18 artificial, if we do it now — to try and keep your

19 voice up a little.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. You say that Kelly was around 10 minutes late leaving

22 the office and, as soon as she came out, you set off for

23 the journey to Manchester?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think she takes after your father?

64

1 A. She does.
 2 Q. You say the drive over to Manchester was a lovely one.
 3 A. It was, yes, lovely.
 4 Q. You were listening to Ariana Grande's latest album and
 5 chatting away?
 6 A. Mm—hm.
 7 Q. And:
 8 "Earlier that day, Kelly and her partner Ian had
 9 received confirmation that their offer had been accepted
 10 on a beautiful new—build home they had purchased from
 11 plan."
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And you describe that Kelly was beyond excited?
 14 A. She was.
 15 Q. You tell us that on the journey, Kelly talked about it
 16 all the way there, showing the plans of the house and
 17 the photographs, and also explaining the way she wanted
 18 a room that was going to be nursery for the baby that
 19 she and Ian were planning to have.
 20 A. She was, yes.
 21 Q. You also say you began to make vague plans for your next
 22 holiday together and decided that that would be
 23 Disneyland California in 2018.
 24 A. Yes, we did.
 25 Q. You describe a particular memory that you have is Kelly

65

1 ringing Ian on the phone as you drove through Mottram
 2 and that:
 3 "They were just so happy and excited. It was
 4 infectious and really set the mood for the evening."
 5 A. It did, it was lovely.
 6 Q. We then deal with once you arrived in Manchester and you
 7 tell us it was about 17.45.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. You parked in the same car park as you did each time you
 10 went to the arena —
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. — just off Trinity Way, and that you took a selfie of
 13 the three of you in the car park as you left, which
 14 you have and which is timed at 17.47.
 15 A. Yes, that's right.
 16 Q. You then describe that you walked further into the
 17 centre and had a meal at Pizza Express opposite the
 18 Arndale.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You say:
 21 "Although it was busy, [you] managed to get seated
 22 straightaway and didn't need to rush at all."
 23 A. We didn't no, that's right.
 24 Q. And you describe that the three of you were just able to
 25 enjoy each other's company.

66

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Then you tell us that, once you had finished your meal,
 3 you headed off back towards the arena, walking past the
 4 Printworks, Station Approach, and you say that:
 5 "We had attended concerts in Manchester many times
 6 over the years and [you] were aware of the layout of the
 7 arena and that it was adjoined to Victoria Station, but
 8 [you] do not think you were aware that you could enter
 9 or exit the arena via the train station."
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. "So we walked straight past the station and entered via
 12 the tour tall steps at Hunts Banks."
 13 A. And I think walking that way, if we had have known that
 14 you could get in through the foyer, we'd have just gone
 15 up the stairs and gone in that way.
 16 Q. You say that you can remember seeing lots of excited
 17 teenagers and little girls wearing cat ears as you
 18 entered.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You say you don't think you had to queue for very long
 21 at all, but you are unable to remember if your bags were
 22 checked or searched upon entry through the arena doors.
 23 A. Yes, that's right.
 24 Q. Again, Claire, we're not going to display the images,
 25 but from the work that the police have done of the

67

1 investigation of the CCTV, we can see that you, Hollie
 2 and Kelly entered via that Hunts Bank entrance at
 3 19.12.28.
 4 A. Okay, thank you.
 5 Q. You then tell us about what happened once you were
 6 in the arena itself. You described that you went
 7 straight to the merchandise stall on the arena
 8 concourse.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You took a photograph here, which is timed at 19.15.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Hollie went to purchase a T-shirt or hoodie, but
 13 couldn't decide which one.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. So you left the stand, purchased drinks and went to find
 16 your seats?
 17 A. We did, yes.
 18 Q. You describe that you were seated in block 107 on the
 19 lower tier, row L, in seats 1, 2 and 3.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. You say that:
 22 "As we'd arrived early and were able to watch both
 23 support acts and just chat between ourselves, Hollie
 24 finally decided what merchandise to buy."
 25 A. She did.

68

1 Q. And you took her back to the concourse in one of the
2 intervals where she purchased a long-sleeved T-shirt
3 with a picture of Ariana on the front and the word
4 "Dangerous" down the sleeve.
5 A. Yes, she did.
6 Q. You describe that earlier that day you'd looked online
7 at the running times and set list for the show, so you
8 knew roughly what time you'd be heading home.
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. And you describe that the running list had stated that
11 Ariana would begin at 9.
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. And would end around 10.30 pm.
14 A. It did, yes.
15 Q. You describe that a huge countdown started playing on
16 the stage screens with videos and messages from Ariana
17 and a timer counting down the minutes and seconds until
18 she arrived on stage?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. You say you can't remember how long this ran for, maybe
21 around 15 minutes, but you do recall being surprised it
22 was going to start more or less on time, which from your
23 experience --
24 A. Really surprised, yes.
25 Q. Ariana Grande is a good timekeeper?

69

1 A. She must be.
2 Q. You describe that everyone was screaming out the last
3 10 seconds of the countdown and then the crowd went
4 crazy when she entered the stage.
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. So just perhaps if you want to tell us, Claire, what was
7 your experience of that concert?
8 A. It was a good concert. We enjoyed it. Like I say, we'd
9 seen her before, so we knew what to expect. But it were
10 nice just to see -- there were loads of little girls
11 just dancing and they knew all the dance moves and
12 stuff. Just to watch everybody else, really. But as it
13 went on, I started to feel really unwell, I had a really
14 bad headache and it was affecting my eyes. Obviously
15 I was the driver, so I was just dreading having to drive
16 home. So I asked Hollie and Kelly, as soon as the last
17 song comes on, get your stuff ready so that we can leave
18 immediately and get home.
19 Q. Thank you. I think you'd also told us in your witness
20 statement before that, because you had recorded so many
21 videos in the concert, your phone was going to go flat.
22 A. It did, yes.
23 Q. You then describe that you walked out of the bowl on
24 to -- as soon as the songs ended, you left your seats.
25 A. Yes.

70

1 Q. And began to walk up the stairs to exit the arena bowl.
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. You say it was still dark as Ariana was still on stage
4 saying goodnight.
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. "By the time [you] had reached the top of the stairs she
7 had left and the arena lights had come on."
8 A. Yes, they had.
9 Q. Were you still feeling unwell at that point?
10 A. Yes, I felt shocking, to be honest.
11 Q. You describe:
12 "We walked out of the bowl on to the concourse and
13 into the crowd. Although there were lots of people, it
14 was not extremely busy as [you'd] beaten the bulk of the
15 crowd."
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. You say:
18 "Each time we attended a concert with [your]
19 children, we always left in a line" --
20 A. Yes, we did.
21 Q. -- "one behind the other with the children in the middle
22 so we didn't lose them."
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And therefore you were leading the way?
25 A. Yes, I was in front, Hollie was in the middle and Kelly

71

1 was at the back.
2 Q. You say this:
3 "We did the most natural thing and followed the
4 crowd to the nearest exit, which was more or less
5 directly in front of us."
6 And you found yourself in the foyer?
7 A. We did.
8 Q. You say that you'd never been in the foyer prior to this
9 night and you weren't sure where you were going.
10 A. I had no idea, no.
11 Q. You describe you saw the crowd split into two paths: one
12 exiting towards the left of the room past the box office
13 window --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. -- and the other was walking across the room to what you
16 presumed was the train station?
17 A. Yes, that's right.
18 Q. You tell us that you recall asking Kelly something at
19 that point.
20 A. Yes. I didn't know where we were, so I didn't know
21 where to go. I asked Kelly if she knew where to go and
22 she said no. I did know that there was a tunnel
23 somewhere in the arena that led on to Trinity Way and
24 I just presumed that that's where the people to the left
25 were going. So I made the decision that that's the way

72

1 that we would walk.

2 Q. Thank you. We know again from the work that Greater
3 Manchester Police have done that all three of you are
4 captured having just entered the City Room at 22.30.53.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Claire, we are about to move to the period post the
7 detonation, and as we already indicated at the outset,
8 you do wish to give the evidence about what you saw and
9 what you have experienced.

10 A. I do, yes, please.

11 Q. So if anyone does not wish to hear that evidence, now
12 perhaps would be a good time for people either to leave
13 the room or to cease to follow the proceedings.

14 You say this in your statement, Claire:

15 "Around the time that we began to pass the box
16 office windows, there was a huge yellow flash from
17 behind me and to my right—hand side."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So are you able to explain in your own words your
20 experience of the blast, please, Claire?

21 A. I didn't know what it was. I felt like it went very,
22 very slowly, like each element ran one after the other
23 after the other, whereas in reality it just must have
24 been over in seconds. There was the light and just
25 a noise like I've never heard it before. It wasn't

73

1 a bang, it were more like a blowtorch, just really loud,
2 and the hottest heat I have ever felt in my entire life,
3 just pushing everybody out of its way, and it just
4 pushed me over to the left and into the wall at the box
5 office.

6 Q. I think you say in your witness statement that you don't
7 think you were pushed off your feet.

8 A. I don't think I was, no.

9 Q. You say this in your statement:

10 "I recall that in that moment I had no idea what was
11 happening."

12 A. I didn't.

13 Q. You were aware that Ariana Grande had used fire
14 pyrotechnics on stage during her last song and you
15 wondered if one of those had accidentally let out a huge
16 flame or something.

17 A. Yes, she had huge flames coming out of the stage for the
18 last song. Even though we were sat quite far back, we
19 could still feel heat from those and that was just
20 a thought that I had, I wondered if it was one of those
21 that had just done something wrong. I just had no idea.

22 Q. You then say:

23 "When all of this was over, the room was momentarily
24 silent."

25 A. It was, yes.

74

1 Q. You say this:

2 "As I began to get my bearings, I could not focus my
3 vision and everything was blurry."

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. "The floor in the foyer has a speckled effect which made
6 it more difficult, but as my vision began to come into
7 focus, I could see the shrapnel on the floor."

8 A. Yes, I could.

9 Q. And I think at that point, you tell us you immediately
10 knew that there had been a bomb and what you could see
11 on the floor were the bomb components.

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. You were also able, from what you learned from the
14 processes that you participated in, both the criminal
15 trial but also this inquiry, to tell us that you were
16 9 metres away from the explosion.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are you able to tell us what your first thoughts were?
19 You mention about terrorists. Are you able to give that
20 or would you rather I read that?

21 A. Yes. Like I say, I knew straightaway, I don't know how,
22 but I just knew that it was a bomb. My immediate
23 thought was that there's never just one and I thought
24 somebody's going to run in and shoot us all or there's
25 going to be a second explosion any second. And I was

75

1 just absolutely petrified, I just needed to get out,
2 basically, and get away from what I thought was coming.

3 Q. You then say this:

4 "It then dawned on me that the direction which I had
5 felt the force of the heat from was the exact direction
6 where Hollie and Kelly had been walking behind me
7 moments earlier."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you were petrified to turn around and so scared of
10 what you were going to see when you did?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. As you turned around, you tell us that you saw that they
13 were both on the floor?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Kelly was facing away from you and laid on her left
16 side?

17 A. She was, yes.

18 Q. And Hollie was facing towards you, leaning up on her
19 hands as though she was about to get up?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you describe that at that point you thought neither
22 of them looked injured to you.

23 A. They didn't, no.

24 Q. And Hollie called for you?

25 A. She did.

76

1 Q. And you ran over and picked her up from the floor?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You shouted at Kelly --
 4 A. I did.
 5 Q. -- and you ran into the direction you had originally
 6 intended to go, dragging Hollie with you.
 7 A. Yes, I told Kelly to run and I just presumed she would
 8 run behind us.
 9 Q. You describe that you made a slight left turn after the
 10 box office and then Hollie shouted to you that she was
 11 bleeding.
 12 A. Yes, that's right.
 13 Q. And you immediately stopped to look at her and see where
 14 she was bleeding from, when Hollie in fact realised that
 15 Kelly was not with you.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You say that you had noticed the chaos that was going on
 18 all around you, people were running past you and out of
 19 the foyer, and people were also running in the opposite
 20 direction and entering the foyer.
 21 A. Yes, they were.
 22 Q. You say there was a lot of panic and people were
 23 screaming --
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. -- and you could see people injured --

77

1 A. I could.
 2 Q. -- some running, others being still on the floor.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And Hollie was upset?
 5 A. Yes, she was very upset, she said she couldn't breathe,
 6 she couldn't see, she was just hysterical.
 7 Q. And I think you describe something that we will revisit
 8 throughout this statement about the conflict you had at
 9 that time, wanting to get help for your daughter --
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. -- but also needing to know what had happened to Kelly.
 12 A. Yes. I just started to beg anybody that was passing me
 13 to stay and just watch Hollie for me so I could go and
 14 see where Kelly was. But I just felt completely
 15 ignored, nobody was listening to me, and then eventually
 16 a man just screamed back at me that he couldn't because
 17 he was trying to find his own children, and I just
 18 realised then, I'm on my own, and I just said to Hollie,
 19 "Stay here, don't move, I'm going to get Kelly and I'll
 20 come back".
 21 Q. And that's in fact what you did. You ran back into the
 22 foyer?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. And noticed Kelly was still laid on the floor where
 25 you'd seen her before when you told her to run?

78

1 A. She was, yes.
 2 Q. Are you able to describe what you did at that time?
 3 Would you rather I read it?
 4 A. Yes, read it please.
 5 Q. You say you went round the other side, so you were stood
 6 in front of her, her eyes were closed but she didn't
 7 look injured or hurt in any way.
 8 A. She didn't, no.
 9 Q. She just looked asleep?
 10 A. She did.
 11 Q. And you began, in a sisterly way, kicking at her legs,
 12 and shouting for her to get up, but she didn't respond
 13 at all.
 14 A. Not at all, no.
 15 Q. You say:
 16 "[Your] mind was completely blank and [you] didn't
 17 know what to do."
 18 A. I didn't know anything, I just ... Yes, nothing. I had
 19 no thoughts at all.
 20 Q. You went back to check Hollie was okay and to call for
 21 help.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And because you knew that the phone battery on your
 24 phone had died in the arena, you asked Hollie for her
 25 phone and her PIN number.

79

1 A. Yes, I did.
 2 Q. And I think you give an example of how distressed you
 3 were at that time because in fact you couldn't remember
 4 her date of birth to put her PIN number in.
 5 A. Yes. She told me it was her birthday and I had no idea
 6 when her birthday was in that moment.
 7 Q. You said that you didn't know who to call.
 8 A. I didn't.
 9 Q. And you presumed most people would have notified the
 10 police and ambulance and your thought at that time was
 11 they would arrive any second.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. So you didn't see any point in calling them?
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. And you say that you felt sick at the thought of calling
 16 your mum and dad --
 17 A. I did.
 18 Q. -- and telling them what had happened?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You say you just couldn't do it, so you called your
 21 ex-husband, Hollie's dad, Dale?
 22 A. I did, yes.
 23 Q. Could you tell us about that conversation with Dale.
 24 You say:
 25 "Dale answered and [you] screamed down the phone at

80

1 him that there had been a bomb."
 2 A. Yes, I did.
 3 Q. You told him that Hollie was bleeding and Kelly wasn't
 4 moving.
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And he just kept asking you what you meant but you were
 7 not able to explain any more.
 8 A. No, I just — I couldn't say any more. That's just what
 9 I screamed at him and I just could not say any more,
 10 I didn't know what to do. He just said to me, "Go back
 11 to her". I tried, but I couldn't get Hollie any further
 12 in. She just couldn't move at that point. So again,
 13 I had to leave her and said, "Wait there, don't move",
 14 but I'd got her back into the foyer at that point and
 15 she was next to the box office windows, the far right.
 16 While I was still on the phone, I went back to Kelly and
 17 I were just stood over her, just screaming her name over
 18 and over, I just didn't know what else to do.
 19 Dale said to check her pulse and I said, "I don't
 20 know how". I do, but in that moment I didn't.
 21 Q. You describe that as you were there at that point, you
 22 asked him to call your mum and dad —
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. — and tell them what had happened and ask for them all
 25 to drive to Manchester because it was bad?

81

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And I think you have described then moving Hollie round
 3 and dragging her round to where she sat by the box
 4 office at the end and I think, having got her there,
 5 that's in reality where Hollie stayed —
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. — until she was assisted out of the City Room?
 8 A. Yes, that's right.
 9 Q. And we'll come on to deal with that.
 10 You describe that as you were stood with Kelly you
 11 could see that blood was falling and your first thought
 12 was it was coming from the ceiling.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You then realised in fact it was coming from your neck
 15 and your hand was also covered in blood.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You presumed that you'd been hit in the throat?
 18 A. I did, yes.
 19 Q. You say that that was the first point when you realised
 20 that you yourself had been injured.
 21 A. Yes, I'd not noticed anything before that point, no
 22 pain, no blood, nothing, until I was leaning over Kelly.
 23 Q. I think at that point you heard Hollie screaming for you
 24 and shouting that she couldn't see.
 25 A. Yes.

82

1 Q. And you again describe that feeling of helplessness at
 2 that time: your sister laid in front of you, clearly
 3 needing urgent help, and your daughter a few metres
 4 away, screaming and also needing help.
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And your motherly instinct took over and you knew you
 7 had to go back and care for Hollie.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. You said "sorry" to Kelly over and over again and walked
 10 away.
 11 A. I did.
 12 Q. You tell us that Hollie had lost a shoe at some point
 13 and was stood with one shoe off and blood on her jeans.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And that people were still running in the room, most
 16 passed by you, but you were approached by a man in a red
 17 jumper, Rob?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And he advised you to sit on the floor with Hollie and
 20 put her legs across yours so they were raised slightly?
 21 A. That is how I remember it. Hollie said the other day
 22 she disagrees with that. She approached a lady who —
 23 she told her she couldn't breathe and that she couldn't
 24 see and the lady told her to sit on the floor. But Rob
 25 definitely told me to put Hollie's legs across me.

83

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: If you don't mind, I won't make
 2 a finding of fact between the two of you!
 3 MS CARTWRIGHT: (Overspeaking) she's correct?
 4 A. Yes, I am.
 5 Q. You say:
 6 "I did this once and once we had sat down [you] had
 7 Kelly in your direct line of sight and you could see she
 8 still hadn't moved and she was still alone."
 9 A. Yes, I just — all the people — there were so many
 10 people running in, but nobody was going to her and
 11 I just did not know why. I thought: you're just running
 12 in and you're going to all the people, why not Kelly,
 13 why is nobody helping her, basically.
 14 Q. You say that not long after you sat down, you remember
 15 starting to feel really faint and your vision also was
 16 going black.
 17 A. It was, yes.
 18 Q. And you presumed again that you'd been hit in the throat
 19 or in the neck and you in fact thought that you were
 20 dying?
 21 A. I did at that point, yes.
 22 Q. You tell us that a policeman ran in and asked if you
 23 were okay.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And you asked him if your throat had been cut and he

84

1 said no but told you you'd been hit in the face.
 2 A. Yes, he did.
 3 Q. That made you come round and you realised you weren't
 4 seriously injured and needed to stay alert and make sure
 5 Hollie and Kelly were cared for.
 6 A. Yes, that's right.
 7 Q. You describe that after that instruction, almost, or
 8 confirmation, you felt strangely calm.
 9 A. I did, just like somebody had gone like that
 10 (indicating) and woke me up and I knew that I needed to
 11 look after them two.
 12 Q. You describe it as if you now had a job to do.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You tell us that Hollie's phone rang and it was your
 15 mum.
 16 A. It was.
 17 Q. Dale had called her and told her what had happened and
 18 she was ringing to tell you that they were going to
 19 drive over and ask if Kelly had got up.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. You told her she hadn't moved and she was on her own.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And your mum's motherly instinct kicked in --
 24 A. It did.
 25 Q. -- and she begged you to go to Kelly --

85

1 A. She did.
 2 Q. -- and not to leave her by herself.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You tell us you explained to her that you tried but you
 5 couldn't get to her because Hollie couldn't move any
 6 further --
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. -- and you remember saying that you thought Kelly was
 9 dead and your mum said, "Don't say that".
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And you could hear your brother in the background?
 12 A. I could, yes.
 13 Q. You tell us that there were still lots of people coming
 14 into the foyer. At one point you were surrounded by
 15 a number of ShowSec staff who were all trying to help
 16 you.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Someone gave you a T-shirt and told you to hold it over
 19 Hollie's leg injury to help stop the bleeding.
 20 A. They did, yes.
 21 Q. And you did as you were told and no sooner had you begun
 22 to press on one injury site that another part of her
 23 jeans started going deeper red with more blood.
 24 A. Yes, that's right.
 25 Q. They gave you another T-shirt to hold on to that hole

86

1 too and then you would notice another hole --
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. -- and another --
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. -- and you describe it as her legs were just covered in
 6 holes.
 7 A. They were, yes.
 8 Q. You couldn't believe what you were saying and remember
 9 thinking that as she had so many holes and you only had
 10 two hands, she was going to bleed to death.
 11 A. I did.
 12 Q. You say that you begged the ShowSec member of staff to
 13 not allow Hollie to die.
 14 A. I did, over and over again.
 15 Q. And she promised that she would not?
 16 A. She promised me, yes.
 17 Q. You go on to tell us that:
 18 "Every minute in the foyer felt like an hour, [you]
 19 saw police arrive and more members of the public and
 20 every now and again one would come to [you] and ask if
 21 you were okay."
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And you would ask them to go and help Kelly --
 24 A. Yes, I did.
 25 Q. -- pointing out where she was and what she was wearing.

87

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. You say that:
 3 "Each person you asked went straight over to her,
 4 but you could see that no one was staying to give
 5 first aid and you couldn't understand why."
 6 A. Yes, I just did not know. I mean, if somebody's hurt,
 7 you help them, and I just could not get my head round
 8 why people were just sort of looking and walking away.
 9 Q. You say that of those that would go over to Kelly,
 10 no one would come back and tell you anything?
 11 A. Nobody did, no.
 12 Q. Then you say a member of the public came up and asked
 13 how he could help you.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. He was wearing an outdoor coat and you could tell by the
 16 way he was dressed that he hadn't been to the concert.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And you told him that you really needed help for your
 19 sister --
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. -- she was on her own and everyone you'd asked for help
 22 was ignoring you and he promised he would go and check
 23 on her and make sure she was okay.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. You watched him go to Kelly and he stayed --

88

1 A. He did.
 2 Q. -- which gave you so much relief.
 3 A. Yes, it did.
 4 Q. And I think you've been able to identify that man as an
 5 off-duty Greater Manchester Police officer called
 6 Michael Buckley --
 7 A. Yes, that's right.
 8 Q. -- who was there to collect his daughter.
 9 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Have you actually had contact with him
 10 since?
 11 A. No.
 12 MS CARTWRIGHT: You say that as well as seeing him going to
 13 Kelly and staying with her, he grabbed her by the arm
 14 which was underneath her head, he checked her pulse, and
 15 then moved her from her side on to her back.
 16 A. He did.
 17 Q. You tell us that when you saw that happen, you noticed
 18 the blood from Kelly's head.
 19 A. I did, yes.
 20 Q. You go on to tell us that:
 21 "All the time [you were] sat in the foyer, Hollie's
 22 phone was constantly ringing from Dale and as soon as
 23 [you'd] hang up from Dale, mum would ring."
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Dale and Ian, Kelly's partner, were driving over to

89

1 Manchester in Ian's car and your mum and dad were
 2 driving over in their car.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You remember your mum saying that she had seen on the
 5 news it wasn't a bomb, it was a speaker in the arena
 6 that had exploded.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And you looked around you and you knew that was not the
 9 case.
 10 A. I did.
 11 Q. You again describe the room at that time being full of
 12 black debris. You describe what you saw on the floor by
 13 way of the shrapnel and describe it as:
 14 "Dark and smoky, an awful smell in the air, also an
 15 awful taste in [your] mouth."
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You go on to tell us that Hollie was laid across you
 18 with her head towards Kelly so she could not see her.
 19 A. No, she couldn't.
 20 Q. And Hollie kept asking you if Kelly was okay.
 21 A. She did, yes.
 22 Q. You were telling her not to worry and then changing the
 23 subject.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Telling her that you'd take her for a McDonald's the day

90

1 after it was all over.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Did she get that McDonald's?
 4 A. Not that day she didn't, no.
 5 Q. You say:
 6 "It was the only thing [you] could think of to say
 7 in response to her questions to try and take her mind
 8 off what was happening."
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You kept putting Dale on the phone to her to keep her
 11 alert and telling her that her dad would be here soon.
 12 A. Yes, I did, yes.
 13 Q. You tell us about Hollie going really quiet. Do you
 14 want me to read that or do you want to tell us about
 15 that?
 16 A. Read it, please.
 17 Q. You say:
 18 "She went really quiet and started to close her
 19 eyes. I kept on talking and she would reply really
 20 slowly, but then she said, 'I'm so tired, will you let
 21 me go to sleep now?'"
 22 A. She did.
 23 Q. And you panicked and presumed she was about to lose
 24 consciousness.
 25 A. Yes.

91

1 Q. You say:
 2 "I can't remember if they were already with us or if
 3 you shouted them over but [you] remember saying to
 4 people in green T-shirts that Hollie wanted to go to
 5 sleep."
 6 A. Yes, there were two of them. I don't know -- like
 7 I say, I can't remember if they were with us anyway or
 8 if I just shouted to them, but there were two people.
 9 Q. Are those -- with what you now know, are you describing
 10 the green T-shirts that would be worn by the
 11 first aiders from Emergency Training UK?
 12 A. I believe so, yes.
 13 Q. You tell us that:
 14 "They told me it was fine and to let her sleep if
 15 that's what she wanted to do."
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Are you clear about that?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. You say that Dale was on the phone at that time and he
 20 screamed at you down the phone, "Don't you dare let her
 21 go to sleep because she will die".
 22 A. He did, yes.
 23 Q. "[You] presumed the people who had told [you] it was
 24 fine were paramedics because they were wearing green."
 25 A. Yes.

92

1 Q. "So I initially thought it was okay."
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. And you say that:
 4 "Had Dale not been on the phone at that time, [you]
 5 would probably have let Hollie go to sleep at that
 6 point."
 7 A. I would have done, yes. Like I say, my mind was just
 8 completely empty of all rational thoughts and if
 9 somebody in green was telling me she could sleep,
 10 I would have let her sleep.
 11 Q. You say:
 12 "[You] tried so hard to keep Hollie talking and kept
 13 telling her how much we loved her and that dad was on
 14 his way and would be with her soon."
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Then you say that the room suddenly seemed full of
 17 police officers, although you didn't notice them arrive.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. They were dressed in all different uniforms and you
 20 remember being surprised by this as you thought all
 21 police officers wore the same.
 22 A. I did, yes.
 23 Q. You also describe that there were some armed officers in
 24 the room.
 25 A. Yes.

93

1 Q. Officers in yellow high-visibility jackets, some dressed
 2 in blue and black uniforms and then other officers in
 3 what you'd describe as the usual black police uniform.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. You describe what you saw the police officers do:
 6 "They were all around the room helping different
 7 injured people and giving them medical help."
 8 A. They were, yes.
 9 Q. You tell us:
 10 "[You] remember asking an officer who approached you
 11 if they could check on Kelly for me and you describe
 12 that officer going over to her and coming back and said
 13 people were now with her."
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Which you relayed to your mum over the phone.
 16 A. I did, yes.
 17 Q. You describe that in front of the box office windows
 18 were two or three large concrete posts.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And you say the people who were with Kelly must have
 21 moved her into a different position that you could no
 22 longer see in your line of vision because it was
 23 obstructed by one of the bollards.
 24 A. Yes, I never saw her after that point.
 25 Q. You say that at some point a male told you that Kelly

94

1 had help with her and that she had a pulse --
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. -- but it was faint.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And again you relayed that to your mum on the phone and
 6 you were also relieved.
 7 A. We were, yes. As far as we knew, she'd got a pulse,
 8 she's not dead, and she's got people with her, so the
 9 relief from that was just what we needed really.
 10 Q. You say you were unable to recall if that was the
 11 off-duty officer or someone else giving you the update?
 12 A. Again, I think it was a male but I can't remember who it
 13 was.
 14 Q. Then you describe that despite asking a number of other
 15 people after that time, you didn't receive any further
 16 updates about Kelly or her condition the rest of the
 17 night.
 18 A. I didn't, no.
 19 Q. You tell us that it felt as if you and Hollie were alone
 20 on the foyer floor for such a long time.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. You describe that the floor felt icy cold and was
 23 covered in blood and mess.
 24 A. Yes, it was, yes.
 25 Q. Hollie also recalls other aspects of distressing things

95

1 on the floor.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You say that:
 4 "We dressed for a warm evening and at this point now
 5 you were shaking because [you were] cold."
 6 A. Yes, it was freezing.
 7 Q. And you describe that the merchandise items that had
 8 been sold earlier that night had been given out in
 9 JD Sports bags and there were JD bags scattered
 10 everywhere where people must have dropped them --
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. -- and also a really loud tannoy blaring --
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. -- that was saying the same thing over and over again
 15 and what sounded like a fire alarm.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You say this:
 18 "I had come to the realisation that we were going to
 19 be sat like this for a while. Despite my initial
 20 thought of another terrorist looming, I did not feel
 21 like a further threat was imminent in that room at that
 22 time."
 23 A. I didn't. I think initially, I did, and once I had come
 24 round to the fact that we weren't moving because Hollie
 25 couldn't move and I wasn't leaving Kelly, I never felt

96

1 scared after that about where I was. Nobody ever told
 2 me that there could be a secondary device or that there
 3 was any threat to life if I stayed. I felt as safe as
 4 you would do in that situation, really.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 You say it felt like hours had gone by and still
 7 there were no ambulance uniforms that you could see.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And every time an officer came to check on you and
 10 Hollie, you asked where the ambulances were.

11 A. I did, a lot of times.

12 Q. You say that you were given the assurance that they were
 13 coming.

14 A. That's all everybody said. I could hear sirens just
 15 blaring, and they were constant and everybody that you
 16 asked, they were just saying, "Yes, they're on their
 17 way, they're coming, they won't be long", but they never
 18 came, so then I'd ask again and the same answers,
 19 "They'll not be long, they're coming". Just nothing
 20 other than that, just "They're coming".

21 Q. I think we're going to come on a little later -- there's
 22 something you are very anxious to give your opinion on,
 23 informed by your experience that night, about what your
 24 view as to what people should do if they were ever in
 25 such a situation --

97

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and citizenAID and we'll come back to that. I know
 3 that's something you're very anxious to give your
 4 evidence about.

5 You tell us that because you had been given the
 6 reassurance that they were coming, you were then
 7 reassuring Hollie that help was on its way and would be
 8 with you soon.

9 A. Yes, I was.

10 Q. You describe being approached by a lady in a long
 11 striped dress.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. She told you that she was an off-duty nurse who had been
 14 at the concert and had stayed to help.

15 A. She did, yes.

16 Q. She asked someone to go and find some scissors --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- so that she could cut Hollie's jeans and she checked
 19 your face.

20 A. She did, yes.

21 Q. And someone came back with the scissors and she cut
 22 Hollie's jeans at the knee so they were more like shorts.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And at that point you could see that both of Hollie's
 25 legs were clearly very badly injured.

98

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you're also not sure where this person went to
 3 retrieve the scissors from.

4 A. I'm not sure, no.

5 Q. You don't identify the lady in the long striped dress,
 6 but are you aware now as to how that lady is?

7 A. I am, yes.

8 Q. Can you just identify who that lady that offered help to
 9 you is?

10 A. I believe she's called Bethany Crook.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Who we are due to hear from?

13 MS CARTWRIGHT: Well, certainly Bethany Crook's given an
 14 account and she's very recently provided a further
 15 statement detailing the assistance she gave and so that
 16 is part of the material now being provided as part of
 17 the chapter 12 evidence, but certainly she is
 18 an important witness who, it is clear, provided
 19 considerable assistance in the City Room on 22 May and
 20 23 May.

21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm aware of that, yes, thank you.

22 MS CARTWRIGHT: You say:

23 "I then noticed a tiny hole in the left leg of my
 24 jeans."

25 A. Yes.

99

1 Q. And you asked the nurse if you'd been hit there too?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. She then cut your jeans up to the knee and confirmed
 4 that you did also have an injury to your left calf.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us that the armed officers were ordering
 7 everyone who could move to leave the area.

8 A. They were, yes.

9 Q. And you can recall being approached by them a few times.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And they initially asked if you could walk and you said
 12 yes.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So they told you to leave?

15 A. They did.

16 Q. And what was your response to that.

17 A. Well, there was no way that I was going. I'd got two
 18 people in that room that I needed to care for and,
 19 again, I wasn't given a reason why I needed to leave but
 20 I wasn't going.

21 Q. You say in any event, you chose to stay.

22 A. I did, yes.

23 Q. You think at one point you were also asked if you could
 24 leave and carry Hollie with you.

25 A. Yes.

100

1 Q. And you say that would have been impossible.
 2 A. It would have been. I expected that help was coming to
 3 us, so why should I put her through that, trying to
 4 carry her out when help has got to be here soon because
 5 we've been waiting forever.
 6 Q. You describe that once Hollie's legs were uncovered you
 7 think it became apparent to the people who were helping
 8 how badly injured she was.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And you quickly became surrounded by a number of police
 11 officers .
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. A female officer said that Hollie was bleeding
 14 rapidly --
 15 A. She did, yes.
 16 Q. -- and she removed her belt to use as a tourniquet
 17 around one of Hollie's legs.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. You say that a number of other officers helped you in
 20 applying pressure to Hollie's lower legs.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And you again asked where the ambulances were because
 23 you could still hear them --
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. -- but you could not see them --

101

1 A. Mm--hm.
 2 Q. -- and you were getting desperate.
 3 A. I was very desperate, yes.
 4 Q. Again you were told they were on their way --
 5 A. Mm--hm.
 6 Q. -- and would be there soon.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You say:
 9 "I just couldn't understand why they weren't there.
 10 I had known from being a young child that if you were
 11 hurt, you called 999 and an ambulance would come to help
 12 you."
 13 It didn't make any sense to you?
 14 A. It didn't. You know, that's what I had been brought up
 15 to believe, that's how I've brought my children up: if
 16 you need medical help, call 999, they'll come. And they
 17 didn't.
 18 Q. You say this:
 19 "For some reason, the officers that were with you
 20 and Hollie became more concerned about Hollie's legs and
 21 they cut her jeans off completely."
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. "[You] could see that Hollie had even more injuries to
 24 the top of both her legs" --
 25 A. Yes.

102

1 Q. -- "and some going through..."
 2 And I just want to be clear, are you happy for this
 3 to be said?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Some going through her bottom?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And you were so scared?
 8 A. Petrified. As soon as I saw that, in my head she wasn't
 9 getting out of that room alive.
 10 Q. You say:
 11 "I genuinely thought Hollie was going to die.
 12 No one was coming to help her."
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You say your phone was still constantly ringing from
 15 Dale and your mum and eventually Dale told you that
 16 he was outside.
 17 A. Yes, while we were still in the foyer, so it had taken
 18 them less than an hour to get from Sheffield.
 19 Q. He said he had to park up the road but was running down
 20 with Ian and they'd be here soon.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. You were so relieved that both of them were on their
 23 way?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Because then Ian could stay with Kelly --

103

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. -- and she wouldn't be alone --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- which was really important to you --
 5 A. It was, yes.
 6 Q. -- and Dale could support you with Hollie.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You say that:
 9 "Not long after he called [you] back to say they had
 10 reached the police cordon but the police would not let
 11 them come through to us."
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. "[You] had seen members of the public coming in
 14 throughout the night and could still see some in there
 15 at that time."
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You say:
 18 "I didn't understand why they weren't allowed
 19 through especially when they were needed."
 20 A. I desperately needed them. The fact that I had to leave
 21 Kelly on her own, not with a family member or a friend,
 22 that haunts me. I desperately needed somebody in there
 23 to be with her.
 24 Q. And I think you told Dale and Ian to just keep trying.
 25 A. Yes.

104

1 Q. You say this:
 2 "I was starting to get really agitated because the
 3 ambulances weren't coming to help us and [you] had
 4 people outside who [you] needed and they weren't allowed
 5 to come in and help [you] either."
 6 A. Yes, that's right.
 7 Q. And again is that describing you can hear the sirens?
 8 A. No, more Dale and Ian -- you know, they were at the
 9 cordon, wanting to come and help me. I'd got no medics
 10 coming to help -- I just needed somebody to come and
 11 help.
 12 Q. You say that Dale was also able to give you information
 13 from where he was.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And you say this, Dale had told you were mistaken about
 16 the ambulances not being there because he could see them
 17 all from where he was stood.
 18 A. Yes, that's right.
 19 Q. You say you still couldn't see any.
 20 A. I couldn't see any, no.
 21 Q. You say this:
 22 "Due to the number of people who were huddled around
 23 us I was unable to see what else was happening in the
 24 room, but [you] could sense that the atmosphere had
 25 changed and things seemed to be happening."

105

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Can you maybe just perhaps explain a bit more what you
 3 mean by that, please?
 4 A. For a long time initially the room just felt like
 5 nothing was happening. It was full, there was a lot of
 6 people in there, but there wasn't really much movement
 7 because obviously nobody could move. But it just seemed
 8 to get quite busy with movement after that.
 9 Q. Then you describe being approached by a paramedic. Are
 10 you able just to describe what your recollection of that
 11 encounter please?
 12 A. Absolutely nothing, to be honest. I know one came to us
 13 but I can't remember anything because it was so quick
 14 other than we were given a little card on a string to
 15 put round our wrist. I had a green number 3 and Hollie
 16 had a number 2 round her wrist.
 17 Q. So you describe that:
 18 "The paramedic didn't really do much other than look
 19 at us."
 20 And then give the card you have just described, a 3
 21 for you and a 2 for Hollie?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. You say:
 24 "I don't think I knew what the numbers represented
 25 but I was just so relieved to finally have seen someone

106

1 in a paramedic uniform."
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You say that neither of you were given any medical
 4 treatment by a paramedic in the foyer.
 5 A. We weren't, no.
 6 Q. And the paramedic that had approached you and given the
 7 card, did he come back to you at that point?
 8 A. Not that I can remember, no.
 9 Q. We know from the evidence that we've heard that two
 10 other HART paramedics came into the City Room a little
 11 later, some time after 23.14. At any point did either
 12 of those approach you?
 13 A. Not that I can remember.
 14 Q. You say:
 15 "I can't recall if I knew that people were being
 16 moved out of the foyer on crowd barriers, but I remember
 17 the officers telling me it was shortly Hollie's turn to
 18 be moved."
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. "My thought was she was going to be moved to an
 21 ambulance."
 22 A. I did think that, yes.
 23 Q. And:
 24 "The officers brought a wheelchair for you and
 25 a metal crowd barrier for Hollie."

107

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. They said they would they take Hollie down on the
 3 barrier and then you in the chair.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And you say:
 6 "I was not letting them take her without me as I had
 7 a fear that they were trying to split us up and then I'd
 8 lose her too."
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. "[You] said [you] would walk out at the side of her but
 11 they said you couldn't do that, you had to go down
 12 a number of stairs, and they didn't want [you] to walk"
 13 --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- "and [you] did not want people to have to carry [you]
 16 down a flight of stairs and [you] repeatedly said that
 17 [you] would walk but they would not allow [you] to do
 18 so."
 19 A. They wouldn't, no.
 20 Q. You say:
 21 "By this point Hollie was only wearing a vest top
 22 and her underwear" --
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. -- "and the merchandise she had purchased earlier in the
 25 night was still fastened around her back and was removed

108

1 by the police."

2 A. It was.

3 Q. You say she had severe injuries to the entire front and

4 back of her legs --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- and the injuries to her bottom --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- you described:

9 "There was some discussion about the best position

10 to transport her and it was decided she would be slid on

11 to the barrier face--down."

12 You say:

13 "She was in so much pain as they moved her on the

14 barrier."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You say:

17 "We then set off across the foyer. Hollie was

18 leading and [you were] being wheeled out backwards

19 immediately behind her."

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you say:

22 "[You] can recall the officers telling Hollie to

23 keep looking to her left and it soon became apparent

24 that this is because they didn't want us to see the true

25 scale of what had happened, which was to her right."

109

1 A. Yes, because she had been laid -- the direction she had

2 been laid facing, she'd luckily not been able to see the

3 whole of the room so they were just trying to protect

4 her from that.

5 Q. You say that:

6 "As [you were] wheeled through, [you were]

7 desperately looking for Kelly in the area where [you]

8 thought she had been."

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. "[You] had lost your bearings when you were moved and

11 [you] couldn't remember exactly where [you] had left her

12 but in any event [you] could not see her anywhere."

13 And you noted a large number of people who had been

14 covered with T-shirts and you were in utter shock and

15 disbelief and praying that Kelly was not one of them.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. We know again from the work of Greater Manchester Police

18 that Hollie was captured having been placed on the

19 makeshift stretcher in the way you have described being

20 taken out of the City Room and is captured on the

21 footbridge outside the City Room at 23.29.01.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. And that you have also been captured in the way you have

24 described in the wheelchair, going backwards, on the

25 footbridge just outside the City Room at 23.29.25.

110

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. You describe that as you were wheeled the end of the

3 walkway that leads into the station you were then picked

4 up in the wheelchair and carried down two flights of

5 stairs by a number of people. Do you want to describe

6 perhaps how that felt?

7 A. Surreal, to be honest. It was very unsteady.

8 Obviously, I had to be picked up quite high so that they

9 could walk and carry me and it just -- I just didn't

10 feel safe. I felt like I could fall at any point.

11 Q. You say that as Hollie was carried down in front of you,

12 you didn't see her go down but she had told you as to

13 how she found that experience of being carried down the

14 stairs on a makeshift stretcher?

15 A. She has, yes.

16 Q. Could you tell us what Hollie has described that

17 experience as like?

18 A. Can I find it, sorry?

19 Q. Paragraph 81?

20 A. Thank you. Very scary, incredibly painful. She was

21 being carried down head first and obviously every step

22 that they took her down, she was sliding further forward

23 on the barrier. She was also sliding sideways and

24 thought she was just going to slide off the side because

25 she wasn't fastened on to it in any way. She had to

111

1 hold her head up and sort of grip on to the edge of the

2 barrier, just to try and keep her balance so she didn't

3 slide off.

4 That's just a horrific way for anybody with injuries

5 like that to have to be moved, but I do accept it was

6 the only way we were getting out of that room on that

7 night.

8 Q. I think you are grateful to those that are shown

9 carrying you and your daughter out of the City Room.

10 A. I am, yes.

11 Q. I want to move now, please to the period of time when

12 you arrived at the station concourse and that portion of

13 time, please.

14 Again, just for timings, we know that Hollie is

15 captured arriving in the casualty clearing station at

16 23.30.31 --

17 A. Mm--hm.

18 Q. -- and placed on the ground.

19 Then at 23.31.43, you arrive in the casualty

20 clearing station and are placed alongside Hollie.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You tell us that once you were down in the station you

23 remember seeing injured people everywhere, far more than

24 you'd seen up stairs.

25 A. A lot more than I'd seen, yes.

112

1 Q. You say that:
 2 "[Your] heart sank as [you] thought we were on our
 3 way to hospital for medical help, when really [you'd]
 4 just been moved to a different waiting area."
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You say that you're aware from documents you have seen
 7 in the inquiry -- I think those are the timings I've
 8 just given, sorry.
 9 A. It's all right.
 10 Q. You say that you were placed just round the corner from
 11 what you had known to be the warm memorial entrance to
 12 the station?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And you say that as you were moving through the station
 15 you were looking at all of the injured and seeing if one
 16 of them was Kelly.
 17 A. I was, yes.
 18 Q. And you wondered if she had already gone to hospital.
 19 A. Yes, because obviously I knew she had a pulse but I also
 20 knew she wasn't responding, so obviously I knew she was
 21 badly injured, so I thought -- I felt like hours had
 22 passed at that point so I just thought, yes, she'll have
 23 already gone.
 24 Q. You describe it being a lot brighter downstairs as the
 25 lights were on and again there was another loud tannoy

113

1 repeating over and over a different message from the one
 2 that had been going off upstairs.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And you describe that you can't remember the exact words
 5 but the message you remember hearing was something along
 6 the lines of, "We have to evacuate the area".
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You say no real instructions or information about what
 9 had happened was given out on the loudspeaker.
 10 A. It wasn't, no.
 11 Q. You describe that it was a lot colder downstairs as it
 12 was more of an open space?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. "Hollie was left on the floor in her vest and underwear
 15 while we waited again. Someone eventually brought
 16 a blanket for Hollie and a foil blanket and they were
 17 placed over her on the floor."
 18 A. Yes. That's right.
 19 Q. You describe that there were lots of paramedics
 20 downstairs and lots of police officers.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. The same group of officers who had been with you
 23 upstairs came to check on you and see how you were
 24 getting on.
 25 A. Yes.

114

1 Q. And you say this:
 2 "I really don't think I could have got through this
 3 night without this group of officers and I will be
 4 forever grateful to them for their support."
 5 A. I will be, yes.
 6 Q. "The officers kept being called away and would go over
 7 to a huddle with other officers, like they were having
 8 a meeting, but they always came back."
 9 A. They did.
 10 Q. Why was that important?
 11 A. I think it was just some familiarity in the room.
 12 I just felt completely lost. I had no idea what had
 13 happened, what was happening next, where I was going,
 14 and it was just a comfort, really, for me.
 15 Q. You say you were still in constant contact with Dale and
 16 your mum, both of whom were now at different points
 17 outside the arena, begging to be allowed in.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. They were both telling you that they had explained your
 20 situation to officers at the cordon, but had been told
 21 in no uncertain terms that they would not be allowed to
 22 enter.
 23 A. That's right.
 24 Q. They asked the officers for help as to what they should
 25 do and they were just told to go and wait at a hospital.

115

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. You say:
 3 "We were not from Manchester and they had no idea
 4 where the hospitals were or where [you'd] be going."
 5 A. No idea at all.
 6 Q. You tell us you can't recall how it came about, but
 7 someone told you that eventually you would have to leave
 8 Hollie and go to a different hospital on a bus with
 9 other priority 3 patients.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. You say you were petrified of losing Hollie the same way
 12 you had lost Kelly --
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. -- and you asked one of the officers to speak to the
 15 officers at the cordon and let Dale through.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. He could then stay with Hollie and go with her to
 18 hospital and you'd have gone to the bus.
 19 A. I would have, yes.
 20 Q. And the officers told you that that could not be done --
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. -- and you felt like you were placed in another
 23 impossible position and you told them to forget about
 24 treating you --
 25 A. Yes.

116

1 Q. -- and you said that you would stay and care for Hollie
2 and then go and seek your own treatment once she was
3 settled in hospital.
4 A. Yes, that's right.
5 Q. You describe that as being:
6 " ... another very stressful moment which could have
7 been made so much easier if Dale had just been allowed
8 to come and care for Hollie."
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. You say:
11 "By this point, someone had given [you] a T-shirt or
12 something similar to press against [your] cheek as
13 [you're] losing a lot of blood from [your] face."
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Perhaps you can describe the injury you sustained
16 please.
17 A. I have sustained a broken jaw on my right side. When
18 I eventually got to hospital, the nut was embedded in my
19 bone.
20 Q. You say that you were very lucky to have had so many
21 officers with you which meant you were able to care for
22 your own wound and they remained on the floor with
23 Hollie putting pressure on her wounds.
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. So you are describing officers, but when you got down in

117

1 the casualty clearing station, what's your recollection
2 of the support you had from paramedics?
3 A. Not a lot, to be honest. It was mainly police that
4 helped me that night. Obviously, we did have some
5 assistance from paramedics, but not anywhere near the
6 level that I would have expected. The ones that we had
7 were amazing, I'm not sort of saying anything about
8 them, but I just -- once we were downstairs, I presumed
9 it would be medical-led and that wasn't really our
10 experience.
11 Q. You tell us that your mum and Dale called and asked you
12 to find out what hospital you and Hollie would be going
13 to so they could go and meet you there. You say that
14 you asked for this information a few times but no one
15 seemed to know.
16 A. Yes. Every time I asked where we were going, I was just
17 told there was a number of hospitals that were taking
18 patients. People presumed that it would be RMCH, the
19 children's hospital, but nobody could say for certain.
20 And they kept saying to me, "You'll be going somewhere
21 different", but with no idea. I had told them over and
22 over again there was not a chance that I was leaving,
23 I wasn't going anywhere.
24 Q. You said you tried to find out if Kelly had been taken
25 to hospital and which one she had been taken to so that

118

1 your parents and Ian knew where to go, but no one ever
2 gave you an answer.
3 A. No.
4 Q. You describe the station as very chaotic and each time
5 you asked a question and someone went to you get answer,
6 they never came back.
7 A. They didn't, no.
8 Q. You say you were left guessing all night about when the
9 ambulances would turn up --
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. -- when we would receive any treatment --
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. -- what hospital we would be going to --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. -- and you describe your experience as:
16 "No one seemed to know what was happening at any
17 point."
18 A. That's how it felt to me. If they did, it was never
19 relayed to me that -- I was sat there with my child
20 wanting to know where to go and what was happening,
21 I felt like nobody knew who would be going next. It was
22 just very chaotic. There didn't seem to be a plan.
23 Q. You say that you felt like you'd been in the station for
24 a very long time before Hollie was attended to by any
25 medical staff.

119

1 A. Yes.
2 Q. You say:
3 "Prior to the inquiry [you] had spoken to [your]
4 family liaison officer who informed [you] that Hollie
5 was treated at 00.22."
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. And this was almost 2 hours after the blast?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. You say you can recall them having a good look at all of
10 Hollie's injuries but neither yourself or Hollie can
11 recall her being given any medication before arriving at
12 hospital.
13 A. We couldn't recall that, no. I do know now that
14 we were, but none of us can remember that happening.
15 Q. And in terms of what you have learned now, I think the
16 paramedic that transported to hospital is it an
17 Erica Leahy?
18 A. I believe so, yes.
19 Q. And I think there's reference within that, I think
20 you've been aware of, that Hollie had been given a drug
21 which helped stop bleeding called tranexamic acid.
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. But that's something you've learned from the review of
24 witness statements?
25 A. Yes. And I think morphine as well.

120

1 Q. Thank you. You then tell us about Hollie being
2 reassessed. Are you able to tell us about that?
3 A. Yes. When she was seen, they had a really good look at
4 her, they looked at all her injuries, and said she had
5 needed to be a priority 1, so they changed her from a 2
6 to a 1. I can't recall personally whether the card was
7 changed but Hollie said it was.
8 Q. So there was a time when Hollie became a priority 1
9 patient?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And again from your experience of when that happened,
12 how long after that change or the re-triaging and
13 categorisation was it from Hollie becoming a priority 1
14 to you going to hospital, just to give us some idea?
15 A. A long time. I've seen on some of the images that
16 Mike Russell put in evidence at the beginning of
17 chapter 10 I can see the paramedics bringing Hollie's
18 stretcher. I think that's about 00.55 in the morning.
19 And we got to hospital at 2.07.
20 Q. Perhaps if we just whilst we deal with that at the
21 moment because as we move forward -- whilst we deal with
22 timings -- at 01.59.05 on 23 May 2017, you and Hollie
23 were taken from the casualty clearing station to
24 hospital by paramedic Erica Reynolds at the time, Leahy
25 now, and paramedic Alan Mitchell. And that you arrived

121

1 at hospital 8 minutes later at 02.07.
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. So from your time at the arena in the station, you left
4 the station 3 hours and 28 minutes after the detonation?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. You say that Hollie was starting to feel really tired
7 again and asking to go to sleep, so you asked
8 a paramedic if this was okay and you were advised by the
9 paramedic to keep her awake and alert --
10 A. I was, yes.
11 Q. -- which had been the complete opposite of the advice
12 that you'd been given earlier in the foyer.
13 A. Absolutely.
14 Q. And that's the advice you have described of what we now
15 know to be ETUK staff?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. You say the majority of the time that you were in the
18 station concourse you were assisted by police officers,
19 not medical staff --
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. -- and that not long after Hollie had been assessed,
22 a paramedic was able to advise you that Hollie was going
23 to be taken in the next available ambulance and you
24 asked if she was going to Royal Manchester Children's
25 Hospital and you were told that she would.

122

1 A. Yes.
2 Q. You say that after a while you were told it was time to
3 go and you called Dale to advise that you were on your
4 way to hospital and Hollie's phone battery then died.
5 A. It did, yes.
6 Q. You describe both being wheeled outside the war memorial
7 entrance, however when you got outside there were no
8 ambulances.
9 A. None at all. Which is something that nearly all the
10 NWAS experts that we've heard give evidence have said
11 there were loads of ambulances lined up, nobody had to
12 wait for an ambulance. But when we got outside, that
13 was not our experience at all.
14 Q. Are you able to help us then as to how long, once you'd
15 been taken outside, it was before an ambulance did come?
16 A. It felt like -- every minute felt like an hour. I would
17 say roughly an hour, something like that.
18 Q. You describe remembering just waiting and waiting and no
19 ambulances were arriving.
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. And you say that the atmosphere then was chaotic and you
22 got the impression that no one knew what was going on.
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Freezing cold?
25 A. It was.

123

1 Q. And you were still just sat in your summer top?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. And a lady walked across the road to you and Hollie and
4 offered you something to wrap up and keep warm.
5 A. She did.
6 Q. And you took that from her because you were so cold and
7 you are sure it was a pair of curtains.
8 A. I think it was, yes.
9 Q. You say you were so grateful but a little bit confused
10 as to how she got so close to the station when your mum
11 and Dale could not get anywhere near.
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. You describe that the police officers who had been with
14 you for most of the night were still with you outside.
15 A. They were.
16 Q. One of them told you there was going to be a delay going
17 to hospital because there would shortly be a controlled
18 explosion outside the cathedral --
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. -- and he warned you and Hollie that you would probably
21 hear it and be alarmed. You asked if you could borrow
22 his telephone to call your mum and explain what was
23 happening so that they were not worrying about why it
24 was taking so long.
25 A. Yes.

124

1 Q. And the officer kindly allowed you to use his phone and
 2 you were able to speak and relay that information to
 3 your mum.
 4 A. I did, yes.
 5 Q. Again, there was a further warning about the controlled
 6 explosion, shortly followed by a loud bang.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You say that the police helicopter was out and must have
 9 been close by because it was so loud.
 10 A. Really loud, yes.
 11 Q. You say even though you were prepared for the controlled
 12 explosion, you think the enormity of what you'd actually
 13 been involved in of a real terrorist attack hit you.
 14 A. Yes. I feel like I sort of just lost my head a bit at
 15 that point. I realised what had happened. My daughter
 16 was just laid in a state like she was in. I had no idea
 17 where my sister was. Nobody was giving me any
 18 information as to why we were just sat waiting, where
 19 we were going, and it just all got too much at that
 20 point.
 21 Q. And you describe crying.
 22 A. I did, yes.
 23 Q. You say that shortly after the controlled explosion had
 24 occurred, an ambulance arrived.
 25 A. Yes.

125

1 Q. And Hollie was loaded into it whilst you got in and sat
 2 at the side of her and the paramedics who took you to
 3 hospital told you they were from the Blackpool area.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And you are confident when you left the station, you
 6 remained a priority 3?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Can you tell us about your view as to what Hollie was
 9 when you left the station?
 10 A. A 1. She was a 2 initially, upgraded to a 1, and as far
 11 as I'm aware never graded back down. If anything, her
 12 condition was worsening rather than getting better.
 13 Q. I'm going to move now to the arrival at hospital.
 14 You have always thought you arrived at hospital around
 15 2.30 and you're now aware of the exact time being 2.07.
 16 You sustained a broken jaw you have already told us
 17 about. And you described the nut that was embedded in
 18 your jawbone. I think you have also given a description
 19 of to your left calf. Do you want to describe that?
 20 A. It was just a shrapnel injury to my calf. I don't think
 21 the shrapnel was still in there, but I needed four
 22 operations.
 23 Q. For just the shrapnel you required four operations and
 24 you were an inpatient for around 4 weeks.
 25 A. Yes.

126

1 Q. And you've also described that as well as the physical
 2 injuries, you want it to be known that you also suffered
 3 PTSD.
 4 A. I still do. It's completely changed my life. PTSD runs
 5 my life now. I'm a completely different person.
 6 Q. Hollie — again, are you happy for me to read Hollie's
 7 injuries?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Hollie very severely injured, received around
 10 13 shrapnel injuries or shrapnel wounds. She had
 11 a broken tibia and fibula in her left leg and a very
 12 badly broken left foot.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. The main nerve that travels down the left side of her
 15 body was damaged behind the knee, which meant she had no
 16 movement or feeling in her left leg and had a foot drop.
 17 Her right knee was very badly injured and she sustained
 18 damage to her bowels, which resulted in her requiring
 19 a colostomy.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Hollie was an inpatient for 8 weeks initially, including
 22 time in the high dependency unit.
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. She lost so much blood while she waited for help that
 25 she required a blood transfusion.

127

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And I think that's something you feel particularly
 3 strongly about.
 4 A. Absolutely. I think — you know, she were 12 years old
 5 and she were left for 3.5 hours to bleed. It's crazy to
 6 me.
 7 Q. You say that, in total, she has spent around 4 to
 8 5 months in hospital over the last 4 years.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. She has so far required 17 operations.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And has a number of operations left to come in the next
 13 few months.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. She was unable to walk unaided and wore a splint on her
 16 left leg for 2 years.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Hollie's knee has been reconstructed with a transplant
 19 bone from a donor. Fortunately, that has been
 20 successful.
 21 A. It has, yes.
 22 Q. She's had a fusion to her left leg, although it was not
 23 directly injured in the bombing, and has ongoing
 24 problems with her bladder —
 25 A. Yes.

128

1 Q. -- and has required surgery for that also.
 2 A. She has, yes.
 3 Q. You describe that it is unlikely that Hollie will ever
 4 make a complete recovery from her physical injuries.
 5 A. Yes, they've said she will always suffer physically. It
 6 will bring her need for knee replacements forward by
 7 years. She will have significant arthritis probably in
 8 her 30s. Yes, it's changed her life completely.
 9 Q. You tell us also that Hollie, similarly to you, suffers
 10 from PTSD.
 11 A. Absolutely, yes.
 12 Q. You tell us that at 9 pm on 23 May, you discovered that
 13 Kelly had died in the foyer.
 14 A. We did, yes.
 15 Q. You give your views as to your reflection on the night.
 16 You say:
 17 "When I think back to that night, I remember feeling
 18 like we had been abandoned."
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. "The fact that I could hear the sirens so close by but
 21 help never came to us will stay with me forever."
 22 A. It will.
 23 Q. "I am truly thankful to the police and ShowSec staff who
 24 helped me and Hollie that night, to everybody who tried
 25 so hard to save Kelly."

129

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. "Sadly, I believe the injuries these people were faced
 3 with were just beyond their expertise" --
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. -- "and we needed help from the paramedics in the foyer
 6 in those first crucial minutes."
 7 A. Absolutely, yes, we did.
 8 Q. I think you also want to make us aware of other things
 9 from your experience that you felt might be considered
 10 by way of recommendations.
 11 A. Yes. I think -- you know, we've lived this experience
 12 and if there's anything --
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I'm very happy to hear any
 14 recommendations you have. You do understand the terms
 15 of the inquiry as well.
 16 A. I do, yes.
 17 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Obviously I will take into account what
 18 I possibly can.
 19 A. Okay, thank you.
 20 MS CARTWRIGHT: I think you are very grateful that you were
 21 given a bed at the side of Hollie's bed in the
 22 children's hospital --
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. -- and that you were permitted to have your medical care
 25 with your daughter.

130

1 A. Yes, in the children's hospital. Even when she was on
 2 high dependency, I had the bed at the side of her the
 3 entire time. I was absolutely petrified that if I let
 4 her out of my sight I was going to lose her and I needed
 5 that bed at the side of her. It's not something that
 6 I'd ever heard of happening before that night and
 7 I think that would be a recommendation if other
 8 hospitals could do that.
 9 Q. Thank you. You describe also that the hospital again
 10 allowed you to keep that four-bed room to yourself for
 11 the entire 8-week period, which gave you and your family
 12 the privacy to grieve.
 13 A. It did indeed. We were there until July. We had to
 14 make funeral arrangements and everything from that room,
 15 and if we'd had to be in a room with other people,
 16 it would have been extremely difficult.
 17 Q. You identify high praise for the hospital because they
 18 made a huge difference to your and your family's
 19 experience.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Assisting with lots of things, including emergency
 22 dental treatment and prescriptions and the like.
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. You also identify that the family liaison officers
 25 allocated from Greater Manchester Police and

131

1 South Yorkshire Police, along with your Victim Support
 2 workers, were invaluable.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And you describe that you could not have got through the
 5 last 4 years without them.
 6 A. Definitely not, and our legal team, obviously.
 7 Q. You also have your experience about Kelly that you wish
 8 to feed into considerations also as to things that could
 9 be made better.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. You say:
 12 "The search for Kelly in the day that followed was
 13 extremely difficult and in [your] opinion was made even
 14 more difficult by processes which could easily be
 15 changed. In the initial hours we were just left to fend
 16 for ourselves and use our own initiative to try and
 17 locate her. We asked a receptionist at Royal Manchester
 18 Children's Hospital if they could check the system to
 19 see if Kelly had been check in as a patient but she
 20 couldn't find anything. I ended up repeatedly ringing
 21 all of the Manchester hospitals to see if anyone of
 22 Kelly's description had been admitted to no avail."
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. And there was a police officer outside A&E and your dad
 25 gave them a description of Kelly and asked he feed this

132

1 back and let us know if she turned up anywhere.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You describe at some point in the early morning of
 4 23 May you became aware of the emergency telephone
 5 number which had been set up. Your mother called them
 6 for help and advice but all that you were told was that
 7 you had to give them a contact number and a description
 8 of Kelly --
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. -- and what she was wearing.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You were given a reference number, but no advice.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You describe continually ringing the hospitals for any
 15 news, your brother periodically continuing to call the
 16 emergency line.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And again each time he called they would not take the
 19 reference number from him but instead asks us to repeat
 20 all the same information again. You say:
 21 "Eventually, we were advised to head to the Etihad
 22 Stadium and your mum, dad and Ian left the hospital and
 23 drove to the stadium."
 24 A. Yes. And each time Adam called that line you just got
 25 a completely new reference number. It just seemed

133

1 a complete mess.
 2 Q. You say:
 3 "Despite having given a description of Kelly to the
 4 police by the different means above, [you] returned from
 5 surgery in the late afternoon to find two officers
 6 waiting for [you] who again wanted a description of
 7 Kelly and what she was wearing. [Your] parents were
 8 still at the Etihad at this point."
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And you confirm again that your mum and dad were
 11 informed around 9 pm that Kelly was one of the people
 12 who had died in the foyer.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And you found out later that her bag, which contained
 15 her identification, was present with her at the scene.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You say this:
 18 "I believe the policy for families trying to locate
 19 missing people after events such as this and the
 20 emergency contact line needs to be changed so that clear
 21 advice is given to families" --
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. -- "from the outset as to what action they should or
 24 shouldn't take and to ensure the same information is not
 25 asked for repeatedly to set up new cases. [You] think

134

1 the procedure should also be initiated and made public
 2 immediately once a major incident becomes apparent so
 3 families like mine do not have to wait hours for any
 4 guidance on what to do."
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You make a comment about the impact of the media
 7 intrusion on your family in those initial days and
 8 weeks, which was very difficult to handle.
 9 A. Very difficult, yes.
 10 Q. But also the photographs of you that had been taken on
 11 the station concourse covered in blood, which you had no
 12 idea had been taken --
 13 A. I didn't.
 14 Q. -- and you found were all over the TV and newspapers and
 15 you'd never have allowed that to happen and it was not
 16 your own personal choice.
 17 A. Exactly.
 18 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: And has that been looked at by any
 19 regulatory body, do you know?
 20 A. We've never done anything about it. They're just there.
 21 I don't think where they came from or anything.
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you.
 23 MS CARTWRIGHT: You say as well as that personal intrusion
 24 to you, the family received telephone calls from
 25 different media outlets throughout the day while Hollie

135

1 was in theatre --
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. -- and the media sought out a number of different
 4 relatives and knocked on their doors for information.
 5 A. They did, yes.
 6 Q. You say:
 7 "This all added to the already significant stress
 8 and upset at the most horrific time of our lives.
 9 I believe if you wish to speak to the media in
 10 situations such as this, it should all be done formally
 11 via the police liaison officers or you should be left to
 12 approach the media yourself."
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. I think you've also got an observation about the
 15 invitation while you were at the hospital and whilst
 16 Hollie was in theatre to join in a group in a sing --
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And you found that very insensitive.
 19 A. Yes, it's just a bit of training, I feel.
 20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Done for the best motives, but
 21 inappropriate that it happened.
 22 A. Exactly, yes.
 23 MS CARTWRIGHT: The chairman has all of your detail about
 24 the impact that had on you in your statement.
 25 Before we come to your final point, I think you have

136

1 evidence you want to give about citizenAID, but also
 2 that if you — advice you feel from your personal
 3 experience about what to do in such a situation.
 4 A. Yes. I think obviously I've sat here more or less every
 5 day since September and I'm completely shocked to have
 6 seen that in events such as this, it's widely known that
 7 medical assistance won't be with you immediately. It's
 8 written into policies, procedures, but yet me as
 9 a member of the public had absolutely no idea that if
 10 I was ever in a terrorist attack, I wouldn't get medical
 11 help straightaway.

12 I think that is something that needs to be in the
 13 public domain. I don't know whether that's through
 14 education at schools or — I don't know. But if you
 15 then choose to go somewhere public while we've got
 16 a severe terrorist threat in the country, you're doing
 17 that on the understanding that you'll have to look after
 18 yourself or it might just be other members of the public
 19 that are caring for you instead. Obviously, I saw the
 20 evidence about citizenAID and things like that.

21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Brigadier Hodgetts?

22 A. Yes. I've got that downloaded myself on to my phone and
 23 it's really good. I think if everybody was aware of
 24 that and just had it on their phone, if they ever found
 25 themselves in that situation, then it would assist

137

1 people.
 2 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: They could feel that they could do
 3 something, whereas most of us normally in that situation
 4 just feel completely helpless.
 5 A. Exactly. I do think it should be publicly known that
 6 medical assistance cannot always come to you immediately
 7 because if I'd known that, I wouldn't have just sat and
 8 waited, I would have done absolutely anything that
 9 I could to get the three of us out of that room.
 10 Obviously, it would have been extremely difficult.
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think it would have been impossible,
 12 wouldn't it?
 13 A. I would not just have sat and waited.
 14 MS CARTWRIGHT: You say this:
 15 "My final point relates to the impossible position
 16 I was personally placed in that night. I needed to be
 17 in three different places at once: staying with Kelly
 18 in the final moments of her life, caring for Hollie, and
 19 receiving my own medical care. I had immediate family
 20 members outside who had driven from home to assist me in
 21 the predicament I had found myself in. None of my
 22 family members were allowed to pass through the cordon."
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. "Whilst I completely understand the reason for this,
 25 I believe the police need to make sure that if this is

138

1 their policy, then everyone adheres to it."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. "I'm aware of four people who were all allowed to enter
 4 the cordon that night, two of them into the foyer and
 5 the other two into the station concourse."

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. "All arrived separately and one of them travelled from
 8 outside Manchester. Not all of them were bereaved
 9 family members."

10 A. No.

11 Q. And you'd been left wondering for a long time why you
 12 were treated so differently and, despite asking numerous
 13 people, the only answer you've ever been given is that
 14 it must have come down to the individual officers those
 15 people approached on the night.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And in your opinion, that's completely unacceptable and
 18 you cannot express enough the effect this has had on
 19 you?

20 A. I really can't. I needed someone that night and I'd got
 21 four people that wanted to be there for the three of us.
 22 I understand about police cordons and why people can't
 23 pass. I also would never take it away from the people
 24 that did get in because they needed to be in there, but
 25 if it's your policy that no members of the public go

139

1 through this cordon, then that's your policy. It
 2 shouldn't be different and come down to who you speak to
 3 or what you look like, if they like you. It should not
 4 be like that.

5 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I really understand that. I'm sure
 6 there is an explanation and indeed Mr Jackson is here
 7 today, I notice, and I'm grateful for that. Perhaps he
 8 could organise for you to get given the reason why
 9 that is. I suspect, but I don't know, that nobody was
 10 meant to get in except perhaps people who could be seen
 11 to be doctors or nurses and prove it. But I'm sure
 12 we can find the explanation out for you and make sure
 13 you're given it.

14 A. Thank you.

15 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could I just check before we conclude
 16 Claire's evidence whether Mr Cooper wishes some time.
 17 Questions from MR COOPER

18 MR COOPER: Just to deal with a couple of matters.

19 You asked me to follow your statement as you were
 20 going through and I've been ticking off all your
 21 paragraphs, so let me first reassure you that you have
 22 said virtually all you wanted to say if that reassures
 23 you.

24 Just a couple of things. You mentioned the names of
 25 people that did help you. I'm sure you'd like to

140

1 reflect your gratitude, as you have already.
 2 A. Absolutely, yes.
 3 Q. You mentioned Michael Buckley of the Greater Manchester
 4 Police, Bethany Crook, and you also told the chair about
 5 a number of officers who supported you and Hollie during
 6 the time that you were waiting.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And I know you want to express your clear gratitude.
 9 A. Yes, I would, at some point once this is over, like to
 10 do that in person. But I owe them everything.
 11 Q. I just want to take you to your paragraph 53 for those
 12 who are following. It's a point I raised with Mr Parry
 13 yesterday. You touch upon the impact of this here. You
 14 told the chair that you were given advice by people
 15 about letting Hollie go to sleep when she wanted to.
 16 A. Mm—hm.
 17 Q. As you say towards the bottom of paragraph 53:
 18 "I presumed that the people who had told me it was
 19 fine were paramedics because they were wearing green."
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. So you initially thought it was okay?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. So you took again from the colour of the green, the
 24 uniform they were wearing, that they were well trained?
 25 A. Yes.

141

1 Q. And well experienced?
 2 A. Absolutely.
 3 Q. And that the advice they were giving you was good
 4 advice?
 5 A. Yes, it never entered my head that it was anything other
 6 than that.
 7 Q. Just a few other matters. In your paragraph 107,
 8 you have told the chair that you continue to suffer from
 9 PTSD and it has changed your life.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Can I ask some details about how it has changed your
 12 life. Do you want to give the chair a few details? If
 13 you want to. If you don't, we can move on.
 14 A. In every way. Nothing in my life is the same any more.
 15 I don't go out on my own. I need my 19-year-old
 16 daughter to do my food shopping, collect parcels, just
 17 do anything because I can't do things on my own.
 18 I don't go to shopping malls and food shops. Whenever
 19 I go out, I have to weigh up what are the chances that
 20 I'm going to die if I go there.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Do you get help?
 22 A. I'm not at the moment because I'm here, but obviously
 23 I do from the Hub, who are amazing. I've had a lot of
 24 trauma therapy and stuff in the past, and I will have
 25 more when this is finished.

142

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 2 MR COOPER: My last question is a similar question. If you
 3 feel comfortable, and if Hollie feels comfortable with
 4 this, it's your paragraph 110, where you tell us that
 5 Hollie also suffers from PTSD and anxiety. If you are
 6 comfortable in just the way you did a moment ago giving
 7 us some details, and as long as Hollie is comfortable
 8 with that as well — I see her nodding.
 9 A. It's ruined her life. She was 12 when this happened to
 10 her. She's not had the life of a teenager. She can't
 11 accept that she can't do things that her friends can
 12 because somebody intentionally did this to her. She's
 13 missed more than half of her school life. She doesn't
 14 go out alone either. She has panic attacks. She's had
 15 hallucinations, really bad anxiety, and sometimes the
 16 pain, the psychological element of the pain, just gets
 17 too much for her. It's just horrific what it's done to
 18 her.
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I wish that people who do this sort of
 20 thing would take some notice of that. I fear actually
 21 it's the opposite.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I have seen that Hollie has done some
 24 remarkable things —
 25 A. She has, yes.

143

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: — and you must be very proud of that.
 2 A. I am, yes, every day.
 3 MR COOPER: On a concluding note, I gather from what I've
 4 been personally told, she wants to be a lawyer.
 5 A. She does.
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I should think she would have learned
 7 better after being here for this long.
 8 MR COOPER: She's got ambitions, hasn't she?
 9 A. She has, definitely.
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you very much, Mr Cooper.
 11 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, are there any other matters you want to
 12 deal with?
 13 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: No. I'm very grateful for you giving
 14 your account. I'm sure it's been difficult reliving
 15 that awful night for you and the terrible consequences
 16 for your sister, your daughter and you. Your sister was
 17 32?
 18 A. She was, yes.
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are you the older sister or the younger?
 20 A. I'm the oldest.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It actually brought home to me how long
 22 these events must have seemed to you. We know,
 23 of course, the exact times and of course for some people
 24 it was really quick, but for the people who were there
 25 suffering, it was incredibly long. It has brought home

144

1 to us all just how evil this attack was, if we need to
 2 be reminded, and how appalling the consequences. We are
 3 all sorry for your loss of your sister and for the
 4 consequences and the suffering that you've had and all
 5 we can hope is that you are able to make a considerable
 6 recovery.
 7 A. Thank you.
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I think some wise person said you may
 9 not be able to forget it, but you may be able to perhaps
 10 walk round it.
 11 A. Thank you.
 12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Let's rise, please.
 13 (2.40 pm)
 14 (A short break)
 15 (2.55 pm)
 16 MS CARTWRIGHT: Sir, as you know, the gentleman in the
 17 witness box is Bradley Hurley. Could I ask that he now
 18 be sworn.
 19 MR BRADLEY HURLEY (affirmed)
 20 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT
 21 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could you please tell the hearing your full
 22 name.
 23 A. Bradley Michael Hurley.
 24 Q. And sir, as with the evidence of Claire Booth, Bradley,
 25 as you know, is the brother of Megan, and Bradley wishes

145

1 today in giving his evidence to give the details of
 2 injuries that he sustained but also in giving his
 3 account of his experience on 22 May, inevitably there
 4 will be reference to Megan. So again we make clear
 5 at the outset that there are aspects of the evidence
 6 that will be heard in this afternoon's session that some
 7 may find distressing and again we will highlight when we
 8 get to the post-detonation period if any wish to either
 9 leave the room or cease to watch.
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: It's entirely your option. If at any
 11 time you want to break or keep going, you make the
 12 choice.
 13 A. I will, thank you.
 14 MS CARTWRIGHT: Bradley, you wish to give evidence today, we
 15 understand, in respect of the statement you gave to the
 16 inquiry dated 29 June of this year.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. I think you've indicated, as the approach was with
 19 Claire Booth, you also wish to adopt a similar approach
 20 to your evidence this afternoon.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. If we start then with the period of the day before the
 23 detonation. You tell us that you attended the
 24 Ariana Grande concert with your 15-year-old sister,
 25 Megan.

146

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And that the tickets to the concert were a Christmas
 3 gift to Megan from your parents.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And due to the original ticket release being sold out,
 6 your parents purchased them from a trusted secondary
 7 seller.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. They were purchased with a Prime View Laurent Perrier
 10 experience.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And it meant you were able to go into the Prime View Bar
 13 at the arena --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- something very important to you --
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. -- before the concert and had better than usual seats?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And these seats were in block 102, row R, seats 1 and 2.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. I think you tell us about Megan being a fan of
 22 Ariana Grande. Can you tell us a little bit that,
 23 please?
 24 A. Yes. She just has always been a big fan and then when
 25 it came to Christmastime, she asked to go to the concert

147

1 and then my mum and dad wanted to get it her as
 2 a Christmas present and I said I'd buy my own ticket and
 3 I'd go because I knew some songs and we and Meg had been
 4 to concerts before. So I just -- that's how we ended up
 5 to go.
 6 Q. You tell us that, as well as being that huge fan, she
 7 was very excited in the weeks and days leading up to the
 8 show --
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. -- and would be constantly sending you videos and
 11 pictures of the countdown to the show.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Can you tell us about your situation on 22 May, Bradley?
 14 Is it right that you were a student?
 15 A. I was a student and I was in part-time work but I can't
 16 remember what I was doing on the day. I don't think I
 17 was in university. I think maybe I just had the day
 18 off, I'm not sure, but I had worked around that time and
 19 been in university. I think university had finished
 20 actually -- university finished early in the month and
 21 then -- so I would have been in part-time work.
 22 Q. What were you studying at that time?
 23 A. Graphic design.
 24 Q. Just on the graphic design, we see you're wearing the
 25 pin for Megan. Is that something you were involved in

148

1 designing?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Thank you. You tell us that you remember getting ready
 4 for the concert and Megan was debating wearing one of
 5 your T-shirts that she thought was cool --
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. -- but she eventually decided to wear her own clothes.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And you took selfies in Megan's bedroom and your mum,
 10 Joanne, took photographs of you together downstairs on
 11 a DSLR camera.
 12 A. Yes, and we joked about -- I think she said we should
 13 take the camera to the concert and we were like, we
 14 can't take such a huge camera to the concert. So we
 15 just got a few photos in the kitchen and then got ready
 16 to go.
 17 Q. You poured some wine into a plastic water bottle with
 18 a straw for the journey -- and that was for you?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And you set off?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Just give us an idea, so we can get an idea of what was
 23 happening in the Hurley household at that time, what was
 24 the mood like?
 25 A. It was good. It was a sunny day and we were obviously

149

1 excited to see the show. It was just a happy atmosphere
 2 and the drive down there was normal and I had the
 3 plastic wine bottle and was drinking and it was just
 4 a normal drive.
 5 Q. You tell us that both of your parents, Michael and
 6 Joanne, drove you and Megan to the concert.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You describe it as a pleasant journey, listening to the
 9 CD of Ariana Grande on the way and you sipping your
 10 wine.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You tell us that as you neared the arena, you
 13 desperately needed a comfort break and so your mother
 14 and father dropped you off near Victoria Street.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. They decided to wait in Manchester until the end of the
 17 concert to pick you and Meg up.
 18 A. Yes, that was always the plan. I feel I have wrote it
 19 in my statement that they decided on the day but they
 20 drove us and they were always going to wait in
 21 Manchester.
 22 Q. You remember that it was a sunny and hot day and you
 23 were beginning to regret wearing a sweater.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. So you walked the short distance with Megan past the

150

1 Hunts Bank entrance and into Victoria Train Station and
 2 you knew the arena quite well as that was your seventh
 3 concert there --
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. -- and you had used the train station and City Room
 6 multiple times.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You say that for a concert you would usually use the
 9 Hunts Bank entrance but your tickets had stated that the
 10 entrance to the Prime View Bar was via the City Room.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. So you went through Victoria Train Station and you tell
 13 us, from having reviewed the sequence of events, that
 14 this was timed at 18.35.52.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. You describe, after having quickly visited the bathroom
 17 area, that you Megan went up the footbridge, made your
 18 way up the stairs into the City Room, and that was at
 19 18.40.24, again from the sequence of events that Greater
 20 Manchester Police have collated.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Can you just describe what the City Room was like at
 23 that time?
 24 A. I remember it being kind of busy but not overly busy.
 25 I know it was busy around the merchandise stall and

151

1 that's where we needed to go to get merchandise.
 2 I think we stood back to look and Megan chose a T-shirt
 3 and then I also got a T-shirt. And yeah -- there was
 4 nothing out of the ordinary. I don't know if I'd been
 5 in there when it had been a concert, I'd been there in
 6 the room when I had been at the train station, or
 7 whatever like that, but yes, it just seemed like the way
 8 any concert seems at the beginning.
 9 Q. You say:
 10 "We then spotted the entrance to the Prime View
 11 Experience just next to the general admission doors to
 12 the arena concourse and [you] made your own over there.
 13 There was no queue at that door as it was only for the
 14 Prime View tickets that [you] and Megan had."
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And you describe one male steward manning the door.
 17 Do you want to describe -- because I think there was as
 18 you were going through some issue about the --
 19 A. Yes. I then had the bags with the T-shirts in.
 20 I passed the -- the tickets was in the bag so I opened
 21 the bag to get the ticket out, but then passed the
 22 bottle to Megan, which was like half full maybe, and
 23 then got the ticket out and scanned it, but the guy
 24 didn't notice that Megan had the drink. Then we went
 25 into the Prime View Bar and like a few -- I think after

152

1 we spent our time in there, I asked someone if they
 2 could dispose of the bottle, which had maybe that much
 3 (indicating) wine left in it and she was like quite
 4 angry that we'd been allowed to get it in and she was
 5 asking which entrance I'd come in and I was like
 6 I didn't want to get anyone into any trouble or anything
 7 like that. We didn't purposely try and sneak the bottle
 8 in, we just happened to and then I had stopped drinking
 9 it anyway. So the woman was just a bit — she just
 10 seemed she annoyed and then she called for more security
 11 I think and they came and searched the bag and stuff
 12 like that, which was quite embarrassing.
 13 Q. You say it was embarrassing because people were looking
 14 at you and Megan.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. I think you describe a little later on that woman came
 17 to speak to you again about support acts but was very
 18 pleasant with you at that time.
 19 A. Yes, I think she kind of felt guilty about maybe making
 20 such a big deal about it because we were obviously so
 21 embarrassed.
 22 Q. You then describe that you and Megan were having such
 23 a good time in the Prime View Bar that you decided to
 24 stay there until Ariana Grande was due to take to the
 25 stage as you didn't know any of the support acts.

153

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And you were informed by the staff in the bar that
 3 Ariana Grande would start at 9 pm and finish at 10.30.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. You texted your mother that information as they were
 6 waiting in Manchester to pick you up after the show.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You describe that you and Megan made your way to the
 9 arena bowl at around 8.30.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And you know this from photographs on your camera roll.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. You describe having a great view of the stage and before
 14 long the concert began, and you and Megan sang and
 15 danced together.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You describe taking loads of videos and pictures.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And joked about how few of the songs you knew.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. In the middle of the concert, that jumper got too
 22 unbearable and you changed into your Ariana Grande
 23 T-shirt that you had bought earlier?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. You say that you knew what the last song was going to be

154

1 and you and Megan had decided to exit immediately as it
 2 finished.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You were at the end of row, so had to be first to exit
 5 as well.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Just before we then deal with the time afterwards, it
 8 seems from everything you have said that you and Megan
 9 had a wonderful night at the concert.
 10 A. Yes, we did. It was just really fun night. Like
 11 I said, we'd been to so many concerts before and we just
 12 enjoyed it. That was something we really enjoyed doing
 13 together and it was just a great night.
 14 Q. Thank you. You tell us that it gets particularly hectic
 15 when leaving a concert, so you held Megan's hand —
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. — as you made your way up the stairs to the arena
 18 concourse.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And the nearest exit to your seats and block was the
 21 Hunts Bank steps.
 22 A. Yes, I knew there were so many steps and Megan had high
 23 shoes on, so I thought it would be easier to go the way
 24 that we came in.
 25 Q. And that would be back through the City Room and exiting

155

1 via Victoria Station?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You say that as you and Megan approached the doors into
 4 the City Room, Megan said to you, "What an experience
 5 that was".
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And you both laughed?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. You then both walked into the City Room and headed for
 10 the doors down to Victoria Station.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You know from what you've reviewed that this was at
 13 22.30.49.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. You took your phone out to tell your mother and father
 16 where you were going to meet them.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Is there anything else you want to tell us about before
 19 we deal with the detonation?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. So having indicated at the outset the aspects that
 22 we are going to cover, I make clear that we are now
 23 going to deal with the detonation and the period
 24 post-detonation for any that wish to leave the room or
 25 wish to stop watching on the feed.

156

1 You tell us, Bradley, that you think you had been
 2 in the City Room for around 5 seconds before your vision
 3 went completely white.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. You describe feeling your whole body going extremely
 6 hot.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. You say you didn't hear a bang, only a sharp,
 9 high-pitched piercing sound.
 10 A. It just was like a mosquito sound, like a -- but really
 11 it was a high-pitched, sharp noise. I didn't hear any
 12 type of bang and just felt hot everywhere. I feel like
 13 it lasted like 3 to 4 seconds. When it was happening,
 14 I remember consciously thinking to myself, "I've
 15 collapsed or I'm having a heart attack", something like
 16 that, because of how all my senses obviously were just
 17 confused as to what was happening. And then I don't
 18 remember feeling like flying through the air or falling
 19 or anything like that, I just remember that I then was
 20 on the floor after the brightness had kind of faded.
 21 Q. You say that after the immediate shock wore off, you
 22 realised you were on the floor.
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. And the first thing you tried to do was get up?
 25 A. Yes.

157

1 Q. But you describe feeling a pain. Do you want to tell us
 2 about that, please?
 3 A. I just remember -- I think because I'd fell, the instant
 4 thing I wanted to do was stand up and I just felt this
 5 shooting pain go through me -- like the top of my legs
 6 to the bottom of my legs and I realised that I couldn't
 7 get up. I think I knew straightaway that my legs were
 8 broke, just off the pain -- I'd never broke anything
 9 before, but I just knew obviously they were because
 10 I couldn't stand up or put any -- I couldn't even move
 11 them.
 12 Q. You tell us that you were lying on your back and your
 13 feet were facing towards the doors to
 14 Victoria Station --
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. -- propped up on to your elbows.
 17 A. Yes, and my legs were bent, if that makes sense. So
 18 kind of like my knees were bent and my legs were like up
 19 towards me kind of, but I was still lying down. Does
 20 that make sense?
 21 Q. Yes. And you also say at that time that your vision and
 22 hearing were still distorted.
 23 A. Yes, my vision was like blurred and -- I just could see
 24 a bright light, like when someone takes a photo, kind
 25 of, and my hearing was like I was underwater and I

158

1 couldn't -- it was silent for a second and then it went
 2 into screaming and stuff like that, but everything
 3 sounded distorted to me, like I was under the water, if
 4 that makes sense.
 5 Q. And I think you describe in your witness statement the
 6 sensation you felt on your skin. Do you want to tell us
 7 about that?
 8 A. I was just burning all over. My left side and whole
 9 left arm, where I had changed into the T-shirt, my whole
 10 arm was exposed and it was just burning and the whole of
 11 the left side of my face was burning as well, just like
 12 a sting, like -- it was just like stinging when you like
 13 graze your knee but like all over kind of and it was
 14 just like super painful.
 15 Q. I think you know now what was causing that pain.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Just perhaps if you can clarify what was causing the
 18 sensation you were feeling.
 19 A. I think... Is it secondary? Let me just double-check,
 20 sorry. I think it's secondary or third-degree burns.
 21 Q. Thank you. I think you also describe at that time that
 22 you saw that you could see the bone in your shin.
 23 A. Yes. My jeans were still intact, but I could see that
 24 the shape of my leg underneath my jeans was not where it
 25 should be. I think the bone was kind of protruding

159

1 where it had broken.
 2 Q. I think you describe the floor itself feeling hot.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And also that there was a large amount of debris and
 5 shrapnel on the ground which made it painful for you to
 6 put your hands down?
 7 A. Yes, where I was burnt and stuff, it was like when I was
 8 touching the floor, it was making it more kind of
 9 like -- I don't know, it just felt worse because there
 10 were so many bits on the floor. It wasn't a smooth
 11 place to rest anything.
 12 Q. Thank you. You describe that you were covered in blood.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You say that:
 15 "[You] instantly knew from trying to move that both
 16 your legs were broken, they were completely unmovable
 17 and when [you] tried, it would be excruciating pain."
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And you weren't able to straighten your legs out from
 20 the position you described to us and they had to stay
 21 bent.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. I think you then tell us in your witness statement about
 24 seeing Megan. Do you want to tell us about what you saw
 25 at that time?

160

1 A. I just — obviously, the first thing, after I had kind
 2 of composed myself, was to look at Megan. I knew she
 3 wasn't moving. I knew straightaway that she had died
 4 because she wasn't — I could see from her stomach that
 5 she wasn't breathing and I just feel like I knew very
 6 quickly after it happening that she had died and there
 7 was just nothing...

8 Q. You tell us you remember shouting her name as loud as
 9 you could and trying to provoke a reaction from Megan.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. At some point you turned her and you describe that she
 12 looked awful —

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. — and you knew that she had gone.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You tell us that you tried to detect a pulse but
 17 couldn't. You describe that moment as feeling strangely
 18 calm.

19 A. Yes. It's like I just ... I think it must have
 20 obviously been shock, but I just didn't feel panic at
 21 all. I was just like, "Oh my God, I need to just
 22 concentrate and try and" — I don't know, I was thinking
 23 to myself, "I need to remember everything that's
 24 happened", and so much stuff was going through my head.
 25 But I just — it was like a calm — it was like I hadn't

161

1 understood what really was happening. I just felt a mad
 2 type of calm. I don't know.

3 Q. I think you describe that as well as that strange
 4 feeling of calm, there was an acceptance about what you
 5 then knew about Megan.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You say you think that's what survival mode feels like.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You knew you had to save yourself.

10 A. Yes. It was like — I just felt like there was nothing
 11 I could do — it was like straightaway I was just like :
 12 it's happened and I can't do anything about it, all
 13 I can do is try and focus on — I didn't even know what
 14 I was planning on doing for myself, but I don't know,
 15 I just felt like there's nothing I can do to change
 16 what's happening.

17 Q. You say you were able to tell straightaway that this had
 18 been a terrorist attack —

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. — a bomb, and that was by the shrapnel that you saw.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say you don't remember how you learned it, but knew
 23 that that was a method that had been used in attacks.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you also, in a similar way to Claire Booth has

162

1 identified, you are able, from your participation in
 2 this process and the criminal trial, to know that you
 3 were around 2 to 4 metres away from the seat of the
 4 explosion.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you had gone on to describe in your witness
 7 statement that what we are about to go through now may
 8 not necessarily be in complete chronological order, but
 9 what you have sought to do is give your recollection
 10 about —

11 A. It's just things that I know definitely happened, but
 12 they just might not be in the exact order that they
 13 happened.

14 Q. Okay. You describe that the room quickly descended into
 15 chaos and you could hear shouting and screams of pain
 16 coming from every direction.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The room was dimly lit and smoky.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you were trying not to panic but you have never felt
 21 so alone and helpless.

22 A. I think anyone would have felt alone in that situation,
 23 but also not being able to stand up, I knew that I was
 24 bound to being on the floor and it was just such
 25 a daunting — because then obviously some people had

163

1 started to move and get up if they could and I was just
 2 like, I can't even leave, I'm just stuck. And
 3 obviously, I'd been next to Megan, it was just... just
 4 the worst imaginable situation.

5 Q. You described that you could see, when you looked
 6 towards the middle of the room, where the explosion had
 7 come from.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say:

10 "It sounds strange, but a lot of thoughts raced
 11 through [your] mind in the short period after the
 12 explosion."

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And that you knew you should try and remember
 15 everything. You thought about whether you should try to
 16 call the police, you thought about trying CPR on
 17 Megan —

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. — but you didn't know how?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And you thought about contacting your parents.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You thought about the possibility that you too would die
 24 from blood loss.

25 A. Yes. I could see in my jeans, there was a lot of blood

164

1 coming out of my jeans, like a fast — it looked like
 2 water kind of, just coming out. I knew that I was
 3 bleeding a lot and I couldn't even see myself to see
 4 what I looked like, I just didn't even know how bad the
 5 injuries were, I just didn't know.
 6 Q. The thought that then went through your mind at that
 7 time is how would your parents cope if they lost you as
 8 well as Megan.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You say that at one point you remember seeing others
 11 injured round about you, similarly injured, looking
 12 stunned also but, when you saw them later, they were
 13 lying flat.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And you were really conscious not to lose consciousness.
 16 A. Yes, I had seen people sat up or at least alert and then
 17 turn less conscious and less aware and I was thinking
 18 that's obviously going to happen to me eventually. So
 19 I was just trying to stay awake and just trying to stay
 20 alert, kind of.
 21 Q. You describe in your witness statement — and I am not
 22 going to go to the details unless you want to, Bradley
 23 — that there were a number of people around you
 24 similarly injured.
 25 A. Yes.

165

1 Q. But you did not have words to speak to them.
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. You didn't know what to say to them. So everyone around
 4 you is what you described as "lying around you"?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You say that you don't know how long after the
 7 explosion, but at some point you became aware that the
 8 police had entered the City Room.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And you remember a male shouting across the room for the
 11 walking wounded to get out and people who could walk
 12 began to vacate the room.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And are you able to help us at all as to who that man
 15 was?
 16 A. I think his name was Jason, but I'm not sure on his
 17 surname. I know he was a prominent figure for me and my
 18 mum later in the night but I'm pretty sure it was him.
 19 Q. You say a police officer came over to you personally and
 20 told you if you could walk, you needed to get out.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And you were able to tell him that you had broken both
 23 of your legs.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. You tell us that a man came over to you and you told

166

1 them that Megan was your sister.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. He checked Megan at that time for a pulse and said to
 4 you, "I'm sorry".
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You say you're unclear who, but somebody wrapped their
 7 belt around your leg as a makeshift tourniquet.
 8 A. Yes. I don't know if it was the same guy who checked
 9 Megan, maybe, but I think it was someone that I believed
 10 was professional in that I believe they were doing the
 11 right thing, if that makes sense.
 12 Q. You say in your statement:
 13 "I remember thinking that he had done the right
 14 thing from the basic first aid knowledge that you had."
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. You then describe a male in his 20s of muscular build,
 17 wearing a blue top, came over to you. You say:
 18 "From the manner in which he spoke to me, I have
 19 always surmised he was from the army."
 20 A. I don't know why I thought that, but he was speaking
 21 like he had dealt with something like that before.
 22 I don't know what gave me that sense but he came and
 23 stayed with me for quite a while and he said he was
 24 picking his girlfriend up. I said, "You need to find
 25 her", and he was like, "She's not in here". I don't

167

1 know how long he stayed with me for, but it felt like
 2 a while. I remember him a lot — like, I can't remember
 3 much of the conversation or anything like that.
 4 Q. Are you able to identify who that male is now?
 5 A. No, I can't remember, but I do now.
 6 Q. You say:
 7 "He asked me why I had the makeshift tourniquet on
 8 my leg and I told him that someone had put it on me and
 9 he told me to take it off. He said, 'You could lose
 10 your leg if you didn't', and I took the belt off but
 11 didn't then know who to believe."
 12 A. Yes. I don't know if I took it off or if he took it
 13 off. But I just was conflicted. I didn't know who
 14 would have gave me the best advice — and obviously with
 15 me saying I thought it was from the army, I thought
 16 maybe he's more experienced in stuff like this and maybe
 17 it should be off, I just didn't know which was the best
 18 thing to do.
 19 Q. But whether you took it off or he took it off, the
 20 tourniquet was taken off your leg?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. You go on to tell us that somebody was walking around
 23 the City Room handing out Ariana Grande merchandise out
 24 of a cardboard box that was being used to place
 25 coverings over those who had died.

168

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. As he approached you, you assumed he was homeless and
 3 you felt uncomfortable and felt unsafe.
 4 A. Yes. I think just the feeling of not having my legs
 5 just made me feel so vulnerable and anyone coming over
 6 to me, I can't protect myself in any way against
 7 anything that anyone else can do to me. He just
 8 didn't ... I felt like he was smiling, which didn't feel
 9 normal to me, so I told him to go away because it was
 10 just -- because it was just, I don't know, like my
 11 instincts, it just made me feel uncomfortable.
 12 Q. You go on to tell us that someone later covered Megan
 13 but you were unsure who did that.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. You describe more police arriving, shouting, asking for
 16 belts.
 17 A. Yes, yes.
 18 Q. And you believed these would be used as makeshift
 19 tourniquets. You describe that as police officers
 20 walked through the room you were constantly asking
 21 people to check your pulse and check you over.
 22 A. Yes. That's like with me saying before about me feeling
 23 calm, it was like I was just trying to do anything that
 24 I thought could help in any type of way or try and get
 25 people's attention to make them aware of my situation

169

1 kind of. I was asking for people to check my pulse and
 2 stuff like that, but ...
 3 Q. You say that you don't feel like you ever received
 4 a proper check over.
 5 A. No, because everything was under my jeans, like, there
 6 was no way you could have -- my jeans didn't get cut off
 7 until I was downstairs, so I couldn't really have had
 8 a proper check over in the City Room because everything
 9 was covered that was the worst injured.
 10 Q. You go on to tell us in your witness statement about an
 11 involvement with Patrick Ennis, so can I ask you first
 12 of all, do you have a recollection of seeing
 13 Patrick Ennis or --
 14 A. No, I don't recall that. I just know it from the review
 15 of official evidence.
 16 Q. So what we are about to cover in your witness statement
 17 is purely from what you have learned from having seen
 18 the sequence of events?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You say:
 21 "I know from extracts from the sequence of events
 22 evidence that Patrick Ennis assessed me at 23.06.42 for
 23 10 seconds."
 24 And you do not recall that very short assessment?
 25 A. No.

170

1 Q. You tell us that you really wanted to stay alert and
 2 stay conscious --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- and you were so worried about your parents losing
 5 both of their children.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Again, something you've repeated?
 8 A. It just kept coming into my head -- I knew that my
 9 parents were there and I didn't even know at that stage
 10 what had happened yet, I just couldn't stop thinking
 11 about them.
 12 Q. Again that feeling of vulnerability you have described
 13 as being injured, in pain on the floor, unable to move,
 14 you describe:
 15 "The feeling of large, heavy police boots walking
 16 around so close to my face was so uncomfortable.
 17 Everyone being stood up around me as I lay on the floor
 18 was surreal."
 19 A. Yes. I just want to emphasise I was in so much pain, so
 20 to have people walking round, it was just so -- I have
 21 never felt so helpless, like being on the floor in that
 22 much pain with boots next to me. It was just not -- it
 23 was just so scary.
 24 Q. You described that:
 25 "Everyone who spoke to me seemed to be fleeting and

171

1 hectic. They would leave me to check on someone else
 2 and then not come back."
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And you kept asking if the ambulances were coming.
 5 A. Yes. I know at some stage I heard sirens as well.
 6 I don't know whether that's when I started to ask --
 7 I know the sounds of the sirens at some point gave me
 8 a breath of relief because I was like -- okay, like,
 9 they've arrived. But yeah.
 10 Q. You say that police officers would reassure you that
 11 they were on their way -- and that's the paramedics?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. But you felt that they too were frustrated and confused
 14 that they weren't there already.
 15 A. Yes, I just started to get the vibe that the police were
 16 also, like: where are they, why are they still not --
 17 but they were trying to reassure everyone who was
 18 asking, but within themselves were having conversations
 19 and I overheard things that were giving me the vibe that
 20 they were also, like, "What's going on?"
 21 Q. So saying to you they were coming --
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. -- and you would then overhear officers expressing
 24 frustration that there were no paramedics in the room?
 25 A. Yes.

172

1 Q. You describe that at some point somebody went round
2 labelling the casualties with numbered wristbands and
3 the deceased with labels that identified them as
4 deceased.
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Can you tell us about what your wristband had, please?
7 A. Somebody put number 2 around my wrist. I don't know if
8 I knew at the time what it was, but obviously I've
9 learnt since that it meant second priority to leave,
10 which kind of shocks me because I was really, really
11 badly injured and obviously in so much pain and bleeding
12 and also had just lost Megan and everything -- so
13 I don't know, it seems mad to me looking back that I was
14 a 2.
15 Q. I think you've already told us that whilst you were
16 in the City Room, your jeans had not been cut off to
17 reveal what lay beneath the fabric.
18 A. Yes, exactly.
19 Q. But can you describe, when that did take place, what was
20 visible underneath your jeans?
21 A. Yes. I had 11 large holes were obviously shrapnel had
22 entered my leg and they were all obviously bleeding
23 a lot. There was one in my foot. Then they took my
24 shoe off and both of my legs were broken. I don't know
25 what that looked like, but from what it looked like with

173

1 my jeans on, I think that would have been obvious as
2 well once they were off. So yes, it just -- I feel like
3 just looking at me upstairs wouldn't have gave a good
4 impression, like a realistic impression of how injured
5 I actually was.
6 Q. Would it then be your evidence that actually to
7 understand what injuries you had, it was absolutely
8 necessary for your jeans to have been cut to reveal what
9 sat beneath?
10 A. Yes, I think so.
11 Q. You say this at this point also:
12 "It also confuses me that I was the last survivor to
13 leave the City Room despite my numbering being 2."
14 A. Yes. I just -- looking back, like, I was really badly
15 injured. I mean, I think it was an hour and 8 minutes
16 that I was on the floor, in so much pain, constantly
17 just asking for help. I think it obviously got to
18 a certain point where I thought it's not going to be any
19 time soon, because it felt like such a long time that
20 I was in there for.
21 Q. You say at some stage you began to search for your
22 mobile phone. You knew you had to try and contact
23 someone. The floor was strewn with bags and other
24 items. And you couldn't find your phone anywhere. You
25 describe that it must have been blown out of your hand

174

1 during the detonation --
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. -- and you remember picking someone else's phone up but
4 it was locked but you eventually found Megan's phone --
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. -- and it was completely shattered and bent, half the
7 screen had gone black --
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. -- and you knew you wouldn't be able to get access to
10 the phone but you kept hold of it in the hope that your
11 parents would call the phone.
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. And a few minutes later that did happen --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. -- and Megan's phone began to ring, but the smashed
16 screen made it impossible to answer.
17 A. Yes. When I swiped it to answer it, because the screen
18 was so smashed, it wasn't like -- I kept trying and then
19 I think, I don't even know how long it was, I eventually
20 was able to swipe and answer the phone, which I'm so
21 lucky for because I don't even know how my parents would
22 have found out if that wasn't the case.
23 Q. So you've described once you pushed really hard on the
24 screen, you then got your father on the other end of the
25 phone who wanted to know where were you.

175

1 A. Yes, they had seen people running and stuff like that
2 and they had a vibe that something wasn't right. He
3 said, "Where are you", and I was trying to speak to him
4 but it was so loud in the room, I felt it wasn't going
5 to hear me and I just said, "There's been a bomb", and
6 he said, "Get out," and I said, "I can't, I've broke
7 both me legs", and he said, "Where's Megan?", so I said,
8 "She's here", but I didn't want to say on the phone what
9 -- everything that's happened because I'm like thinking:
10 is he is going to be able to get her, I just didn't
11 know, how he's going to react to that on the phone? So
12 I just said, "She's here", and he said, "Stay there",
13 and I explained where we were because I knew that he
14 also knew where the box office was and he said, "Stay
15 there, I'm coming".
16 Q. So you were able to tell your dad you were by the box
17 office?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. And your father said he was on his way?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. And on his way he was?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. You then say that your mum began to call Megan's phone.
24 A. Yes. It rang again and I was able to answer it again
25 and that time it was my mum and my mum had said, like,

176

1 "What's going on?" I told her the same thing and then
 2 she said, "Stay calm, your dad's coming". She said, "Is
 3 Megan okay?" And I didn't... I had the choice of
 4 either telling her on the phone and then -- because
 5 I knew she then wasn't with my dad, so I was like I can
 6 either tell her now and she can't get here or I have to
 7 lie to her and tell her that she's okay when I know
 8 she's not. So I had to say to my mum on the phone and
 9 that ... that Megan had died. She was saying, like, "She
 10 hadn't, she must be unconscious, don't say that", and
 11 then, I don't remember how the conversation ended.
 12 Q. What we've seen has been very difficult to tell us,
 13 thank you, Bradley. You say it was the worst thing
 14 you have ever had to do.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. You say you stared at the door waiting for your dad to
 17 enter the City Room and that chaos continued to ensue
 18 around you.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You thought that your father would not be allowed in,
 21 but he did come to you.
 22 A. Yes. I seen him come through the door, which felt like
 23 far away from us at that time, and I shouted him three
 24 times, but again, because it was so loud, it just felt
 25 like it wasn't going to hear me, and then I think like

177

1 on the third time he seen us and came over.
 2 Q. Again, we know from the work the police have done in
 3 respect of your father entering Victoria Station through
 4 the war memorial, that took place at 22.54.11.
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And Michael Hurley entered the City Room via the link
 7 footbridge at 22.54.44, and is captured standing next to
 8 you and Megan by 22.56.26.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You tell us that your father was distraught upon seeing
 11 you and Megan in the state that you were.
 12 A. Yes, obviously that was the first of him finding out
 13 what had happened to Megan. I just have never seen my
 14 dad act like that. He just wasn't... It was, I don't
 15 know, like shock again and numbness. It was just so
 16 horrible to see people in that situation and the way
 17 they react is just so ...
 18 Q. And you didn't know what to say.
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. But at some stage while your father was there, some men
 21 began to assess Megan.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. You remember one of the men saying he thought she had
 24 a pulse.
 25 A. Yes.

178

1 Q. You asked if they could get a defibrillator to you
 2 because you hadn't seen any.
 3 A. No. I thought that was mad, that I was the first
 4 person -- like I had to suggest it. I was like, "Why is
 5 this not being done already? Surely the quicker we get
 6 things done, the more chance there is of a better
 7 outcome". And like looking back, it was mad that
 8 I suggested it and then whoever I suggested it to went
 9 and got it.
 10 Q. You say that a crowd of police were around you whilst
 11 they organised themselves to begin CPR on Megan.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. There was a restriction on space because of the number
 14 of people around you and Megan.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. You remember they began chest compressions and
 17 mouth-to-mouth on Megan.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. It's clear that was not working. But then
 20 a defibrillator unit was brought and began to be used on
 21 Megan.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. The machine was working but, I think fitting with what
 24 you had already seen and witnessed of Megan, tragically
 25 it did not help her.

179

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. You recall another male abruptly telling those that were
 3 helping and performing CPR on Megan that they were to
 4 stop and move on.
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And your father was telling them that they would not
 7 move on and would try again --
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. -- which they did.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And all the time that your father was with Megan, he
 12 would be constantly asking for medical help.
 13 A. Yes. It just became, like, a thing that just was
 14 constantly getting said because it was getting to the
 15 point where I was just literally, like, "Where is it?",
 16 it's crazy at this point. It was just bizarre that even
 17 like the people using the defibrillator, they didn't
 18 seem 100% on how to use it. It felt very like everyone
 19 was in a state of shock and panic and just trying to do
 20 what they could, but everyone was waiting for something
 21 more, even the professionals, it felt like.
 22 Q. You tell us your father continued to reassure you that
 23 help was on its way --
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. -- but you describe it as:

180

1 "It felt like the help we expected never came."
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. You say during this time your mum called your father.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. They had become separated whilst running to the arena.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And you remember your father saying to your mum, "You
 8 just need to get here".
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And your father then left to retrieve your mum and you
 11 describe that you know that this was at 23.05.58.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And again, we can see from the wider work that's been
 14 done by Greater Manchester Police that Michael Hurley
 15 left the City Room at 23.06.01, headed out on to Station
 16 Approach, and was captured then returning to the
 17 City Room at 23.08.09. He's then captured leaving the
 18 City Room again at 23.14.43 and going to
 19 Victoria Station and he returned with your mum,
 20 Joanne Hurley, and they entered the City Room together
 21 just after 23.20.14.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. You tell us that both of your parents entered the
 24 City Room coming up to an hour post—detonation.
 25 A. Yes.

181

1 Q. You had dreaded your mum entering the room and seeing
 2 you and Megan.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You describe that you knew it would ruin her life, that
 5 you witnessed the distress of both your mother and
 6 father, but they were in so much shock, they were unable
 7 to cry or even process what they were faced with.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. It was so hard for you to see your parents like that and
 10 that will be something that you will never forget.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You say:
 13 "It was impossible to know how to process your
 14 emotions. [You] remember [your] mum saying, 'Why us,
 15 why us?' Whilst [you] were there, thoughts about the
 16 future were racing through [your] mind and [you] knew
 17 that [your] life, [your] family's life, would never be
 18 the same."
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You describe that you cannot express enough how out of
 21 body and abnormal that experience felt and you were
 22 convinced you were going to wake up from a nightmare.
 23 A. Yes. It just — it just doesn't happen to people like
 24 us. It just felt so strange, like I was just — like
 25 there's no way that this is really going on. Like how

182

1 can it be? It just was the weirdest feeling I've ever
 2 felt.
 3 Q. You tell us that:
 4 "At some stage I could no longer prop myself up on
 5 my elbows and had to lie down flat on my back, but I was
 6 still unable to move my legs."
 7 And they remained in that bent position you have
 8 told us about, at a 90—degree angle, and you used the JD
 9 bag that you had purchased earlier to rest your head on.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. You describe all of your skin burning, but you had
 12 somehow turned freezing cold.
 13 A. Yes, I had started to shake and my teeth were
 14 chattering, as if I was cold, but I was still stinging,
 15 which felt hot from the burns, but was somehow still
 16 cold. It was weird.
 17 Q. You describe that you were covered with a green plastic
 18 sheet. And now as well as you, you remember your
 19 parents continually asking where the ambulance and
 20 paramedics were.
 21 A. Yes. I know it had only been 40/45 minutes at that
 22 point but it felt way over an hour, because everything
 23 seemed to be going so slow and everyone just seemed to
 24 be panicked still — even at this stage, there was still
 25 no organisation as such. It was just like: let's just

183

1 do whatever we can and like whatever comes into our head
 2 first. And it just felt like such a long time and
 3 that's why we were just going on about — like, "Where
 4 are the paramedics?" It just felt bizarre. I knew
 5 we were in the middle of major city and there had been
 6 a terrorist attack, but there was just not what you
 7 would expect for when that — you would think when that
 8 happens, there's going to be like so much help and
 9 you're going to be like straight to hospital but it just
 10 wasn't like that at all.
 11 Q. You say:
 12 "The people we were asking seemed as frustrated as
 13 [you] and [your] parents were."
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And you don't remember consciously noticing any
 16 paramedics.
 17 A. I don't remember seeing any.
 18 Q. You then describe witnessing other attempts that others
 19 were doing on those around you by way of resuscitation
 20 and again you describe the feeling of multiple police
 21 officers around you was daunting because you were in so
 22 much pain.
 23 A. Yes, and I kept getting knocked, which would jolt my
 24 legs, which would make me be in so much pain and I think
 25 at some stage whilst in the City Room my mum had started

184

1 to say, "Can we not just get him some pain relief at the
 2 very least if there's not going to be any paramedics up
 3 here?" I think the police were just like, "We can't do
 4 that".
 5 Q. You tell us about a police officer who you wish
 6 particularly to be particularly acknowledged for the
 7 assistance she provided to you and your family that
 8 night.
 9 A. Yes. Her name -- I remembered her name was Lauren from
 10 the night and then, obviously, I have since found out
 11 that it's PC Lauren Moore, and she just kept -- when
 12 I said earlier it seemed like everyone was fleeting and
 13 would go to see someone else and then not come back and
 14 everyone was just trying to do their best, she seemed to
 15 come back and stayed with me and it just felt like
 16 someone was aware of me and was going to keep making
 17 sure that I was okay and she was just reassuring me and
 18 speaking to me and stuff like that, which just meant
 19 a lot, even though she wasn't able to -- that was all
 20 she could really do for me, but it was reassuring and
 21 just meant a lot and I'll always say now, if I was to,
 22 God forbid, see a situation where there was injured
 23 people, I would like to think that I would sit and speak
 24 to them and just reassure them because it meant a lot
 25 that she just stayed, it just felt like she was focused

185

1 on me and that was the first time I felt like that from
 2 anyone professional, obviously apart from my parents.
 3 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Have you been able to speak to her
 4 since?
 5 A. I haven't, no. I have never --
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: I hope what you have said about her will
 7 be passed on to her.
 8 A. I would like that.
 9 MS CARTWRIGHT: You say being noticed gave you so much
 10 reassurance that you hadn't had up until that point.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And Lauren Moore was able to tell you that you'd be the
 13 next to be evacuated and asked you questions about your
 14 life to keep you talking.
 15 A. Yes. She was asking me like normal questions about
 16 university and stuff like that, trying to just take my
 17 mind off what was going on, I think.
 18 Q. At some point you describe:
 19 "People began to be carried out on makeshift
 20 stretchers comprised of fencing panels from around the
 21 merchandise stalls."
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And you couldn't believe what was happening.
 24 A. No. I just thought, like, surely to God there's got to
 25 be a better way of getting people out because it just

186

1 seemed like what -- I thought it was bad but it was like
 2 it was getting worse. Like, I was like, am I literally
 3 not going to go to hospital, just not going to get any
 4 medical treatment. I didn't know how long it was going
 5 to be at that stage. But I think when I had seen people
 6 getting taken out on them, I was like, okay, I am going
 7 to get taken out, because I could hear the sirens, so
 8 I was like, I am going to get put on a makeshift
 9 stretcher, get took down the stairs, and then to na
 10 ambulance straightaway. That's what I was thinking.
 11 Then obviously that didn't happen.
 12 Q. I think you've already made an observation about your
 13 thought process about being in a major city --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- but you tell us:
 16 "I knew we were in the middle of a major city and
 17 I knew there were so many injured people and couldn't
 18 fathom how little resources there seemed to be."
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. "[You] could hear so many sirens but it didn't match the
 21 amount of people in the room."
 22 A. Even the fact that we were in an arena, it was like,
 23 surely there's more medical stuff in a venue that holds
 24 20,000 people, or whatever it holds. I just couldn't
 25 wrap my head around it.

187

1 Q. You describe:
 2 "I couldn't understand how at such a major incident,
 3 clear major incident, there was such chaos and a lack of
 4 paramedics."
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You have also mentioned that your mum began asking for
 7 painkillers for you --
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. -- and also oxygen. You describe that you remember
 10 being shocked that it seemed to be you and now your
 11 mother who were asking and suggesting the obvious things
 12 like defibrillators and pain relief.
 13 A. Yes. I think she'd asked one of the policewomen and she
 14 just was so frantic to try and -- because she's like,
 15 saying to them, "That's my daughter and that's my son,
 16 I need my son to get some help", like obviously still in
 17 shock and just trying to do anything she could. I think
 18 everyone just felt as helpless as I did probably.
 19 Q. The body-worn footage of police officers in the
 20 City Room has captured a number of occasions where your
 21 mum, Joanne Hurley, asks for pain relief for you.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. You give an observation that's informed by plainly
 24 conversations you've had with your mother also. You
 25 say:

188

1 "My mum also couldn't believe the lack of action
2 being taken. She was beginning to get frustrated and
3 frantic."

4 A. Yes. She was — I think she was angry at what's
5 going — I just can't emphasise enough how much — it
6 was just shocking to us that we were still in this room,
7 and I was bleeding and in that much pain.

8 Q. You went into a different mode, which was telling your
9 mum to calm down by telling her you were going to be
10 fine.

11 A. Yes. I think I just ... Because like the way I am
12 talking about an hour, it sounds so frustrating, but at
13 the time I was trying to stay calm and be like there's
14 nothing I can do apart from just wait. So I just was
15 like trying to prevent my mum from getting like
16 overwhelmed. I think I said to my mum, "I'm just a bit
17 sore", but like obviously I was in excruciating pain.

18 Q. Okay. You describe that eventually your father grew
19 frustrated with the speed of your evacuation and took
20 matters into his own hands. He ran to get more fencing
21 panels and you don't know where he ran to, but he
22 eventually came back with one. There was then
23 a conversation about a patient near to you who needed
24 it.

25 A. Yes.

189

1 Q. And Lauren Moore, the police officer you've identified,
2 told you that you would be going down after that
3 patient.

4 A. Yes, which I think just frustrated my parents again.
5 Obviously they've got to do it in the order they've got
6 to do it in, but it was getting to the stage now where
7 my parents are like we've gone and retrieved things,
8 we've tried to proactively get our son out, and it's
9 still not working, he's not getting evacuated. It was
10 just frustration from my parents, I think.

11 Q. You described in your witness statement witnessing that
12 patient being placed upon the makeshift barrier and the
13 pain and discomfort that caused, such that you will
14 never forget what you heard.

15 A. Yes, which made me scared then to think I was going to
16 eventually have to go through a similar thing.

17 Q. Your mum was now so frustrated because the barrier was
18 then retrieved for you and pleaded with them to get you
19 out.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. She reminded them that you were her son and that Megan,
22 her daughter, had died.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So now your father was telling your mum to stay calm and
25 that he would go and get another barrier for you?

190

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Your father did just that, he went and found another
3 barrier and it was finally your turn to be moved.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You tell us that you now know that you were the final
6 survivor to leave the City Room.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Multiple police officers took part in manoeuvring you on
9 to the barrier.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. They tried to get you to assist them by changing
12 positions. Can you describe what that process was like
13 please, Bradley?

14 A. I think he tried to say, "Can you lift your legs up?",
15 and I think I tried and I said, "I can't move them at
16 all", the tiniest movement of them was so painful. So
17 I couldn't help them get me on it. I think they must
18 have just lifted me whole body from maybe underneath,
19 I don't even know how they done it. It was so painful
20 to get moved on to it and I was like screaming and
21 swearing. I couldn't stop — I'd not sworn in front of
22 my parents before and I was just so out of control of my
23 reactions because of how much pain I was in. It was
24 just so, so painful.

25 Q. And I think you also wish to describe what the sensation

191

1 was of being carried on one of these makeshift
2 stretchers, having sat through the hearings and heard
3 about the description of the makeshift stretchers.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Could you tell us about what you experienced, please?

6 A. It just was totally uncomfortable and unsteady and every
7 step that the group that was carrying me took would jolt
8 me and my legs would obviously move, which would make me
9 scream in pain. Then it was like kind of, obviously,
10 like people were taller and shorter so it would rock
11 kind of. Then when it come to going down the stairs,
12 I felt like I was going to slide off, so I was gripping
13 on to the slats of the fence. But it was just awful,
14 just so painful, the whole thing was just so painful and
15 I just felt so unsteady and unsafe.

16 I kind of know they did what they could to get
17 people out, which like I'm so thankful for and stuff,
18 but it totally wasn't an effective way to get people
19 out.

20 Q. We know from the CCTV that at 23.39.54, you are captured
21 on the CCTV just as you're about to be taken out of the
22 City Room, before being carried down the stairs in the
23 way you have just described.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You describe feeling sick at the thought of leaving

192

1 Megan.
 2 A. Yes, because my mum followed the group of men that were
 3 carrying me and my dad said that he was going to stay in
 4 the City Room with Megan, so then it was just me and my
 5 mum and it just felt like we were getting split up now.
 6 It was a horrible feeling. I didn't even know what was
 7 going to happen next.
 8 Q. You are able, using that timing, to know that you were
 9 carried out 1 hour and 8 minutes after the detonation,
 10 but it felt like far longer.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You say that during the time in the City Room you did
 13 not receive any medical intervention or pain relief.
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. And you were exposed to scenes that still haunt you to
 16 this day.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. You also describe, as you were carried out, seeing your
 19 reflection in the plastic of the roof.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And this was the first time you'd seen yourself.
 22 A. Yes. It was just mad to see myself in such a — lying
 23 down, like, such a vulnerable position. It was just
 24 surreal, the whole thing was so surreal.
 25 Q. I'm going to move now, Bradley, to your arrival on the

193

1 station concourse. We know that you arrived in the
 2 casualty clearing station at 23.42.11.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You describe that you were placed on to the train
 5 station floor and being carried off the barrier was just
 6 as difficult. You initially thought you would be
 7 carried straight into an ambulance, so this was another
 8 shock for you.
 9 A. Yes. They then put the barrier down but obviously
 10 they've got stands, so when you lay them flat they go
 11 diagonal. So I was kind — I slid off a bit and they
 12 moved me on to the floor, which was like freezing cold.
 13 I think even though it was cold upstairs, when I had
 14 been moved downstairs, because it was so open, there was
 15 like air going through it, it just felt freezing cold on
 16 the floor.
 17 Q. You describe something that I'm going to ask you
 18 explain, you say:
 19 "I was dithering at that point."
 20 What do you mean by that?
 21 A. Like shivering, just super cold.
 22 Q. And you say:
 23 "We were alone for some time and then occasionally
 24 fleeting would people come over to check on me and my
 25 mum."

194

1 And at some point you were covered with a silver
 2 blanket.
 3 A. Yes, I (inaudible) we were alone at any point just me
 4 and my mum in the train station, even if it was just for
 5 seconds, we were just on our own just like waiting for
 6 something — I don't even know what we thought was going
 7 to come next.
 8 Q. You remember another police officer kneeling and
 9 speaking to you, close to your head, and he is someone
 10 else that stands out to you that night?
 11 A. Yes, in the same way of Lauren Moore, he just kept
 12 reassuring me and I remember him telling me that he had
 13 broken his legs or one them in the past and he was like,
 14 "You're going to walk again, you're going to be fine".
 15 He was like really reassuring me but I'm not sure of his
 16 name at the minute.
 17 Q. You say that whilst you were then on the station
 18 concourse you felt like you were back to square 1,
 19 waiting for treatment again.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. You just couldn't believe the pain you were in and still
 22 no pain relief or reassurance to when you would be
 23 getting medical intervention.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. You describe that eventually a few paramedics came over

195

1 and you remember there being a discussion about them
 2 being unable to administer the pain relief that was
 3 necessary.
 4 A. Yes. My mum was obviously asking them again, "Can you,
 5 please, give him pain relief?", and they were like, "We
 6 can't put a cannula in", because — I can't remember
 7 what they said but they were a certain — they weren't
 8 trained to do that basically. And so my mum was like,
 9 "Can you not just give him paracetamol or anything?",
 10 and they were like, "We can't give him anything orally".
 11 They just kind of were just stood there and they
 12 couldn't do anything to help.
 13 Q. You describe:
 14 "For a while it was hectic as a mixture of police
 15 and paramedics would come over."
 16 And you remember the police discussing with your mum
 17 and saying that her daughter had died so that they
 18 needed to keep an eye on her, referring to the fact that
 19 it was known you were the brother of Megan who had died.
 20 A. Like I said earlier, my mum and dad were just so in
 21 shock that they weren't crying or they weren't
 22 presenting as you would expect someone to in that
 23 situation. I think the police were wary that she's
 24 going to go like any minute and I remember them saying
 25 like, "Keep an eye on her because she's going to go",

196

1 and I think they meant like break down kind of.
 2 Q. And you remember that the police were being very
 3 vigilant of your mum.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And at one point a police officer called Jason, who is a
 6 prominent figure in your experience, had to assist her
 7 to the bathroom because of how terrified your mother
 8 was.
 9 A. She was so scared.
 10 Q. You describe also hearing your mum take phone calls and
 11 it was surreal to hear her telling others as to what had
 12 happened to you and Meg.
 13 A. Yes, she was just so calm in what she was saying. It
 14 was such an unnatural thing to hear coming out of my
 15 mum's mouth, like it was just bizarre.
 16 Q. I think you then have a recollection of an off-duty
 17 nurse. Can you tell us about what assistance that
 18 person gave to you, please?
 19 A. Yes. The off-duty nurse came over, Bethany Crook, who
 20 had been at the concert, who Claire talked about
 21 earlier. That was the first time that I felt someone
 22 had took charge and was, "I'm going to actually do
 23 something", and she cut off my jeans up to the thighs,
 24 and she was like shouting out to the men -- she was
 25 talking in medical terms about my injuries and she was

197

1 just like assessing properly. That felt like the first
 2 time anyone had done that from what I remember. Then
 3 there was a situation -- she had left her daughter to
 4 come back in to help people and my mum let her use her
 5 phone to contact her daughter but I think at first my
 6 mum was very wary of her because she obviously was just
 7 in normal clothes and she was just -- my mum was just so
 8 untrusting and scared of everything that was happening,
 9 but she turned out to be one of the best things that
 10 happened to us that night.
 11 Q. And I think you describe that initial wariness of your
 12 mother, but is it right that both you and your family
 13 are incredibly grateful for the assistance Bethany Crook
 14 provided to you that night?
 15 A. Yes, she's amazing.
 16 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Have you been able to speak to her
 17 since?
 18 A. Yes, we have spoken to her since and she's --
 19 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: She knows how you feel?
 20 A. She does, yes.
 21 MS CARTWRIGHT: You describe it was Bethany Crook as well
 22 that took off your shoes and when she did that, that
 23 revealed another large bleeding hole in your foot.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. She also advised your mum to write down the pain relief

198

1 that was given.
 2 A. At some stage then, I'm not sure who gave it to me,
 3 I think it might have been Helen Mottram that put
 4 a cannula in but my mum remembers Beth putting it in.
 5 There's a bit of confusion about it but I did end up
 6 with a cannula in and started to get administered the
 7 TXA and I remember it was Beth shouting to my mum to
 8 write it in her notes in her phone because was like,
 9 "The hospital are going to need this when he gets to
 10 hospital", so my mum was making a note of how much
 11 medication I'd had in her phone.
 12 Q. According to the notes in your mum's personal mobile
 13 phone you were given 10mg of morphine and TXA 10ml, 1ml
 14 per minute.
 15 A. Yes, that's what she wrote in the notes, yes.
 16 Q. You remember Beth telling you that this would make you
 17 feel sick --
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. -- and as soon as she said that --
 20 A. Counterproductive. It did.
 21 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: She shouldn't have said it really,
 22 should she?
 23 A. She shouldn't have.
 24 MS CARTWRIGHT: You don't remember the pain relief being
 25 very effective?

199

1 A. No, it didn't seem to touch the sides.
 2 Q. Again, you express how you were feeling at this stage in
 3 this way:
 4 "I have to stress at this point I am freezing cold,
 5 lying on the hard, cold train station floor, starting to
 6 realise the magnitude of the situation, whilst being in
 7 the worst pain of my life, vomiting, and worrying about
 8 my mum who's beside herself, and at this point there was
 9 still no sign of me being taken to hospital or receiving
 10 any type of medical intervention other than pain relief
 11 that wasn't working."
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. You tell us that you remember at one point turning to
 14 your mum and telling her that you loved her.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. She told you not to say that because you were going to
 17 be fine.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And you reassured her that you would be fine but in your
 20 mind you'd started to think you may not get to hospital
 21 in time.
 22 A. Yes. It had just been so long at that point. So I was
 23 just thinking there's every chance that I could bleed to
 24 death, like I knew that I was bleeding so much from my
 25 legs, and I was feeling like the fact that I was

200

1 vomiting, I didn't understand what was going on -- like,
 2 I was like am I being sick because I'm dying? I just
 3 didn't know. So it started to cross my mind a lot that
 4 I might not survive.
 5 Q. You tell us that you were eventually given ketamine and,
 6 upon being injected with the ketamine, your vision and
 7 senses all faded. Do you want to tell us about what you
 8 experienced?
 9 A. The ketamine just seemed to make me hallucinate and it
 10 was like I went out of consciousness kind of, but seeing
 11 colours. It was just a very disorientating experience.
 12 Then when I was coming round from -- I think it would
 13 wear off and then I would come round again and it was
 14 like -- the only way I can describe it is it felt like
 15 when I was being administered it like I was dreaming and
 16 then I was coming round again, it was like I was
 17 realising all over again that what had happened had
 18 really happened and I got given it two or three times
 19 and the same effect every time of the hallucinations and
 20 stuff like that which was just like quite confusing.
 21 And then when I was coming back round I don't
 22 remember that, the pain was gone, I think, I was still
 23 in pain, the ketamine just seemed to make me not realise
 24 where I was for a few minutes -- it felt like a few
 25 minutes but it was actually a long time.

201

1 Q. You describe that when you woke from the effects of the
 2 ketamine, you were on a raised hospital-type trolley
 3 bed.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. You had been moved from the position you were in
 6 originally and you were now closer to what you'd now
 7 know to be the war memorial entrance?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And when you woke as well, your father had now joined
 10 you and your mother from the City Room?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. He was with a police officer named Mick Connor?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And you describe that you know from the sequence of
 15 events that your father didn't come down from the
 16 City Room until just after 3 minutes past 1. So you had
 17 been on the station concourse at this point for at least
 18 an hour and a half and it was at least 2.5 hours
 19 post-detonation.
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. You describe that at some stage you're sure you were
 22 given a second dose of ketamine and the experience was
 23 equally as disorientating as what you've just described
 24 to us.
 25 A. Yes.

202

1 Q. And you say:
 2 "This bad experience of the drug would go on to
 3 affect me later as I was very scared to receive any pain
 4 medication whilst in hospital."
 5 A. Yes. I had -- on one of my operations in hospital,
 6 I woke up very disorientated, like crying and stuff, and
 7 the woman was like, "We're going to give him some
 8 ketamine", and I was like, "Please, please don't,
 9 I can't experience it again". She reassured me that the
 10 amount that I'd been given in the train station would be
 11 nothing like what she was going to give me in hospital.
 12 Q. I think you also describe remembering a man in a red
 13 uniform saying something to you about what you'd had.
 14 A. Yes. Well, I think someone had asked him to give me
 15 more ketamine or something. He'd looked at a note -- I
 16 didn't even know where the note was. But he said, "This
 17 man's had enough ketamine to kill a horse". He was
 18 saying, "He can't have any more", basically.
 19 Q. You say that:
 20 "While we waited to be put on to an ambulance near
 21 the war memorial entrance [your] auntie was allowed into
 22 the station to be with [your] mum."
 23 A. Yes. I'm not sure at what point that was because
 24 I think she was allowed in to be with my mum because my
 25 mum was on her own. I'm not sure if she came in before

203

1 my dad was there, but, yes, it was at some point, it was
 2 that time, by the war memorial entrance that she came
 3 in.
 4 Q. You say that she stood with you at the war memorial as
 5 you waited for an ambulance.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And that wait also was excruciatingly long.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. It was still so cold -- and in so much pain.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And you say:
 12 "It was so hard to believe that I was still in the
 13 train station."
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. You say:
 16 "I just wished I could turn off my brain until I was
 17 safe and in hospital."
 18 A. Yes, I just felt like I would have just gave anything
 19 not to be there any more, like I just wanted to switch
 20 off until I was not in that situation.
 21 Q. You say:
 22 "The feeling of constantly lying down with such
 23 a restricted view while things were happening around
 24 [you] was very disorientating."
 25 A. Yes. Obviously, my whole view of the whole night is

204

1 from a floor. Like, I don't have -- it's just very
 2 disorientating to me to remember because I don't realise
 3 the size and, like, layout of rooms and stuff, it's
 4 just -- it was all very, like, confusing.
 5 Q. You were finally moved outside and into an ambulance.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And in terms of the timings for the ambulance, 4 hours
 8 and 13 minutes after the detonation at 02.44.37 on
 9 23 May of 2017, you were taken from the casualty
 10 clearing station to hospital in an ambulance.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And the paramedics that took you were Anna Pennington
 13 and an EMT, Mark Wylie.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Once you were placed in the ambulance, you arrived at
 16 hospital 7 minutes later --
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. -- at 02.51.58.
 19 A. Which is just such a long time to be in that much pain,
 20 over 4 hours, it's just bizarre to me, looking back,
 21 that it took that long, and I would hope so much that
 22 no one would ever have to go through that again because
 23 it just was so bad. And even, like, the experience
 24 in the ambulance -- originally, he didn't know which
 25 hospital he was supposed to go to. When we got in the

205

1 ambulance, he pulled up and was like, "We don't know
 2 where we're going, we still need to wait", and then he
 3 eventually found out and started to drive, but again the
 4 movement of the van was just causing me more pain and
 5 I was just literally in so much pain until I got to the
 6 hospital.
 7 Q. So I think you describe on the ambulance a further delay
 8 until it was identified which hospital you'd be going
 9 to.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And finally it was identified it would be
 12 Manchester Royal Infirmary.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And in the ambulance with you was your mum, your father,
 15 your auntie, and the police officer, Mick, who had
 16 stayed with your father in the City Room.
 17 A. Yes. The whole time my dad was up in the City Room with
 18 Megan, Mick Connor has stayed the whole time and just
 19 sat with him and just was, like, so supportive then and
 20 had stayed with us until early the next morning, which
 21 was amazing.
 22 Q. Again, you describe that the ambulance was travelling at
 23 high speed to try to get you there as soon as possible.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And that too caused a lot of movement and you describe

206

1 that your legs were in an extreme amount of pain, every
 2 time the ambulance would rock, turn and sway --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- causing you to scream in pain and your legs were
 5 still being held at a 90-degree angle as you still had
 6 not been able to straighten them since the detonation.
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. Bradley, we're going to move now to your arrival at
 9 hospital. You describe that when you got to hospital
 10 you were greeted immediately by medical professionals as
 11 you got through the door.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. You had to be taken away from your mum and dad, which
 14 was very daunting, and you still did not know what was
 15 going to happen to you.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You spoke briefly to some of the nurses. Your clothes
 18 were all cut off --
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. -- and you were soon put to sleep.
 21 A. Yes. I mean, like, that was so efficient. Like, it was
 22 so -- it was literally the minute that I was through the
 23 door, I think, like, so quickly I was on a hospital bed,
 24 getting my clothes cut off and stuff like that, and it
 25 was, like, finally what I'd been waiting for for so

207

1 long.
 2 Q. You say that when you regained consciousness, both of
 3 your legs were in casts right up to your thigh. It was
 4 early in the morning of the 23rd and it had started to
 5 be daylight.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. You were in a room on your own and were eventually
 8 joined by your mum and dad and other family members.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And you were then told that you had to go to theatre for
 11 an operation?
 12 A. Yes, straightaway. I think I'd been up, like,
 13 15 minutes awake and then he came in and said, like,
 14 "You need to go to theatre", and they asked me to sign
 15 like a waiver to say that I might need a blood
 16 transfusion and that sometimes it's best not to wake
 17 people up and stuff like that, and it was so daunting
 18 for me to even be thinking about like -- at that time,
 19 I was just crazy.
 20 Q. You have already told us about your injuries, but you
 21 describe at this point of your statement that you were
 22 very seriously injured.
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. You had sustained two broken legs.
 25 A. Yes.

208

1 Q. You had multiple entry shrapnel wounds, presenting as
2 wide holes at both of your legs. Your feet, your left
3 hand, and the left side of your jaw.
4 A. Yes, and I don't have the part of my statement, but
5 a piece of shrapnel that had went into my leg sort of
6 hit my bone and went down, so I had to have like
7 a muscle graft. The muscle on my leg is kind of like
8 messed up now, so yes.
9 Q. You describe suffering second degree burns to your face
10 and left arm.
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. And you also had a perforated left eardrum, which has
13 left irreparable damage to your hearing --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. -- which will, you've been told, worsen as you age.
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. You spent over a month in hospital, 2 weeks of which
18 were in the high dependency unit.
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. You underwent four big operations on your legs, and
21 burns, all of which required you to be anaesthetised.
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And one of the operations resulted in you being fitted
24 with large external fixators on both of your legs.
25 A. Yes.

209

1 Q. And those stayed on your legs for 6 months, making it
2 very difficult to do anything, such as sleep.
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. You spent 2 years doing physiotherapy, but your body has
5 suffered irreparable damage, and you cannot do many of
6 the things you could do before.
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. You suffer from chronic back and leg pain. But you
9 describe that the surgeons, nurses and entire hospital
10 as amazing.
11 A. Yes. Just like anyone that supported me or my family
12 since, whether it was on the night or in the years or
13 weeks after, like, everyone has been amazing. I think
14 they all know who they are.
15 Q. You say you could not have asked for better people
16 around you at such a trying time.
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And I think it's not your experience, but certainly your
19 parents are particularly grateful for the hotel that
20 provided them with accommodation across the road from
21 the hospital so they could tend to you day and night.
22 A. Yes, they stayed in Manchester for the whole time. We
23 live in Liverpool and they were able to stay with me for
24 the whole time and just be with me every single day, and
25 obviously with everything that they had to contend with,

210

1 like, it was just such a burden lifted for the hotel to
2 provide that for them.
3 Q. You also, as well as describing the physical injuries
4 you sustained, describe the psychological impact of what
5 you have experienced.
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. And, Bradley, do you wish to give details of what
8 you have suffered?
9 A. Yes. I have PTSD and night terrors. I don't do a lot
10 of the things that I'd done before. A lot of the
11 activities that my friends will do...
12 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Take a drink.
13 A. I do need one. I'll not be able to join in and stuff
14 like that. Like what Claire said before, I assess
15 situations and the risk of death, which -- like
16 literally, going to the shops, I think, is it worth me
17 going because I don't know what's going to happen there.
18 I just have bizarre thought processes over everything
19 that I do, like night terrors and just -- yes.
20 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are you having treatment now for that?
21 A. No. I had treatment for a year, which was great, and
22 that's another person I want to thank is my
23 psychologist. But I think I just can't "unfeel", like
24 I just don't think treatment really is going to help me
25 move on.

211

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Perhaps after some time it will do.
2 A. It's helpful to speak about stuff like that, but I think
3 the fears that I have are just always going to be there.
4 I kind of feel that I've accepted it, kind of.
5 MS CARTWRIGHT: You've already described being a different
6 person socially.
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. But you also say emotionally and your personality has
9 changed.
10 A. Yes. I think I'm a lot -- I just think I used to be
11 really fun, like outgoing, and it's changed. I'm more
12 concerned with, like, details, I just ... I just think
13 it's had a massive effect on me and even -- it's just
14 affected every aspect of my life even to the point of,
15 like, our day-to-day life in our house is so different
16 to what it was with the loss of Megan and the inquiry
17 and everything that we've just been doing for the last
18 4 years. It just -- it does affect you, I think,
19 mentally, to have such a different -- you just obviously
20 miss the ... you know, before this happened.
21 Q. You also tell us that you had not been able to return to
22 university.
23 A. Yes. I'd just finished my second year and haven't
24 returned to finish my third year.
25 Q. And it's also impacted upon your ability to work.

212

1 A. Yes. I had quite a physical job in Argos, which
 2 I haven't been able to return to.
 3 Q. You go on to tell us that:
 4 "The loss of Megan has had an unimaginable effect on
 5 our lives."
 6 And even once you were out of hospital, you as
 7 a family still had so much tragedy left to face. The
 8 loss of Megan and the effect that night had on you and
 9 your family affects you all every single day and will
 10 for the rest of your lives.
 11 A. Yes, definitely.
 12 Q. You describe that the criminal trial and now the inquiry
 13 have brought to light new, frustrating and shocking
 14 things that leave you more and more angry at how much
 15 Megan, you, and your family were failed that night.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Then you indicate that you would wish to make some final
 18 points for consideration by the chairman. Do you want
 19 to tell us? You want to start, first of all, from your
 20 experience of the emergency response to the blast.
 21 We're at your paragraph 86, Bradley.
 22 A. I put some final points I wanted to make. From my
 23 experience, I don't think the emergency response to the
 24 blast worked well. I feel very lucky that my parents
 25 were there and able to come into the City Room. If they

213

1 weren't there, I fear it could have taken even longer
 2 for my extraction.
 3 And also, the media intrusion of our family was
 4 quite shocking. Photos of mum leaning over me in the
 5 train station were used on the Daily Mail website within
 6 hours of the explosion — it was not only distressing
 7 for my mum to be captured in the worst moment of her
 8 life, but also distressing for our extended family, who
 9 saw these distressing images online and found out what
 10 had happened through the press and not through my
 11 parents.
 12 The Daily Mail removed the photographs from their
 13 website at our request, but they are still widely
 14 available online. The press reached out to my family
 15 members, knocked at every single house in our street,
 16 and published stories and photos of Megan without
 17 knowledge or permission. They also came to Megan's
 18 funeral and took photos, videos, and reported live on
 19 the day. All of this is an incredible breach of our
 20 privacy at what was the most devastating and traumatic
 21 time of our lives.
 22 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you.
 23 MS CARTWRIGHT: Could I ask if Mr Cooper wishes any time or
 24 wishes to cover any additional matters.
 25 MR COOPER: I have no questions, sir.

214

1 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Cooper.
 2 I'm really grateful to you. It has brought home to
 3 me things which have only become clear through your
 4 evidence, having lived through it. What you went
 5 through by going on makeshift stretchers rather than on
 6 a real stretcher, which — perhaps other people thought,
 7 "Well, we have to get them out, we'll do the best
 8 we can".
 9 A. Yes.
 10 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Also, the lack of pain relief which you
 11 went through and the pain that you had, so it has
 12 brought things to life for me.
 13 I know a bit about Megan, not a lot, but what I have
 14 heard through the inquiry, and I can understand why you
 15 were such a devoted brother to her, so that makes the
 16 loss even greater. Not all brothers are that devoted to
 17 their younger sisters, so you were lucky in that.
 18 There was nothing you could do for Megan and to help
 19 her, and you couldn't have done anything else, but
 20 I doubt that helps. I have no idea how you got through
 21 telling us that today. It's been tough enough to listen
 22 to, so giving it must be really difficult, and your
 23 parents have relived every moment as well, but I'm sure
 24 you relive the whole thing on a regular basis.
 25 So thank you. I hope that you are able to make

215

1 something of a recovery and live a more normal life than
 2 you are able to at the moment.
 3 A. Thank you.
 4 MS CARTWRIGHT: Thank you, sir. Can we then adjourn until
 5 tomorrow, please?
 6 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Yes. What time is it tomorrow?
 7 MS CARTWRIGHT: I'm told it's 10 o'clock, please, tomorrow.
 8 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: Are we sure about that?
 9 MS CARTWRIGHT: If it's not 10 o'clock, we'll make sure an
 10 email goes out.
 11 SIR JOHN SAUNDERS: So either 9.30 or 10.00, but we think
 12 it's 10.00.
 13 (4.22 pm)
 14 (The inquiry adjourned until Friday 23 July 2021)

216

1 I N D E X

2

3 MR MARTIN HIBBERT (sworn)2

4 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT2

5

6 Witness statement of GARY BLAMIRE32

7 (read) (summarised)

8

9 Witness statement of DIANNE BLAMIRE37

10 (read) (summarised)

11

12 Witness statement of SUSAN SMITH40

13 (read) (summarised)

14

15 Witness statement of LEWIS BRUNTON44

16 (read) (summarised)

17

18 Witness statement of LAUREN EVE48

19 THORPE (read) (summarised)

20

21 Witness statement of YVONNE CLAYTON50

22 (read) (summarised)

23

24 Witness statement of PAUL COSTELLO57

25 (read) (summarised)

217

1

2 MS CLAIRE BOOTH (affirmed)61

3 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT61

4 Questions from MR COOPER140

5

6 MR BRADLEY HURLEY (affirmed)145

7 Questions from MS CARTWRIGHT145

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

218

219

A

abandoned (1) 129:18
 abc (1) 13:8
 abedi (1) 7:5
 ability (1) 212:25
 able (52) 13:17 22:14 25:14
 39:4 56:17 60:6 66:24
 68:22 73:19 75:13,18,19
 79:2 81:7 89:4 105:12
 106:10 110:2 117:21 121:2
 122:22 123:14 125:2
 145:5,9,9 147:12 160:19
 162:17 163:1,23 166:14,22
 168:4 175:9,20
 176:10,16,24 185:19
 186:3,12 193:8 198:16
 207:6 210:23 211:13
 212:21 213:2,25 215:25
 216:2

ablebodied (1) 21:10
 abnormal (1) 182:21
 above (1) 134:4
 abruptly (1) 180:2
 absolutely (12) 76:1 106:12
 122:13 128:4 129:11 130:7
 131:3 137:9 138:8 141:2
 142:2 174:7
 accept (2) 112:5 143:11
 acceptance (2) 10:9 162:4
 accepted (3) 26:15 65:9
 212:4
 access (2) 31:10 175:9
 accidentally (1) 74:15
 accidents (1) 27:6
 accommodation (1) 210:20
 according (1) 199:12
 account (7) 19:3 24:7 61:25
 99:14 130:17 144:14 146:3
 accurate (1) 58:7
 achieves (1) 29:15
 acid (1) 120:21
 acknowledge (4) 18:21
 30:4,7 62:4
 acknowledged (1) 185:6
 across (12) 4:14 40:20 41:12
 50:2 72:15 83:20,25 90:17
 109:17 124:3 166:10
 210:20
 acted (1) 29:3
 action (2) 134:23 189:1
 activities (1) 211:11
 acts (3) 68:23 153:17,25
 actual (1) 25:20
 actually (19) 3:22 6:23 7:3
 14:23 17:23 21:8 22:3,20
 31:18 51:13 89:9 125:12
 143:20 144:21 148:20
 174:5,6 197:22 201:25
 adam (5) 48:15 49:10,12,15
 133:24
 adapted (1) 29:9
 added (1) 136:7
 addition (1) 48:6
 additional (1) 214:24
 address (3) 30:1 33:2 40:14
 adduced (1) 63:8
 adheres (1) 139:1
 adjoined (1) 67:7
 adjourn (1) 216:4
 adjourned (1) 216:14
 adjournment (2) 60:23 61:9
 adjustments (1) 59:15
 administer (1) 196:2
 administered (2) 199:6
 201:15
 administering (1) 36:5
 admission (1) 152:11
 admitted (1) 132:22
 adopt (1) 146:19
 adults (3) 34:18,23 46:7
 advertisement (1) 45:1
 advice (10) 122:11,14
 133:6,12 134:21 137:2
 141:14 142:3,4 168:14
 advise (3) 7:10 122:22 123:3

advised (4) 83:19 122:8
 133:21 198:25
 advocacy (1) 28:8
 advocating (1) 28:23
 ae (1) 132:24
 affect (2) 203:3 212:18
 affected (2) 58:23 212:14
 affecting (1) 70:14
 affects (2) 20:23 213:9
 affirmed (4) 61:19 145:19
 218:2,6
 afraid (1) 5:18
 after (55) 5:1 12:18 15:22
 26:18 33:16 35:3 38:5
 43:12 44:15 47:6,12,25
 48:23 56:6 60:7 61:6 64:25
 73:22,23 77:9 84:14
 85:7,11 91:1 94:24 95:15
 97:1 104:9 106:8 107:11
 120:7 121:12 122:4,21
 123:2 125:23 134:19
 137:17 144:7 151:16
 152:25 154:6 157:20,21
 161:1,6 164:11 166:6
 181:21 190:2 193:9 202:16
 205:8 210:13 212:1
 aftermath (1) 28:12
 afternoon (8) 3:18 60:8
 61:11,12,24 62:5 134:5
 146:20
 afternoons (1) 146:6
 afterwards (3) 42:21 61:4
 155:7
 again (83) 2:6 5:13 7:4 9:9
 16:5,11,16,21 18:3,8 19:14
 20:6 21:7 30:16 35:23
 44:24 46:1 47:17 54:8 57:1
 59:13 60:3 62:12 64:5
 67:24 73:2 81:12 83:1,9
 84:18 87:14,20 90:11
 95:5,12 96:14 97:18
 100:19 101:22 102:4 105:7
 110:17 112:14 113:25
 114:15 118:22 121:11
 122:7 125:5 127:6 131:9
 133:18,20 134:6,10 141:23
 146:4,7 151:19 153:17
 171:7,12 176:24,24 177:24
 178:2,15 180:7 181:13,18
 184:20 190:4 195:14,19
 196:4 200:2 201:13,16,17
 203:9 205:22 206:3,22
 against (6) 15:4 41:21
 42:5,20 117:12 169:6
 age (4) 4:9 23:4 29:12
 209:15
 aged (1) 50:18
 agent (1) 19:12
 ages (2) 10:6 54:1
 agitated (1) 105:2
 ago (2) 51:2 143:6
 agreed (1) 53:8
 agreeing (1) 61:3
 ahead (1) 49:2
 aid (4) 25:23 36:5 88:5
 167:14
 aiders (1) 92:11
 air (3) 90:14 157:18 194:15
 airport (1) 44:8
 alan (1) 121:25
 alarm (1) 96:15
 alarmed (1) 124:21
 alarms (1) 46:20
 album (1) 65:4
 alert (6) 85:4 91:11 122:9
 165:16,20 171:1
 alive (6) 11:13 15:6 20:7
 22:25 25:3 103:9
 allocated (1) 131:25
 allow (3) 11:5 87:13 108:17
 allowed (15) 21:3 104:18
 105:4 115:17,21 117:7
 125:1 131:10 135:15
 138:22 139:3 153:4 177:20
 203:21,24
 allowing (1) 31:25

almighty (1) 7:13
 almost (8) 7:17 8:9 10:9
 12:22 16:15 27:22 85:7
 120:7
 alone (11) 10:7 26:5,10 84:8
 95:19 104:2 143:14
 163:21,22 194:23 195:3
 along (4) 40:21 45:3 114:5
 132:1
 alongside (1) 112:20
 already (29) 2:19,19 7:7 9:17
 13:20 15:21 19:9,21
 23:11,21 26:11 51:17,18
 58:20 64:1 73:7 92:2
 113:18,23 126:16 136:7
 141:1 172:14 173:15
 179:5,24 187:12 208:20
 212:5
 also (97) 1:23,25 3:4
 6:11,15,17 7:8 11:16,19
 19:24 27:21 28:7,11 29:13
 30:15,24 33:7 47:2 48:15
 53:15 54:16 62:7,10,13
 65:17,21 70:19 75:13,15
 77:19 78:11 82:15 83:4
 84:15 90:14 93:23 95:6,25
 96:12 99:2 100:4,23
 105:12 110:23 111:23
 113:19 126:18 127:1,2
 129:1,9 130:8 131:9,24
 132:7,8 135:1,10 136:14
 137:1 139:23 141:4 143:5
 146:2,19 152:3 158:21
 159:21 160:4 162:25
 163:23 165:12 172:16,20
 173:12 174:11,12 176:14
 188:6,9,24 189:1 191:25
 193:18 197:10 198:25
 203:12 204:7 209:12 211:3
 212:8 21:25 214:3,8,17
 215:10
 although (4) 66:21 71:13
 93:17 128:22
 always (22) 6:1,24 12:11,13
 13:2,4,25 16:11 24:11
 27:11 57:12 71:19 115:8
 126:14 129:5 138:6 147:24
 150:18,20 167:19 185:21
 212:3
 amazing (11) 5:12 22:8,9,10
 30:10 118:7 142:23 198:15
 206:21 210:10,13
 ambitions (1) 144:8
 ambulance (34) 16:19 17:21
 18:13,16 26:13,22 36:25
 43:11,18 48:1 50:1 80:10
 97:7 102:11 107:21 122:23
 123:12,15 125:24 183:19
 187:10 194:7 203:20 204:5
 205:5,7,10,15,24
 206:1,7,14,22 207:2
 ambulances (10) 47:14
 97:10 101:22 105:3,16
 119:9 123:8,11,19 172:4
 amount (7) 6:25 16:23 32:6
 160:4 187:21 203:10 207:1
 amounts (2) 5:17 20:12
 anaesthetised (1) 209:21
 analysis (1) 57:6
 andrew (1) 50:18
 andy (12) 51:17 53:1 55:3,4
 56:1,8,11,12,13,15,18,23
 angel (1) 9:5
 angle (2) 183:8 209:5
 angry (3) 153:4 187:4 213:14
 ankle (1) 49:13
 ankles (2) 9:15 10:2
 anna (6) 44:5 45:21 46:10
 47:3,9 205:12
 annoyed (1) 153:10
 another (22) 4:5 11:5 18:3,8
 52:20,21 54:18 86:22,25
 87:1,3 96:20 113:25
 116:22 117:6 180:2 190:25
 191:2 194:7 195:8 198:23
 211:22

answer (7) 119:2,5 139:13
 175:16,17,20 176:24
 answered (1) 80:25
 answers (1) 97:18
 anxiety (2) 143:5,15
 anxious (5) 2:8 60:18 63:6
 97:22 98:3
 anybody (3) 22:6 78:12
 112:4
 anyone (12) 7:9 37:21 62:23
 73:11 132:21 153:6 163:22
 169:5,7 186:2 198:2
 210:11
 anything (41) 5:24 14:6
 34:7,7 35:25 36:2 37:21
 41:1,15 46:11 50:6 54:24
 79:18 82:21 88:10 106:13
 118:7 126:11 130:12
 132:20 135:20,21 138:8
 142:5,17 153:6 156:18
 157:19 158:8 160:11
 162:12 168:3 169:7,23
 188:17 196:9,10,12 204:18
 210:2 215:19
 anyway (2) 92:7 153:9
 anywhere (6) 110:12
 anywhere (5) 23:12 124:11 133:1
 174:24
 apart (2) 186:2 189:14
 apologise (1) 32:18
 app (1) 47:7
 appalling (1) 145:2
 apparent (3) 101:7 109:23
 135:2
 applaud (1) 29:13
 applying (1) 101:20
 appreciate (5) 27:16 31:9
 32:6 59:13,22
 approach (7) 16:10 67:4
 107:12 136:12 146:18,19
 181:16
 approached (10) 83:16,22
 94:10 98:10 100:9 106:9
 107:6 139:15 156:3 169:2
 appropriate (1) 60:1
 appropriately (1) 29:4
 approximately (4) 40:12,17
 41:8,16
 april (3) 1:11,11 2:20
 area (14) 16:3 41:15 44:12
 45:5,8,12 48:18,25 100:7
 110:7 113:4 114:6 126:3
 151:17
 arena (55) 4:7,12 5:4,8
 33:3,9,12 34:1,14,17
 35:1,14 37:15,20 38:7
 40:11,19,21 41:25 43:14
 44:6 45:7,10,16 48:13
 51:15,24 52:25 53:5 54:17
 56:17 62:1 63:14 66:10
 67:3,7,9,22 68:6,7 71:1,7
 72:23 79:24 90:5 115:17
 122:3 147:13 150:12 151:2
 152:12 154:9 155:17 181:5
 187:22
 arent (1) 25:24
 argos (1) 213:1
 ariana (27) 5:23 33:3 40:18
 44:7 48:12 49:9 50:22
 52:21 54:10,17
 63:13,22,24 65:4
 69:3,11,16,25 71:3 74:13
 146:24 147:22 150:9
 153:24 154:3,22 168:23
 arm (6) 55:5,5 89:13
 159:9,10 209:10
 armed (4) 36:6 47:12 93:23
 100:6
 arms (1) 47:14
 army (2) 167:19 168:15
 arndale (1) 66:18
 around (76) 10:1,1,5 13:21
 21:15 26:21 33:25
 34:3,5,7,8 35:2,12
 37:17,18 41:19 42:22
 44:13,17,21,23,25 45:5,15

46:6,22 47:10,11 49:22
 51:1 52:24 53:18 54:6,12
 55:5,20 56:17 64:21
 69:13,21 73:15 76:9,12
 77:18 90:8 94:6 101:17
 105:22 108:25 126:14,24
 127:9 128:7 134:11 148:18
 151:25 154:9 157:2 163:3
 165:23 166:3,4 167:7
 168:22 171:16,17 173:7
 177:18 179:10,14
 184:19,21 186:20 187:25
 204:23 210:16
 aroused (1) 37:21
 arranged (1) 33:15
 arrangements (1) 131:14
 arrival (4) 23:15 126:13
 193:25 207:8
 arrive (6) 10:6 45:17 80:11
 87:19 93:17 112:19
 arrived (18) 16:5 24:1 40:17
 183:4 137:23 139:3 165:17
 43:16 44:13 45:20 51:10
 66:6 68:22 69:18 112:12
 121:25 125:24 126:14
 139:7 172:9 194:1 205:15
 arriving (6) 23:21 37:16
 112:15 120:11 123:19
 169:15
 arteries (1) 9:5
 arthritis (1) 129:7
 artificial (1) 64:18
 ask (20) 11:8,22 12:9 24:6
 28:18 60:3 61:14 62:20
 64:17 81:24 85:19
 87:20,23 97:18 142:11
 145:17 170:11 172:6
 194:17 214:23
 asked (46) 8:16 13:25 19:6
 36:8 39:3,8,8 47:13 70:16
 72:21 79:24 81:22
 84:22,25 88:3,12,21
 97:10,16 98:16
 100:1,11,23 101:22 115:24
 116:14 118:11,14,16 119:5
 122:7,24 124:21 132:17,25
 134:25 140:19 147:25
 153:1 168:7 179:1 186:13
 188:13 203:14 208:14
 210:15
 asking (22) 14:14 72:18 81:6
 90:20 94:10 95:14 122:7
 139:12 153:5 169:15,20
 170:1 172:4,18 174:17
 180:12 183:19 184:12
 186:15 188:6,11 196:4
 asks (2) 133:19 188:21
 asleep (1) 79:9
 asleepbreathing (1) 12:24
 aspect (6) 2:5 19:5 23:18
 59:12 63:7 212:14
 aspects (12) 2:7 23:11 24:5
 37:3 40:3 43:22 57:17,21
 58:1 95:25 146:5 156:21
 assess (2) 178:21 211:14
 assessed (3) 36:19 122:21
 174:23
 assessing (1) 198:1
 assessment (1) 170:24
 assist (5) 27:5 137:25 138:20
 191:11 197:6
 assistance (11) 2:22 55:17
 56:20 99:15,19 118:5
 137:7 138:6 185:7 197:17
 198:13
 assisted (4) 6:16 11:16 82:7
 122:18
 assisting (1) 131:21
 association (1) 21:3
 assumed (1) 169:2
 assurance (1) 97:12
 atmosphere (3) 105:24
 123:21 150:1
 attached (1) 51:15
 attach (11) 40:23 46:25 58:8
 62:1,3 125:13 137:10
 145:1 157:15 162:18 184:6

attacks (2) 143:14 162:23
 attempts (1) 184:18
 attended (5) 63:13 67:5
 71:18 119:24 146:23
 attention (5) 34:6 35:1 53:2
 56:8 169:25
 auditorium (1) 37:25
 august (1) 48:9
 auntie (2) 203:21 206:15
 avail (1) 132:22
 available (3) 50:23 122:23
 214:14
 avid (1) 5:21
 avoided (1) 5:6
 awake (6) 10:13 11:4 31:15
 122:9 165:19 208:13
 aware (25) 11:8,14 12:1
 15:11 17:2 19:10 53:7,13
 67:6,8 74:13 99:6,21 113:6
 120:20 126:11,15 130:8
 133:4 137:23 139:3 165:17
 166:7 169:25 185:16
 awareness (1) 62:8
 away (24) 6:24 25:7
 31:16,21 34:19 35:7 38:16
 41:20 53:13 55:11,14 65:5
 75:16 76:2,15 83:4,10 88:8
 115:6 139:23 163:3 169:9
 177:23 207:13
 awful (8) 26:7,10 58:17
 90:14,15 144:15 161:12
 192:13

B

baby (1) 65:18
 back (64) 1:11 3:20 8:24
 9:14 33:21,21,23 37:16
 39:5,12 41:8 43:1 45:4
 48:22 50:8 52:25
 53:2,6,9,22 54:2 56:13
 67:3 69:1 72:1 74:18
 78:16,20,21 79:20
 81:10,14,16 83:7 88:10
 89:15 94:12 98:2,21 104:9
 107:7 108:25 109:4 115:8
 119:6 126:11 129:17 133:1
 152:2 155:25 158:12 172:2
 173:13 174:14 179:7 183:5
 185:13,15 189:22 195:18
 198:4 201:21 205:20 210:8
 237:14 86:11
 backwards (2) 109:18 110:24
 bad (11) 21:5 36:8 50:2
 56:10 70:14 81:23 143:15
 165:4 187:1 205:2 205:23
 badly (9) 23:7 47:21 98:25
 101:8 113:21 127:12,17
 173:11 174:14
 baffled (1) 9:9
 baffling (1) 16:19
 bag (5) 134:14 152:20,21
 153:11 183:9
 bags (5) 67:21 96:9,9 152:19
 174:23
 balance (1) 112:2
 balanced (1) 30:22
 bandage (2) 55:20,24
 bandages (1) 26:1
 bang (11) 7:13 42:17,18 49:5
 50:9 54:22,22 74:1 125:6
 157:8,12
 bank (4) 68:2 151:1,9 155:21
 banks (1) 67:12
 bar (5) 147:12 151:10 152:25
 153:23 154:2
 barrier (13) 107:25 108:3
 109:11,14 111:23 112:2
 190:12,17,25 191:3,9
 194:5,9
 barriers (1) 107:16
 basic (1) 167:14
 basically (7) 9:14 18:12,18
 76:2 84:13 196:8 203:18
 basis (3) 3:8 58:5 215:24
 bastards (2) 46:24,24
 bathroom (2) 151:16 197:7

battery (3) 52:15 79:23
 123:4
 battle (1) 20:16
 bay (1) 49:17
 bearing (1) 9:10
 bearings (2) 75:2 110:10
 beaten (1) 71:14
 beautiful (6) 4:1,15 17:18,19
 22:19 65:10
 became (10) 20:18 53:13
 101:7,10 102:20 109:23
 121:8 133:4 166:7 180:13
 become (3) 17:15 181:5
 215:3
 becomes (1) 135:2
 becoming (2) 4:20 121:13
 bed (6) 130:21,21 131:2,5
 202:3 207:23
 bedroom (1) 149:9
 before (1) 18:6
 before (49) 1:19 2:5 12:18
 21:9 23:14,17 26:22 28:5
 35:25 36:13 37:15 38:2,14
 42:16 43:4 45:3 49:9 52:12
 57:1 64:14 70:9,20 73:25
 78:25 82:21 119:24 120:11
 123:15 131:6 136:25
 140:15 146:22 147:17
 148:4 154:13 155:7,11
 156:18 157:2 158:9 167:21
 169:22 191:22 192:22
 203:25 210:6 211:10,14
 212:20
 beg (1) 78:12
 began (18) 46:3 47:3 65:21
 71:1 73:15 75:2,6 79:11
 154:14 166:12 174:21
 175:15 176:23 178:21
 179:16,20 186:19 188:6
 beggars (1) 7:4
 begged (2) 85

beside (1) 200:8
 best (17) 2:25 25:11 29:17
 30:11,18 31:2,3,5 60:25
 109:9 136:20 168:14,17
 185:14 198:9 208:16 215:7
 beth (3) 199:4,7,16
 bethany (6) 99:10,13 141:4
 197:19 198:13,21
 better (8) 29:9 126:12 132:9
 144:7 147:17 179:6 186:25
 210:15
 between (6) 37:23 48:24
 52:5 60:24 68:23 84:2
 beyond (2) 65:13 130:3
 big (12) 8:2 13:2,4 16:22
 20:11 43:9 51:22,23 54:22
 147:24 153:20 209:20
 bins (1) 42:7
 birth (1) 80:4
 birthday (3) 63:19 80:5,6
 bit (18) 5:10,16 6:5 14:13
 22:17 34:2 37:17 49:7
 106:2 124:9 125:14 136:19
 147:22 153:9 189:16
 194:11 199:5 215:13
 bits (1) 160:10
 bizarre (5) 180:16 184:4
 197:15 205:20 211:18
 black (7) 42:7 54:22 84:16
 90:12 94:2,3 175:7
 blackpool (1) 126:3
 bladder (2) 21:16 128:24
 blameworthy (10) 32:21,24
 35:9,23 37:4,6,14 38:23
 217:6,9
 bliamires (2) 37:8 40:3
 blank (1) 79:16
 blanket (3) 114:16,16 195:2
 blankets (1) 36:23
 blaring (2) 96:12 97:15
 blast (6) 36:4 47:10 73:20
 120:7 213:20,24
 bleed (3) 87:10 128:5 200:23
 bleeding (16) 8:12,13
 18:14,15 77:11,14 81:3
 86:19 101:13 120:21 165:3
 200:24
 173:11,22 189:7 198:23
 200:24
 block (4) 48:22 68:18 147:19
 155:20
 blood (24) 8:1,2,2,4 16:23
 18:17 19:11,18 55:15
 82:11,15,22 83:13 86:23
 89:18 95:23 117:13
 127:24,25 135:11 160:12
 164:24,25 208:15
 blown (3) 35:5,20 174:25
 blowtorch (1) 74:1
 blue (3) 57:4 94:2 167:17
 bluelighted (1) 21:13
 blurred (3) 42:23 49:7
 158:23
 blurry (1) 75:3
 body (8) 10:13 29:11 127:15
 135:19 157:5 182:21
 191:18 210:4
 bodyworn (2) 62:25 188:19
 bollards (1) 94:23
 bolt (3) 9:6,21,23
 bomb (12) 38:7 42:16,25
 49:5 55:3 75:10,11,22 81:1
 90:5 162:20 176:5
 bomber (2) 6:16 28:14
 bombing (2) 40:10 128:23
 bone (5) 117:19 128:19
 159:22,25 209:6
 booked (1) 3:23
 boom (1) 46:12
 booth (14) 59:20 60:2,9,10
 61:2,14,19,21,24 62:22
 145:24 146:19 162:25
 218:2
 booths (1) 60:18
 boots (2) 17:15,22
 borrow (1) 124:21
 both (31) 9:6 20:10 31:4

C

calculations (1) 58:22
 calf (3) 100:4 126:19,20
 california (1) 65:23
 call (11) 5:17 39:15 79:20
 80:7 81:22 102:16 124:22
 133:15 164:16 175:11
 176:23
 called (22) 17:16 19:16
 39:2,8 57:2 76:24 80:20
 85:17 89:5 99:10 102:11
 104:9 115:6 118:11 120:21
 123:3 133:5,18,24 153:10
 181:3 197:5
 calling (2) 80:13,15
 calls (3) 21:14 135:24 197:10
 calm (11) 85:8 161:18,25
 162:2,4 169:23 177:2
 189:9,13 190:24 197:13
 calmed (1) 56:2
 came (51) 3:14 5:23 6:17
 10:14 24:12 29:23 37:16
 38:4 43:4 47:12 48:15,25
 49:3,17 53:22 55:10,19
 56:6,13 64:22 88:12
 97:9,18 98:21 106:12
 107:10 114:23 115:8 116:6
 119:6 129:21 135:21
 147:25 153:5,11,16 155:24
 166:19,25 167:17,22 178:1
 181:1 189:22 194:24
 195:25 197:19 203:25
 204:2 208:13 214:17
 camera (5) 29:23
 149:11,13,14 154:11
 cannot (4) 138:6 139:18
 182:20 210:5
 cannula (3) 196:6 199:4,6
 cant (37) 21:18 25:9 26:9
 41:9 50:19 69:20 92:2,7
 95:12 106:13 107:15 114:4
 116:6 121:6 139:20,22
 142:17 143:10,11 148:15
 149:14 162:12 164:2
 168:2,5 169:6 176:6 177:6
 185:3 189:5 191:15
 196:6,6,10 203:9,18
 211:23
 capture (2) 23:13 24:5
 captured (16) 6:12 15:16,24
 16:8 23:17 73:4
 110:18,20,23 112:15 178:7
 181:16,17 188:20 192:20
 214:7
 car (27) 33:7,21 39:11
 40:14,15,18,19,20 44:8
 48:17,17 49:2,17 50:2
 51:5,12,12,14 55:7,13,17
 56:22 57:11 66:9,13 90:1,2
 card (5) 47:20 106:14,20
 107:7 121:6
 cardboard (1) 168:24
 care (12) 22:7,22,24,24
 29:13 83:7 100:18
 117:1,8,21 130:24 138:19
 cared (1) 85:5
 carefully (1) 17:3
 carer (1) 20:19
 cares (1) 26:10
 caring (2) 137:19 138:18
 carlo (3) 3:24 4:12,25
 carried (11) 111:4,11,13,21
 186:19 192:1,22 193:9,18
 194:5,7
 carry (6) 2:11 31:8 100:24
 101:4 108:15 111:9
 bus (2) 116:8,18
 carrying (4) 50:2 112:9
 192:7 193:3
 cartwright (61) 1:5,7,11,21
 2:15,16 5:20 13:17 17:5
 18:24 26:11 27:21
 29:18,21 30:14
 32:12,18,22 37:7 40:6 44:2
 48:5 50:15 57:21
 58:4,14,20 59:17 60:17,21

61:11,13,20,21,24 62:20
 84:3 89:12 99:13,22
 130:20 135:23 136:23
 138:14 140:15 144:11
 145:16,20,21 146:14 186:9
 198:21 199:24 212:5
 214:23 216:4,7,9 217:4
 218:3,7
 cases (1) 134:25
 casino (1) 39:19
 casts (1) 208:3
 casualties (1) 173:2
 casualty (9) 16:3,6,9
 112:15,19 118:1 121:23
 194:2 205:9
 cat (1) 67:17
 catastrophic (1) 11:2
 catch (1) 42:11
 categorisation (1) 121:13
 cath (1) 50:4
 cathedral (1) 124:18
 caught (1) 38:20
 caused (5) 9:25 10:3 27:25
 190:13 206:25
 causing (4) 159:15,17 206:4
 207:4
 cawley (1) 49:24
 cctv (4) 62:25 68:1
 192:20,21
 cd (1) 150:9
 cds (1) 4:3
 cease (2) 73:13 146:9
 ceiling (1) 82:12
 celebrate (1) 4:22
 celebrates (1) 17:18
 central (1) 28:22
 centre (9) 8:24 33:1,11,25
 37:12,23 38:6 48:13 66:17
 certain (4) 29:1 118:19
 174:18 196:7
 chair (7) 36:14 42:4 108:3
 141:4,14 142:18,11
 chairman (4) 17:9 63:16
 136:23 213:18
 chance (3) 118:22 179:6
 200:23
 chances (1) 142:19
 change (4) 20:11 29:12
 121:12 162:15
 changed (16) 3:21 29:7
 64:14 105:25 121:5,7
 127:4 129:8 132:15 134:20
 142:9,11 154:22 159:9
 212:9,11
 changing (2) 90:22 191:11
 chaos (5) 47:11 77:17
 163:15 177:17 188:3
 chaotic (3) 119:4,22 123:21
 chapter (5) 11:11 32:23
 59:18 99:17 121:17
 charge (1) 197:22
 charity (1) 21:3
 charles (1) 33:11
 chat (2) 41:7 68:23
 chattering (1) 183:14
 chatting (3) 34:6,25 65:5
 check (17) 29:21 79:20
 81:19 88:22 94:11 97:9
 114:23 132:18,19 140:15
 169:21,21 170:1,4,8 172:1
 194:24
 checked (5) 67:22 89:14
 98:18 167:3,8
 checking (1) 36:23
 checks (2) 13:8 57:10
 cheek (1) 117:12
 cheering (1) 54:18
 chest (1) 179:16
 child (2) 102:10 119:19
 children (11) 20:20 34:19,24
 37:24 46:8 50:8 71:19,21
 78:17 102:15 171:5
 childrens (6) 22:8 118:19
 122:24 130:22 131:1
 132:18
 choice (5) 25:4 60:15 135:16

146:12 177:3
 choking (1) 8:2
 choose (1) 137:15
 chose (2) 100:21 152:2
 chris (3) 10:11,16 12:16
 christmas (6) 3:22 5:13
 48:14 63:19 147:2 148:2
 christmastime (1) 147:25
 chronic (1) 210:8
 chronological (1) 163:8
 circular (1) 42:7
 circumstances (1) 27:7
 citizenaid (3) 98:2 137:1,20
 city (59) 6:11,13
 15:9,14,16,24 16:13,17,20
 26:12,15 33:1,20 37:12
 45:10 48:13 54:9 73:4 82:7
 99:19 107:10 110:20,21,25
 119:2 151:5,10,18,22
 155:25 156:4,9 157:2
 166:8 168:23 170:8 173:16
 174:13 177:17 178:6
 181:15,17,18,20,24
 184:5,25 187:13,16 188:20
 191:6 192:22 193:4,12
 202:10,16 206:16,17
 213:25
 claire (22) 59:20
 62:6,9,10,18
 61:14,19,21,24 62:6,22
 67:24 70:6 73:6,14,20
 145:24 146:19 162:25
 197:20 211:14 218:2
 claires (1) 140:16
 clarify (1) 159:17
 clayton (3) 50:14,16 217:21
 claytons (1) 57:17
 clear (15) 2:1,6 19:15 58:4
 62:6 92:17 99:18 103:2
 134:20 141:8 146:4 156:22
 179:19 188:3 215:3
 clearing (9) 16:3,6,9
 112:15,20 118:1 121:23
 194:2 205:10
 clearly (3) 25:17 83:2 98:25
 climbing (1) 45:4
 close (15) 6:17 9:11 12:20
 17:15 20:24,25 21:14
 34:13 36:6 91:18 124:10
 125:9 129:20 171:16 195:9
 closed (1) 79:6
 closely (1) 25:19
 closer (2) 45:20 202:6
 clot (1) 18:14
 clothes (4) 149:7 198:7
 207:17,24
 clotting (2) 19:12,18
 coat (1) 88:15
 coat (15) 36:22 95:22 96:5
 123:24 124:6 183:12,14,16
 194:12,13,15,21 200:4,5
 204:9
 colder (1) 114:11
 collapsed (1) 157:15
 collapses (1) 27:5
 collated (1) 151:20
 collect (3) 54:6 89:8 142:16
 collected (4) 3:16,20 51:7
 64:12
 colostomy (1) 127:19
 colour (1) 141:23
 coloured (1) 51:23
 colours (1) 201:11
 come (47) 2:4 20:13 27:13
 38:18 39:11 42:2,12 46:13
 53:4 71:7 75:6 78:20 82:9
 85:3 87:20 88:10 96:18,23
 97:21 98:2 102:11,16
 104:11 105:5,9,10 107:7
 117:8 123:15 128:12
 136:25 138:6 139:14 140:2
 164:7 172:2 177:21,22
 185:13,15 192:11 195:7
 196:15 198:4 201:13
 202:15 213:25
 comes (3) 23:4 70:17 184:1

comfort (3) 53:11 115:14
 150:13
 comfortable (4) 143:3,3,6,7
 comforting (1) 14:8
 coming (43) 10:10 20:22 11:7
 14:14 26:6 27:12 37:24
 42:10 46:8 52:17 54:5
 55:23 61:17 74:17 76:2
 82:12,14 86:13 94:12
 97:13,17,19,20 98:6 101:2
 103:12 104:13 105:3,10
 163:16 165:1,2 169:5
 171:8 172:4,21 176:15
 177:2 181:24 197:14
 201:12,16,21
 commence (3) 60:1,5 61:4
 commend (1) 29:14
 comment (3) 26:24 28:18
 135:6
 commented (1) 37:25
 comments (2) 61:16,22
 commotion (1) 35:12
 company (1) 66:25
 complaining (1) 53:14
 complete (6) 9:1 20:1
 122:11 129:4 134:1 163:8
 completely (17) 64:17 78:14
 79:16 93:8 102:21 115:12
 127:4,5 129:8 133:25
 137:5 138:4,24 139:17
 157:3 160:16 175:6
 completeness (2) 15:13
 23:14
 complications (2) 21:12
 29:11
 components (1) 75:11
 composed (1) 161:2
 compress (1) 25:22
 compressions (1) 179:16
 comprised (1) 186:20
 computerised (1) 45:1
 concentrate (1) 161:22
 concentrating (1) 46:9
 concern (5) 11:9 24:9,25
 26:12 28:11
 concerned (6) 9:3 14:4 31:13
 53:9 102:20 212:12
 concerns (3) 13:13 24:5,8
 concert (49) 3:14,17 4:2
 5:11 6:1,9 33:3,16 34:10
 38:2 40:18,25 41:6 44:7,15
 45:18 48:12,23 49:10 50:6
 53:23 54:7,9 57:9 63:14
 70:7,8,21 71:18 88:16
 98:14 146:24 147:2,17,25
 149:4,13,14 150:6,17
 151:3,8 152:5,8 154:14,21
 155:9,15 197:20
 concerts (4) 4:3 67:5 148:4
 155:11
 conclude (2) 59:17 140:15
 concluded (1) 60:22
 concludes (6) 37:3 40:3
 43:22 48:3 50:13 57:17
 concluding (1) 144:3
 conclusion (2) 10:15 28:17
 concourse (14) 26:19 31:22
 68:8 69:1 71:12 112:12
 122:18 135:11 139:5
 152:12 155:18 194:1
 195:18 202:17
 concrete (1) 94:18
 condition (2) 95:16 126:12
 conducted (1) 28:20
 cones (1) 57:1
 confident (1) 126:5
 confined (1) 20:2
 confirm (2) 2:24 134:10
 confirmation (2) 65:9 85:8
 confirmed (1) 100:3
 conflict (1) 78:8
 conflicted (1) 168:13
 confused (5) 14:11 47:5
 124:9 157:17 172:13
 confuses (1) 174:12
 confusing (2) 201:20 205:4

confusion (1) 199:5
 connor (2) 202:12 206:18
 conscious (3) 165:15,17
 171:2
 consciously (2) 157:14
 184:15
 consciousness (5) 13:3 91:24
 165:15 201:10 208:2
 consent (1) 62:9
 consenting (1) 62:12
 consequences (3) 144:15
 145:2,4
 considerable (2) 99:19 145:5
 consideration (1) 213:8
 considerations (1) 132:8
 considered (1) 130:9
 constant (2) 97:15 115:15
 constantly (9) 4:2 89:22
 103:14 148:10 169:20
 174:16 180:12,14 204:22
 contact (6) 89:9 115:15
 133:7 134:20 174:22 198:5
 contacting (1) 164:21
 contained (1) 134:14
 contend (1) 210:25
 content (3) 59:23,24 60:8
 contents (1) 2:24
 contingency (1) 27:25
 contingently (2) 133:14
 183:19
 continue (2) 17:4 142:8
 continued (2) 177:17 180:22
 continuing (1) 133:15
 control (1) 191:22
 controlled (4) 124:17
 125:5,11,23
 conversation (4) 80:23 168:3
 177:11 189:23
 conversations (2) 172:18
 188:24
 convinced (1) 182:22
 cool (1) 149:5
 cooler (17) 30:15 59:25
 60:4,8,13 61:2
 140:16,17,18 143:2
 144:3,8,10 214:23,25
 215:1 218:4
 coopers (1) 30:14
 cope (3) 20:14 29:9 165:7
 copious (2) 5:17 20:12
 cord (5) 8:25 9:1 20:1,17
 21:12
 cordon (7) 104:10 105:9
 115:20 116:15 138:22
 139:4 140:1
 cordons (1) 139:22
 corner (3) 33:25 46:4 113:10
 coroner (1) 22:3
 correct (21) 3:7,11 5:7
 11:18,19,25 12:5 13:22
 15:17,23 16:1,7 17:7 18:2
 19:17,19 23:23 24:2 26:23
 27:9 84:3
 costello (4) 57:20,23 58:14
 217:24
 costellos (1) 58:13
 couldnt (49) 7:20 13:7 15:7
 35:8 43:11 68:13 78:5,6,16
 80:3,20 81:8,11,12 82:24
 83:23,23 86:5,5 87:8 88:5
 90:19 96:25 102:9
 105:19,20 108:11 110:11
 120:13 132:20 158:6,10,10
 159:1 161:17 165:3 170:7
 171:10 174:24 186:23
 187:17,24 188:2 189:1
 191:17,21 195:21 196:12
 215:19
 countdown (3) 69:15 70:3
 148:11
 counterproductive (1)
 199:20
 counterterrorism (1) 58:16
 counting (1) 69:17
 country (1) 137:16
 couple (5) 31:6 54:13,14

140:18,24
course (3) 15:12 144:23,23
cover (6) 5:24 13:11 25:12
 156:22 170:16 214:24
covered (16) 11:10,24
 12:15,17 25:2 55:15 82:15
 87:5 95:23 110:14 135:11
 160:12 169:12 170:9
 183:17 195:1
covering (1) 11:22
coverings (2) 13:18 168:25
cpr (3) 164:16 179:11 180:3
crackling (1) 35:4
crazy (4) 70:4 128:5 180:16
 208:19
criminal (5) 28:13 58:18
 75:14 163:2 213:12
criticised (1) 30:23
crook (5) 99:10 141:4
 197:19 198:13,21
crooks (1) 99:13
cross (1) 201:3
crowd (10) 49:3 54:18 70:3
 71:13,15 72:4,11
 107:16,25 179:10
crowded (1) 57:13
crowds (1) 5:6
crucial (1) 130:6
cry (2) 52:22 182:7
crying (3) 125:21 196:21
 203:6
curtains (1) 124:7
cut (11) 84:25 98:18,21
 100:3 102:21 170:6 173:16
 174:8 197:23 207:18,24

D

d (1) 217:1
dad (23) 5:17 14:5 31:23
 80:16,21 81:22 90:1 91:11
 93:13 132:24 133:22
 134:10 148:1 176:16
 177:5,16 178:14 193:3
 196:20 204:1 206:17
 207:13 208:8
daddy (2) 4:4,6
dads (1) 177:2
daily (2) 214:5,12
dale (24) 80:21,23,25 81:19
 85:17 89:22,23,25 91:10
 92:19 93:4 103:15,15
 104:6,24 105:8,12,15
 115:15 116:15 117:7
 118:11 123:3 124:11
damage (4) 10:3 127:18
 209:13 210:5
damaged (1) 127:15
dammest (1) 25:5
dance (1) 70:11
danced (1) 154:15
dancing (2) 5:17 70:11
dangerous (1) 69:4
dare (1) 92:20
dark (3) 38:12 71:3 90:14
date (1) 80:4
dated (10) 2:23 32:25 37:10
 40:8 44:3 48:7 50:16 57:24
 63:4 146:16
daughter (51) 1:22 4:4,6
 14:1,5 29:6,13 30:10
 33:2,8,12 34:12
 35:15,17,19,22 37:13
 39:2,13,22 40:13 41:4,23
 43:3 44:5 45:21 46:10 47:4
 48:15 49:8,14,16,19,21,25
 50:3 62:11 63:15 78:9 83:3
 89:8 112:9 125:15 130:25
 142:16 144:16 188:15
 190:22 196:17 198:3,5
daughters (5) 1:15 33:5
 39:15,21 49:3
daunting (4) 163:25 184:21
 207:14 208:17
dave (2) 49:24 57:2
dawned (1) 76:4

day (35) 3:13,15 4:1,1 12:13
 20:18,18 21:20,20
 22:4,20,21 33:22 64:8,9
 65:8 69:6 83:21 90:25 91:4
 132:12 135:25 137:5 144:2
 146:22 148:16,17 149:25
 150:19,22 193:16
 210:21,24 213:9 214:19
daylight (1) 208:5
days (4) 20:16 48:9 135:7
 148:7
daytoday (1) 212:15
dead (2) 86:9 95:8
deal (14) 2:5 6:19 23:5,17
 66:6 82:9 121:20,21
 140:18 144:12 153:20
 155:7 156:19,23
dealing (3) 7:8 22:17 43:10
dealt (2) 3:13 167:21
death (3) 87:10 200:24
 211:15
debating (1) 149:4
debris (4) 46:22 54:23 90:12
 160:4
deceased (4) 28:16,20
 173:3,4
december (1) 63:20
decide (2) 34:3 68:13
decided (13) 34:9 37:17 41:5
 44:14 45:20 65:22 68:24
 109:10 149:7 150:16,19
 153:23 155:1
decision (5) 6:1 18:19 20:13
 25:6 72:25
decisions (1) 24:13
declared (1) 26:16
declined (1) 53:19
deeper (1) 86:23
defects (1) 23:9
defibrillator (3) 179:1,20
 180:17
defibrillators (1) 188:12
definitely (6) 5:19 83:25
 132:6 144:9 163:11 213:11
degree (1) 209:9
delay (3) 1:3 124:16 206:7
dental (1) 131:22
dependency (3) 127:22
 131:2 209:18
depression (2) 20:14 23:8
descended (1) 163:14
describe (135) 3:15 8:11
 10:4 14:9,18 27:4 41:9
 47:1 51:22 53:24 55:16
 65:13,25 66:16,24 68:18
 69:6,10,15 70:2,23 71:11
 72:11 76:21 77:9 78:7 79:2
 81:21 82:10 83:1 85:7,12
 87:5 90:11,12,13 93:23
 94:3,5,11,17 95:14,22 96:7
 98:10 101:6 106:9,10,17
 111:2,5 113:24
 114:4,11,19 117:5,15
 119:4,15 123:6,18 124:13
 125:21 126:19 129:3 131:9
 132:4 133:3,14 150:8
 151:16,22 152:16,17
 153:16,22 154:8,13,17
 157:5 158:1 159:5,21
 160:2,12 161:11,17 162:3
 163:6,14 165:21 167:16
 169:15,19 171:14 173:1,19
 174:25 180:25 181:11
 182:4,20 183:11,17
 184:18,20 186:18 188:1,9
 189:18 191:12,25 192:25
 193:18 194:4,17 195:25
 196:13 197:10 198:11,21
 201:14 202:1,14,21 203:12
 206:7,22,25 207:9 208:21
 209:9 210:9 211:4 213:12
described (22) 9:17 54:8
 68:6 82:2 106:20 109:8
 110:19,24 111:16 122:14
 126:17 127:1 160:20 164:5
 166:4 171:12,24 175:23

190:11 192:23 202:23
 212:5
describes (19) 39:25 40:24
 41:3 44:8,18 45:10 46:21
 47:24 49:19 50:21 51:8,25
 53:11,21 54:14 55:22
 56:20 57:5 59:1
describing (4) 92:9 105:7
 117:25 211:3
description (17) 8:21 36:11
 38:23 40:1 43:2 47:17,23
 48:19 51:20 56:4 126:18
 132:22,25 133:7 134:3,6
 192:3
descriptions (2) 43:20 55:1
design (2) 148:23,24
designing (1) 149:1
desperate (2) 102:2,3
desperately (5) 29:15
 104:20,22 110:7 150:13
despite (5) 95:14 96:19
 134:3 139:12 174:13
destination (1) 19:7
detail (3) 57:24 60:17 136:23
detailed (3) 1:14 11:13 43:2
detailing (1) 99:15
details (21) 6:20 12:10 33:5
 35:9,23 37:1 38:15 40:16
 43:7 50:11 51:3 52:8 56:21
 62:7 142:11,12 143:7
 146:1 165:22 211:7 212:12
detect (1) 161:16
detective (1) 58:14
detonation (13) 7:12 59:4,6
 63:11 73:7 122:4 146:23
 156:19,23 175:1 193:9
 205:8 207:6
devastating (2) 30:7 214:20
deviate (1) 19:6
device (1) 97:2
devoted (2) 215:15,16
diagonal (1) 194:11
dial (1) 47:5
dianne (5) 33:7 37:6,8 40:3
 217:9
dianne (4) 34:5,25 35:18,21
didn't (102) 7:2 8:3 9:6,24
 10:16,18 12:17 20:4 22:16
 23:15 24:17 25:22 26:1
 33:17 34:7 35:15,18,25
 37:21,25 38:20 39:3
 41:1,14,22 42:20 45:17
 47:8 51:12 55:4 66:22,23
 71:22 72:20,20 73:21
 74:12 76:23
 79:6,8,12,16,18 80:7,8,13
 81:10,18,20 91:4 93:17
 95:15,18 96:23
 102:13,14,17 104:18
 106:18 108:12 109:24
 111:9,12 112:2 119:7,22
 135:13 152:24 153:6,7,25
 157:8,11 161:20 162:13
 164:19 165:4,5 166:3
 168:10,11,13,17 169:8,10
 170:6 171:9 176:8,10
 177:3 178:18 180:17
 187:4,11,20 193:6 200:1
 201:1,3 202:15 203:16
 205:24
die (5) 87:13 92:21 103:11
 142:20 164:23
died (13) 12:19 62:2 79:24
 123:4 129:13 134:12
 161:3,6 168:25 177:9
 190:22 196:17,19
difference (1) 131:18
different (24) 12:3 18:10,11
 28:1 41:15 53:8 93:19
 94:6,21 113:4 114:1
 115:16 116:8 118:21 127:5
 134:4 135:25 136:3 138:17
 140:2 189:8 212:5,15,19
difficultly (1) 139:12
difficult (15) 26:24 30:5 49:7
 75:6 131:16 132:13,14

135:8,9 138:10 144:14
 177:12 194:6 210:2 215:22
dignity (1) 28:19
dimly (1) 163:18
direct (1) 84:7
direction (6) 76:4,5 77:5,20
 110:1 163:16
directions (1) 39:14
directly (3) 45:7 72:5 128:23
dirty (1) 38:13
disabled (1) 49:17
disagrees (1) 83:22
disappeared (1) 56:10
disbelief (1) 110:15
discomfort (1) 190:13
disconnect (1) 7:9
discovered (1) 129:12
discussing (3) 1:23,24 196:16
discussion (2) 109:9 196:1
disneyland (1) 65:23
disorientated (3) 46:19 47:5
 203:6
disorientating (4) 201:11
 202:23 204:24 205:2
disorientation (1) 7:18
dispatch (1) 28:7
display (1) 67:24
displaying (1) 62:25
dispose (1) 153:2
disrespect (1) 18:3
distance (2) 56:25 150:25
distorted (2) 158:22 159:3
distraught (1) 178:10
distress (1) 182:5
distressed (1) 80:2
distressing (7) 2:2,7 95:25
 146:7 214:6,8,9
dithering (1) 194:19
doctors (1) 140:11
documents (1) 113:6
does (8) 62:8,12 65:1 73:11
 144:5 158:19 198:20
 212:18
doesn't (3) 18:6 143:13
 182:23
doing (15) 10:8 21:8 23:14
 31:2 44:18 46:1 62:1
 137:16 148:16 155:12
 162:14 167:10 184:19
 210:4 212:17
domain (1) 137:13
done (24) 5:18 10:17 13:7
 32:7 67:25 73:3 74:21 93:7
 116:20 135:20 136:10,20
 153:24
 138:8 143:17,23 167:13
 178:2 179:5,6 181:14
 191:19 198:2 211:10
 215:19
donor (1) 128:19
dont (86) 9:20,23 13:25
 14:2,6,12,25 15:9 17:14
 20:19 25:6,7,11 29:25 31:9
 36:1 38:14 46:18 50:6
 53:20 58:5 60:22 67:20
 74:6,8 75:21 78:19
 81:13,19 84:1 86:9 92:6,20
 99:5 106:24 115:2 126:20
 135:21 137:13,14 140:9
 142:13,15,18 148:16 152:4
 157:17 160:9 161:22
 162:2,14,22 166:6
 167:8,20,22,25 168:12
 169:10 170:3,14 172:6
 173:7,13,24 175:19,21
 177:10,11 178:14
 184:15,17 189:21 191:19
 195:6 199:24 201:21 203:8
 205:1,2 206:1 209:4
 211:9,17,24 213:23
door (10) 4:16,21 38:18 46:6
 152:13,16 177:16,22
 207:11,23
doors (25) 34:14,14,18 35:1
 38:7 39:1 41:14 42:11
 43:14 45:13,17,24 46:4,9
 51:17,23 53:4,6 55:6 67:22

136:4 152:11 156:3,10
 158:13
doorway (1) 35:13
dose (1) 202:22
doublecheck (1) 159:19
doubt (2) 23:8 215:20
dread (62) 9:1,3 10:13
 16:2,18 24:17 31:21 38:17
 39:18 40:20 41:18,22 42:4
 44:24 46:21 47:15
 49:2,11,16 53:15 55:13
 56:3 59:9 69:4,17 80:25
 84:6,14 92:20 103:19
 108:2,11,16
 111:4,11,12,13,21,22
 112:22 117:25 126:11
 127:14 139:14 140:2 150:2
 156:10 158:19 160:6 183:5
 187:9 189:9 190:2
 192:11,22 193:23 194:9
 197:1 198:25 202:15
 204:22 209:6
downloaded (1) 137:22
downstairs (12) 16:14,15
 36:16,18,19 113:24
 114:11,20 118:8 149:10
 170:7 194:14
dragging (2) 77:6 82:3
dreaded (1) 182:1
dreading (1) 70:15
dreaming (1) 201:15
dressed (2) 98:11 99:5
dress (5) 53:22 88:16
 93:19 94:1 96:4
drink (4) 5:15 52:6 152:24
 211:12
drinking (2) 150:3 153:8
drinks (1) 68:15
drive (8) 23:6 65:2 70:15
 81:25 85:19 150:2,4 206:3
driven (2) 50:4 138:20
driver (1) 70:15
drivers (1) 56:24
driving (3) 57:3 89:25 90:2
drop (3) 33:8 39:22 127:16
dropped (4) 49:9,14 96:10
 150:14
drove (8) 3:21 33:1,21 51:7
 66:1 133:23 150:6,20
drug (2) 120:20 203:2
drugs (1) 20:12
dsir (1) 149:11
due (4) 99:12 105:22 147:5
 153:24
during (9) 6:2 12:18 18:9
 62:24 74:14 141:5 175:1
 181:3 193:12
dutton (1) 39:13
duty (1) 29:3
dying (8) 8:14,15 10:10
 12:21 20:4 26:5 84:20
 201:2

E

e (1) 217:1
ear drum (1) 209:12
earlier (12) 60:2 65:8 69:6
 76:7 96:8 108:24 122:12
 154:23 183:9 185:12
 196:20 197:21
earliest (1) 26:21
early (11) 34:2,10,21 37:17
 53:10 61:3 68:22 133:3
 148:20 206:20 208:4
ears (2) 5:25 67:17
easier (2) 117:7 155:23
easily (3) 34:14 45:22 132:14
eat (4) 33:10,20 41:5 52:10
eaten (1) 52:12
eating (3) 22:19 31:16 52:6
edge (1) 112:1
education (1) 137:14
effect (7) 20:24 75:5 139:18
 201:19 212:13 213:4,8
effective (2) 192:18 199:25
effects (2) 30:7 202:1

efficient (1) 207:21
either (10) 26:22 63:19
 73:12 105:5 107:11 143:14
 146:8 177:4,6 216:11
elbows (2) 158:16 183:5
element (2) 73:22 143:16
else (14) 18:10 22:6 26:3
 62:23 70:12 81:18 95:11
 105:23 156:18 169:7 172:1
 185:13 195:10 215:19
elses (1) 175:3
elsewhere (1) 43:15
email (1) 216:10
embarrassed (1) 153:21
embarrassing (2) 153:12,13
embedded (2) 117:18 126:17
embrace (1) 4:22
emergencies (1) 27:6
emergency (11) 23:12 24:6
 25:8 28:3 92:11 131:21
 133:4,16 134:20 213:20,23
emotionally (1) 212:8
emotions (1) 182:14
emperor (1) 24:16
emphaise (2) 171:19 189:5
empty (1) 93:8
emt (1) 205:13
enabled (1) 6:15
encore (2) 6:2 35:2
encounter (1) 106:11
end (10) 18:11 33:20 38:2
 69:13 82:4 111:2 150:16
 155:4 175:24 199:5
ended (6) 9:8 34:10 70:24
 132:20 148:4 177:11
endorse (1) 30:15
ends (1) 29:6
enjoy (2) 52:12 66:25
enjoyed (3) 70:8 155:12,12
ennis (3) 170:11,13,22
enormity (1) 125:12
enough (5) 139:18 182:20
 189:5 203:17 215:21
ensue (1) 177:17
ensure (4) 10:14 13:17 25:5
 134:24
ensuring (1) 28:8
enter (4) 67:8 115:22 139:3
 177:17
entered (15) 5:4 40:21 44:25
 51:11 67:11,18 68:2 70:4
 73:4 142:5 166:8 173:22
 178:6 181:20,23
entering (4) 5:8 77:20 178:3
 182:1
entire (5) 74:2 109:3
 131:3,11 210:9
entirely (3) 2:12 30:16
 146:10
entrance (12) 33:13 68:2
 113:11 123:7 151:1,9,10
 152:10 153:5 202:7 203:21
 204:2
entranceexit (1) 45:7
entry (2) 67:22 209:19
envisage (1) 2:6
equally (1) 202:23
equipment (1) 26:2
erica (2) 120:17 121:24
escorted (1) 33:12
especially (2) 24:25 104:19
etihad (2) 133:21 134:8
etuk (1) 122:15
euro (1) 48:17
evacuate (1) 114:6
evacuated (3) 26:17 186:13
 190:9
evacuation (2) 27:24 189:19
eve (47) 1:23 3:5,14,16,20
 4:1,15,19 5:4,12 6:12,17
 7:25 8:7,19 9:17 10:14,18
 11:12,13,22,23 12:3
 13:3,18,21 15:2,5,20,24
 16:8 17:5 20:23 21:22
 22:2,9,25 23:16,25 24:25
 30:10,18 31:4,20 48:4,6

217:18
even (46) 6:25 11:19 12:20
 16:25 18:14 20:10,20
 24:21 25:2,4,10 30:22
 31:20,21 74:18 102:23
 125:11 131

excruciatingly (1) 204:7
 exhusband (1) 80:21
 exit (13) 41:25 45:21 46:6,9
 47:19 48:24 49:1 67:9 71:1
 72:4 155:1,4,20
 exited (1) 40:19
 exiting (4) 34:17 46:3 72:12
 155:25
 expartner (1) 22:23
 expect (3) 70:9 184:7 196:22
 expected (3) 101:2 118:6
 181:1
 experience (35) 1:15 2:8 3:4
 5:11 7:8 61:25 69:23 70:7
 73:20 97:23 111:13,17
 118:10 119:15 121:11
 123:13 130:9,11 131:19
 132:7 137:3 146:3 147:10
 152:11 156:4 182:21 197:6
 201:11 202:22 203:2,9
 205:23 210:18 213:20,23
 experienced (10) 5:23 7:12
 11:7 17:17 73:9 142:1
 168:16 192:5 201:8 211:5
 expertise (1) 130:3
 experts (2) 9:9 123:10
 explain (6) 7:11 73:19 81:7
 106:2 124:22 194:18
 explained (3) 86:4 115:19
 176:13
 explaining (1) 65:17
 explanation (4) 9:11 26:16
 140:6,12
 exploded (1) 90:6
 explosion (17) 9:23 35:4,25
 36:1 42:19 55:9 75:16,25
 124:18 125:6,12,23 163:4
 164:6,12 166:7 214:6
 exposed (2) 159:10 193:15
 express (6) 28:15 66:17
 139:18 141:8 182:20 200:2
 expressing (1) 172:23
 expressions (1) 27:18
 extended (1) 214:8
 extent (3) 8:6 16:22 58:8
 external (1) 209:24
 extra (1) 46:1
 extraction (1) 214:2
 extracts (1) 170:21
 extreme (1) 207:1
 extremely (5) 71:14 131:16
 132:13 138:10 157:5
 eye (2) 196:18,25
 eyes (4) 8:14 70:14 79:6
 91:19
 eyesight (1) 42:23

F

fabric (1) 173:17
 face (10) 38:5,11 55:6 85:1
 98:19 117:13 159:11
 171:16 209:9 213:7
 faced (2) 130:2 182:7
 facedown (1) 109:11
 facilitated (1) 12:6
 facility (1) 19:7
 facing (6) 38:6,6 76:15,18
 110:2 158:13
 faded (2) 157:20 201:7
 failed (2) 31:23 213:15
 faint (3) 56:11 84:15 95:3
 fall (2) 42:20 111:10
 falling (3) 7:21 82:11 157:18
 falls (1) 63:20
 familiarity (1) 115:11
 families (11) 20:8
 28:16,19,21 30:4,8,15
 57:15 134:18,21 135:3
 family (24) 17:19 30:10
 31:11 32:11 48:10 104:21
 120:4 131:11,24 135:7,24
 138:19,22 139:9 185:7
 198:12 208:8 210:11
 213:7,9,15 214:3,8,14
 families (2) 131:18 182:17

fan (7) 5:21 50:21 63:22,24
 147:21,24 148:6
 fantastic (1) 6:1
 far (13) 43:13 44:12 45:2
 46:4 55:10 74:18 81:15
 95:7 112:23 126:10 128:10
 177:23 193:10
 fast (3) 9:10 57:3 165:1
 fastened (2) 108:25 111:25
 father (25) 39:17,21 64:25
 150:14 156:15 175:24
 176:19 177:20 178:3,10,20
 180:6,11,22 181:3,7,10
 182:6 189:18 190:24 191:2
 202:9,15 206:14,16
 fathom (1) 187:18
 favourite (1) 3:23
 fear (4) 29:12 108:7 143:20
 214:1
 fears (1) 21:23
 fed (1) 10:21
 feed (3) 132:8,25 156:25
 feel (33) 10:12 26:2,10
 57:9,12,12 60:14 70:13
 74:19 84:15 96:20 111:10
 122:6 125:14 128:2 136:19
 137:2 138:2,4 143:3
 150:18 157:12 161:5,20
 169:5,8,11 170:3 174:2
 198:19 199:17 212:4
 213:24
 feeling (23) 56:10 71:9 83:1
 127:16 129:17 157:5,18
 158:1 159:18 160:2 161:17
 162:4 169:4,22 171:12,15
 183:3 184:20 192:25 193:6
 200:2,25 204:22
 feels (2) 143:3 162:7
 feet (11) 31:21 35:5,6
 38:19,22 42:24 43:1 54:12
 74:7 158:13 209:2
 fell (4) 49:8,13,14 158:3
 felt (89) 7:15,18,18,20
 24:12,15 27:6 28:25 31:11
 36:12 38:18,21 43:4
 46:13,19 55:7 56:5,11
 71:10 73:21 74:2 76:5
 78:14 80:15 85:8 87:18
 95:19,22 96:25 97:3,6
 106:4 111:6,10 113:21
 115:12 116:22
 119:18,21,23 123:16,16
 130:9 153:19 157:12 158:4
 159:6 160:9 162:1,10,15
 163:20,22 168:1 169:3,3,8
 171:21 172:13 174:19
 176:4 177:22,24 180:18,21
 181:1 182:21,24
 183:2,15,22 184:2,4
 185:15,25 186:1 188:18
 192:12,15 193:5,10 194:15
 195:18 197:21 198:1
 201:14,24 204:18
 female (2) 53:14 101:13
 fence (1) 192:13
 fencing (2) 186:20 189:20
 fend (1) 132:15
 few (18) 9:25 34:23 42:23
 61:15,22 83:3 100:9
 118:14 128:13 142:7,12
 149:15 152:25 154:19
 175:13 195:25 201:24,24
 fibula (2) 9:15 127:11
 fighting (1) 10:13
 figure (3) 58:20 166:17 197:6
 figured (1) 45:22
 figures (2) 58:6 59:13
 final (8) 38:5 57:21 136:25
 138:15,18 191:5 213:17,22
 finally (8) 23:15 28:15 68:24
 106:25 191:3 205:5 206:11
 207:25
 find (22) 2:2 20:16
 35:15,16,19,21 39:7,22
 51:13 56:14 68:15 78:17
 98:16 111:18 118:12,24

132:20 134:5 140:12 146:7
 167:24 174:24
 finding (2) 84:2 178:12
 fine (7) 92:14,24 141:19
 189:10 195:14 200:17,19
 finish (5) 53:23 54:3,9 154:3
 212:24
 finished (6) 67:2 142:25
 148:19,20 155:2 212:23
 finishes (1) 57:8
 fire (5) 24:22 27:1 38:13
 74:13 96:15
 firefighters (1) 27:15
 fireman (1) 27:13
 first (38) 2:20 5:12 14:24
 15:3,5 17:13 22:12 24:6
 25:23 32:23 36:5 45:14
 52:18 61:13,14 62:20
 75:18 82:11,19 88:5 92:11
 111:21 130:6 140:21 155:4
 157:24 161:1 167:14
 170:11 178:12 179:3 184:2
 186:1 193:21 197:21
 198:1,5 213:19
 fitted (1) 209:23
 fitting (1) 179:23
 five (2) 40:12 43:8
 fixators (1) 209:24
 flagged (1) 7:7
 flak (1) 24:20
 flame (1) 74:16
 flames (1) 74:17
 flash (6) 35:3 38:20 42:17
 46:12 49:6 73:16
 flat (4) 70:21 165:13 183:5
 194:10
 fleeting (3) 171:25 185:12
 194:24
 flight (4) 40:20 41:17,20
 108:16
 flights (1) 111:4
 floods (1) 27:6
 floor (42) 35:5,7 42:24
 43:10,12,12 46:17
 47:19,25 55:12 75:5,7,11
 76:13 77:1 78:2,24
 83:19,24 90:12 95:20,22
 96:1 114:14,17 117:22
 157:20,22 160:2,8,10
 163:24 171:13,17,21
 174:16,23 194:5,12,16
 200:5 205:1
 fluorescent (2) 55:19,23
 flying (2) 54:23 157:18
 focus (3) 75:7,7 162:13
 focused (2) 11:6 185:25
 foil (1) 114:16
 follow (2) 73:13 140:19
 followed (5) 52:21 72:3
 125:6 132:12 193:2
 following (5) 18:5 33:22 36:1
 52:5 141:12
 follows (1) 32:25
 food (4) 5:16 44:16
 142:16,18
 foot (4) 127:12,16 173:23
 198:23
 footage (2) 63:1 188:19
 footbridge (5) 15:16
 110:21,25 151:17 178:7
 forbid (1) 185:22
 force (4) 38:18,21 42:19 76:5
 forever (5) 14:16 29:7 101:5
 115:4 129:21
 forget (5) 20:22 116:23
 145:9 182:10 190:14
 form (1) 32:23
 formally (1) 136:10
 fortunately (1) 128:19
 forward (4) 6:8 111:22
 121:21 129:6
 fought (1) 15:6
 found (16) 6:10 39:14 44:22
 72:6 111:13 134:14 135:14
 136:18 137:24 138:21
 175:4,22 185:10 191:2

206:3 214:9
 four (8) 21:13,14 43:8
 126:21,23 139:3,21 209:20
 fourbed (1) 131:10
 foyer (47) 33:14,16
 34:9,12,23 37:20,22 38:16
 40:22,22 41:1,13,15
 42:9,15 45:5,8 47:16 51:22
 53:4 54:11 55:7 57:11
 59:2,3,6 67:14 72:6,8 75:5
 77:19,20 78:22 81:14
 86:14 87:18 89:21 95:20
 103:17 107:4,16 109:17
 122:12 129:13 130:5
 134:12 139:4
 frantic (2) 188:14 189:3
 free (1) 60:14
 freely (1) 57:10
 freezing (6) 96:6 123:24
 183:12 194:12,15 200:4
 french (1) 33:22
 freshen (1) 3:21
 friend (1) 216:14
 friends (12) 17:15
 20:20,21,25,25 23:6 30:11
 39:21,23,25 143:11 211:11
 front (15) 8:14 38:9 46:2
 48:21 54:24 56:22 69:3
 71:25 72:5 79:6 83:2 94:17
 109:3 111:11 191:21
 frustrated (6) 172:13 184:12
 189:2,19 190:4,17
 frustrating (2) 189:12 213:13
 frustration (6) 13:2,4 16:23
 18:3 172:24 190:10
 fulfilled (2) 21:4,8
 full (12) 2:8,16 6:20 37:1
 62:8,9,21 90:11 93:16
 106:5 145:21 152:22
 fully (3) 4:3 12:15 58:6
 fun (2) 155:10 212:11
 funeral (2) 131:14 214:18
 further (20) 1:14 3:9 38:16
 43:7 50:11 52:13 53:25
 54:8 55:1 56:4,21 66:16
 81:11 86:6 95:15 96:21
 99:14 111:22 125:5 206:7
 furthest (1) 41:20
 fusion (1) 128:22
 future (4) 29:16 30:11 31:5
 182:16

G

gary (13) 32:21,24
 37:16,22,25 38:5,6,9,20,21
 39:8,22 217:6
 gasping (4) 8:12,13 12:23,25
 gather (1) 144:3
 gave (18) 15:7 49:22
 86:18,25 89:2 99:15 119:2
 131:11 132:25 146:15
 167:22 168:14 172:7 174:3
 186:9 197:18 199:2 204:18
 general (2) 58:7 152:11
 gentleman (5) 1:7 17:14,15
 49:23 145:16
 genuinely (1) 103:11
 get (98) 3:21 10:19 12:24
 13:21 14:1 18:2 21:11,15
 22:7 25:7 33:10 34:19
 35:8,15 36:15,22 39:2,5
 44:23 45:16 47:6,9 49:24
 50:24 51:13 53:2 55:17
 56:18,18,25 66:21 67:14
 70:17,18 75:2 76:1,2,19
 78:9,19 79:12 81:11 86:5
 88:7 91:3 103:18 105:2
 106:8 119:5 124:11 137:10
 138:9 139:24 140:8,10
 142:21 146:8 148:1 149:22
 152:1,21 153:4,6 157:24
 158:7 164:1 166:11,20
 169:24 170:6 172:15 175:9
 176:6,10 177:6 179:1,5
 181:8 185:1 187:3,7,8,9
 188:16 189:2,20

189:8,18,25 191:11,17,20
 192:16,18 199:6 200:20
 206:23 215:7
 gets (5) 8:19 61:21 143:16
 155:14 199:9
 getting (23) 4:16,21 10:21
 26:6 42:9 102:2 103:9
 112:6 114:24 126:12 149:3
 180:14,14 184:23 186:25
 187:2,6 189:15 190:6,9
 193:5 195:23 207:24
 gift (2) 63:19 147:3
 girl (2) 36:10,11
 girlfriend (1) 167:24
 girls (7) 25:24 33:16 37:20
 39:14 42:14 67:17 70:10
 give (50) 1:14,20,24 3:9
 6:19,20 8:21 9:11,18 14:20
 17:12 18:13 19:22 22:23
 24:9 30:5 40:1 50:11 51:20
 58:25 61:17 62:7,10,20
 73:8 75:19 80:2 88:4 97:22
 98:3 105:12 106:20 121:14
 123:10 129:15 133:7 137:1
 142:12 146:1,14 149:22
 163:9 188:23 196:5,9,10
 207:7,11,14 211:7
 given (47) 7:5 12:20 13:8
 16:12,18,22,23,24
 19:15,21 20:3 24:7 27:5
 29:1 56:20 57:6 59:13,21
 96:8 97:12 98:5 99:13
 100:19 106:14 107:3,6
 168:23
 grandes (1) 65:4
 graphic (2) 148:23,24
 grateful (11) 18:23 32:11
 112:8 115:4 124:9 130:20
 140:7 144:13 198:13
 210:19 215:2
 gratitude (2) 141:1,8
 graze (1) 159:13
 greaney (1) 11:11
 great (3) 154:13 155:13
 211:21
 greater (18) 2:22 3:2
 11:17,20 12:2 13:5 20:16
 31:13 32:2 58:15 73:2 89:5
 110:17 120:9 134:3
 151:19 181:14 215:16
 green (10) 22:1 43:9
 92:4,10,24 93:9 106:15
 141:19,23 183:17
 greengate (1) 48:18
 greeted (1) 207:10
 grew (1) 189:18
 grey (3) 38:10 51:23 54:23
 greyness (2) 38:12,21
 grievance (1) 131:12
 grip (1) 112:1
 gripping (1) 192:12
 grosvenor (1) 39:19
 ground (4) 7:21 46:23
 112:18 160:5
 group (5) 114:22 115:3
 136:16 192:7 193:2
 guard (1) 10:12
 guardian (1) 9:5
 guess (1) 46:1
 guessing (1) 119:8
 guidance (1) 135:4
 guits (1) 153:19
 guilty (1) 43:9
 guy (2) 152:23 167:8

H

hadnt (8) 34:4 84:8 85:21
 88:16 161:25 177:10 179:2
 186:10
 half (5) 64:9 143:13 152:22
 175:6 202:18
 hallucinate (1) 201:9
 hallucinations (2) 143:15
 201:19
 hand (7) 49:3 55:5,14 82:15
 155:15 174:25 209:3
 handed (1) 47:20

189:5,9 190:2,15
 192:11,12 193:3,7,25
 194:15,17 195:6,14,14
 196:24,25 197:22 199:9
 200:16 201:1 203:7,11
 206:2,8 207:8,15
 211:16,17,17,24 212:3
 215:5
 gone (16) 12:18 33:13 35:21
 42:25 67:14,15 85:9 97:6
 113:18,23 116:18 161:14
 163:6 175:7 190:7 201:22
 good (23) 1:5,6,9 21:5 29:10
 34:22 39:20 52:11,19,23
 61:11,12 64:4 69:25 70:8
 73:12 120:9 121:3 137:23
 142:3 149:25 153:23 174:3
 goodnight (1) 71:4
 grab (1) 5:15
 grabbed (1) 89:13
 graded (2) 36:20 126:11
 gradually (1) 38:4
 graduate (1) 23:6
 graft (1) 209:7
 gram (1) 19:16
 granddaughters (5) 40:16,24
 41:6 42:2,12
 grande (21) 5:23 33:3 40:18
 44:7 48:12 49:9 50:22
 54:10,17 63:13,22,24
 69:25 74:13 146:24 147:22
 150:9 153:24 154:3,22
 168:23
 grandes (1) 65:4
 graphic (2) 148:23,24
 grateful (11) 18:23 32:11
 112:8 115:4 124:9 130:20
 140:7 144:13 198:13
 210:19 215:2
 gratitude (2) 141:1,8
 graze (1) 159:13
 greaney (1) 11:11
 great (3) 154:13 155:13
 211:21
 greater (18) 2:22 3:2
 11:17,20 12:2 13:5 20:16
 31:13 32:2 58:15 73:2 89:5
 110:17 120:9 134:3
 151:19 181:14 215:16
 green (10) 22:1 43:9
 92:4,10,24 93:9 106:15
 141:19,23 183:17
 greengate (1) 48:18
 greeted (1) 207:10
 grew (1) 189:18
 grey (3) 38:10 51:23 54:23
 greyness (2) 38:12,21
 grievance (1) 131:12
 grip (1) 112:1
 gripping (1) 192:12
 grosvenor (1) 39:19
 ground (4) 7:21 46:23
 112:18 160:5
 group (5) 114:22 115:3
 136:16 192:7 193:2
 guard (1) 10:12
 guardian (1) 9:5
 guess (1) 46:1
 guessing (1) 119:8
 guidance (1) 135:4
 guits (1) 153:19
 guilty (1) 43:9
 guy (2) 152:23 167:8

handing (1) 168:23
 handle (1) 135:8
 handrail (1) 41:21
 hands (4) 76:19 87:10 160:6
 189:20
 hang (1) 89:23
 happen (10) 14:3 89:17
 135:15 165:18 175:13
 182:23 187:11 193:7
 207:15 211:17
 happened (44) 7:22,23 9:12
 11:2,12 12:7 14:13 18:9
 20:3,21 25:10 27:19
 31:16,19 35:18 38:15 49:8
 57:5 68:5 78:11 80:18
 81:24 85:17 109:25 114:9
 115:13 121:11 125:15
 136:21 143:9 153:8 161:24
 162:12 163:11,13 171:10
 176:9 178:13 197:12
 198:10 201:17,18 212:20
 214:10
 happening (22) 55:4 56:9
 74:11 91:8 105:23,25
 106:5 115:13 119:16,20
 120:14 124:23 131:6
 149:23 157:13,17 161:6
 162:1,16 186:23 198:8
 204:23
 happens (1) 184:8
 happy (11) 21:24 24:1 54:15
 160:10 61:5 64:5 66:3 103:2
 127:6 130:13 150:1
 hard (6) 93:12 129:25
 175:23 182:9 200:5 204:12
 harrison (1) 48:15
 hart (1) 107:10
 harvester (1) 41:5
 harvey (1) 17:16
 hasnt (2) 52:16 144:8
 haunt (1) 193:15
 haunts (1) 104:22
 havent (3) 186:5 212:23
 213:2
 having (27) 3:8,16 16:8
 27:22 52:6 53:4 55:9 60:11
 70:15 73:

hed (1) 203:15
held (2) 155:15 207:5
helen (1) 199:3
helicopter (1) 125:8
help (57) 3:5 18:2 26:6 32:8
 43:4,15 49:24 78:9 79:21
 83:3,4 86:15,19 87:23
 88:7,13,18,21 94:7 95:1
 98:7,14 99:8 101:2,4
 102:11,16 103:12
 105:3,5,9,10,11 113:3
 115:24 123:14 127:24
 129:21 130:5 133:6 137:11
 140:25 142:21 166:14
 169:24 174:17 179:25
 180:12,23 181:1 184:8
 188:16 191:17 196:12
 198:4 211:24 215:18
helped (9) 43:16 47:15
 49:21,23 57:14 101:19
 118:4 120:21 129:24
helpful (1) 212:2
helping (5) 36:22 84:13 94:6
 101:7 180:3
helpless (4) 138:4 163:21
 171:21 188:18
helplessness (1) 83:1
helps (1) 215:20
here (25) 7:5 13:3 18:5
 20:7,10,10 31:4 52:10
 53:20 68:10 78:19 91:11
 101:4 103:20 137:4 140:6
 141:13 142:22 144:7
 167:25 176:8,12 177:6
 181:8 185:3
herself (3) 62:13 86:2 200:8
hes (5) 17:16 168:16 176:11
 181:17 190:9
hibbert (24)
 1:8,9,12,13,17,21,24
 2:8,14,18 6:8,21 7:11
 18:24 19:9,21 22:17 24:4
 29:19,24 30:1,3 32:12
 21:7
high (9) 11:22 24:9 111:8
 127:22 131:2,17 155:22
 206:23 209:18
highlight (1) 146:7
highlighted (1) 7:7
highpitch (1) 7:17
highpitched (2) 157:9,11
highvisibility (1) 94:1
hillsborough (1) 11:6
himself (1) 17:24
hiring (1) 44:8
history (1) 7:14
hit (11) 7:19 8:24 9:4,24
 36:4 82:17 84:18 85:1
 100:1 125:13 209:6
hodgetts (1) 137:21
hold (7) 47:6,9 55:4
 86:18,25 112:1 175:10
holding (1) 49:2
holds (2) 187:23,24
hole (4) 86:25 87:1 99:23
 198:23
holes (5) 9:16 87:6,9 173:21
 209:2
holiday (1) 65:22
hollie (106) 62:11,12,13,16
 63:15,18,22 64:5,12
 68:1,12,23 70:16 71:25
 76:6,18,24 77:6,10,14
 78:4,13,18 79:20,24
 81:3,11 82:2,5,23
 83:7,12,19,21 85:5 86:5
 87:13 90:17,20 91:13 92:4
 93:5,12 95:19,25 96:24
 97:10 98:7 100:24 101:13
 102:20,23 103:11 104:6
 106:15,21 107:25 108:2,21
 109:17,22 110:18
 111:11,16 112:14,20
 114:14,16 116:8,11,17
 117:1,8,23 118:12 119:24
 120:4,10,20

121:1,7,8,13,22
 122:6,21,22 124:3,20
 126:1,8 127:6,9,21
 129:3,9,24 135:25 136:16
 138:18 141:5,15
 143:3,5,7,23
hollies (20) 62:11 80:21
 83:25 85:14 86:19 89:21
 98:18,22,24 101:6,17,20
 102:20 107:17 120:10
 121:17 123:4 127:6 128:18
 130:21
home (12) 29:8 33:2 40:14
 64:14 65:10 69:8 70:16,18
 138:20 144:21,25 215:2
homeless (2) 43:5 169:2
honest (4) 71:10 106:12
 111:7 118:3
honestly (1) 26:9
hooded (1) 42:3
hoodie (1) 68:12
hope (7) 17:2 29:15 145:5
 175:10 186:6 205:21
 215:25
hopefully (1) 10:17
horrible (2) 178:16 193:6
horrific (3) 112:4 136:8
 143:17
horror (1) 38:11
horse (1) 203:17
hospital (77) 6:22 17:10,20
 19:4,14 21:13 22:2,8,11
 23:16,19,22 24:1,12 28:5
 36:25 40:1,2 43:19 48:1
 50:4 56:19 57:3,5 113:3,18
 115:25 116:8,18 117:3,18
 118:12,19,25 119:13
 120:12,16 121:14,19,24
 122:1,25 123:4 124:17
 126:3,13,14 128:8 130:22
 131:1,9,17 132:18 133:22
 136:15 184:9 187:3
 199:9,10 200:9,20
 203:4,5,11 204:17
 205:10,16,25 206:6,8
 207:9,9,23 209:17
 210:9,21 213:6
hospitalisation (1) 59:11
hospitals (5) 116:4 118:17
 131:8 132:21 133:14
hospitaltyche (2) 157:9,11
hotel (2) 210:19 211:1
hottest (1) 74:2
hour (19) 10:11,23 15:6
 16:13 20:4 23:19 26:17,18
 32:13 87:18 103:18
 123:16,17 174:15 181:24
 183:22 189:12 193:9
 202:18
hours (25) 16:15 17:1 23:24
 26:21 32:4,7 34:3 51:10
 52:9,13,24 53:23 54:20
 60:6 97:6 113:21 120:7
 122:4 128:5 132:15 135:3
 202:18 205:7,20 214:6
house (4) 33:22 65:16
 212:15 214:15
household (1) 149:23
however (2) 51:16 123:7
hub (1) 142:23
huddle (1) 115:7
huddled (1) 105:22
huge (8) 63:22 69:15 73:16
 74:15,17 131:18 148:6
 149:14
hunched (1) 55:12
hundreds (2) 21:19 32:7
hung (1) 45:5
hunts (5) 67:12 68:2 151:1,9
 155:21
hurley (10) 59:20
 145:17,19,23 149:23 178:6
 181:14,20 188:21 218:6
hurt (3) 79:7 88:6 102:11
hurting (2) 39:19 53:15
husband (2) 37:12 39:25

hysterical (1) 78:6

I

ian (10) 65:8,19 66:1 89:25
 103:20,25 104:24 105:8
 119:1 133:22
ians (1) 90:1
icy (1) 95:22
id (45) 3:18 4:21 7:19 8:3
 10:17,23 11:7 13:3 16:24
 18:2,4,14 22:19
 31:11,12,22,22 36:12
 44:14,15 81:14 82:21
 97:18 100:17 105:9 108:7
 112:25 131:6 138:7 139:20
 148:2,3 152:4,5 153:5
 158:3,8 164:3 191:21
 199:11 203:10 207:25
 208:12 211:10 212:23
idea (16) 39:21 72:10
 74:10,21 80:5 115:12
 116:3,5 118:21 121:14
 125:16 135:12 137:9
 149:22,22 215:20
identification (1) 134:15
identified (9) 2:19 11:11
 19:9 23:21 163:1 173:3
 190:1 206:8,11
identifies (1) 19:3
identify (11) 15:20 16:5
 17:5,8 23:15 89:4 99:5,8
 131:17,24 168:4
ignore (1) 17:24
ignored (1) 78:15
ignoring (1) 88:22
ii (1) 7:16
ill (9) 20:2,7 25:7 53:20 60:3
 61:15 78:19 185:21 211:13
im (88) 4:16 5:18,20,21 6:19
 7:13 8:1,1,25 9:2 10:8,10
 11:8 16:15 18:23 19:1,1
 20:1,7,9,13,15 21:2,8,20
 31:7,18 32:24 37:7 40:4
 46:18 48:5 50:15 52:22,22
 58:1,12 59:12,22 60:6,10
 64:7 78:18,19 91:20
 99:4,21 118:7 126:11,13
 127:5 130:13 137:5 139:3
 140:5,7,11,25
 142:20,22,22 144:13,14,20
 148:18 157:15 164:2
 166:16,18 167:4 175:20
 176:9,15 189:16 192:17
 193:25 194:17 195:15
 197:22 199:2 201:2
 203:23,25 212:10,11
 215:2,23 216:7
image (2) 6:11 62:25
images (4) 11:16 67:24
 121:15 214:9
imaginable (1) 164:4
imagine (1) 23:3
immediate (5) 59:3,5 75:22
 138:19 157:21
immediately (11) 35:7 50:10
 70:18 75:9 77:13 109:19
 135:2 137:7 138:6 155:1
 207:10
imminent (1) 96:21
impact (7) 19:23 20:19 58:18
 135:6 136:24 141:13 211:4
impacted (3) 20:21,25
 212:25
important (8) 25:13
 30:6,21,22 99:18 104:4
 115:10 147:15
impossible (6) 101:1 116:23
 138:11,15 175:16 182:13
impression (3) 123:22
 174:4,4
inappropriate (1) 136:21
inaudible (1) 195:3
incident (4) 28:4 135:2
 188:2,3
include (1) 58:23

including (3) 58:10 127:21
 131:21
incorrectly (1) 19:2
increased (1) 58:22
incredible (1) 214:19
incredibly (3) 111:20 144:25
 198:13
indicate (2) 59:25 213:17
indicated (11) 12:1 27:21
 28:11 53:18 57:22 58:20
 62:14 63:6 73:7 146:18
 156:21
indicating (2) 85:10 153:3
indications (1) 59:21
individual (1) 139:14
individuals (3) 12:10 13:6
 48:8
inevitably (2) 62:1 146:3
infamous (2) 4:18,24
infectious (1) 66:4
infirmary (1) 206:12
information (11) 11:21 58:17
 105:12 114:8 118:14
 125:2,18 133:20 134:24
 136:4 154:5
informed (5) 97:23 120:4
 134:11 154:2 188:23
initial (5) 19:6 96:19 132:15
 135:7 198:11
initially (11) 6:22,23 22:11
 93:1 96:23 100:11 106:4
 126:10 127:21 141:21
 194:6
initiated (1) 135:1
initiative (1) 132:16
initiate (1) 201:6
injured (37) 20:1 21:9 43:17
 47:10,21,22 57:25
 59:1,7,10,10 11:7 76:22
 77:25 79:7 82:20 85:4 94:7
 98:25 101:8 112:23
 113:15,21 127:9,17 128:23
 165:11,11,24 170:9 171:13
 173:11 174:4,15 185:22
 187:17 208:22
injuries (53) 1:25,25 7:8
 8:3,22 9:17,19
 16:13,17,18,22,24 17:22
 19:22,24 20:11 21:2 23:5
 29:9 31:3 35:23 36:19
 38:24 39:23 40:2 43:3
 47:2,23 49:19 50:5,11
 55:16,18 56:4 62:7,11
 102:23 109:3,6 112:4
 120:10 121:4 127:2,7,10
 129:4 130:2 146:2 165:5
 174:7 197:25 208:20 211:3
injury (20) 8:6 9:2,25 13:11
 20:2,17 21:12 22:5,6 25:1
 29:1 35:9 37:1 43:20 56:21
 86:19,22 100:4 117:15
 126:20
inpatient (2) 126:24 127:21
inq0201295 (1) 19:3
inq024103t1 (1) 19:15
inquiry (18) 2:9,16 18:24
 25:15 29:6,15 40:4 57:23
 63:4 75:15 113:7 120:3
 130:15 146:16 212:16
 213:12 215:14 216:14
insensitive (1) 136:18
inside (2) 34:16 54:16
inspiration (2) 30:17,25
inspire (4) 21:6,10 23:1,9
inspired (1) 31:1
instant (2) 38:12 158:3
instantly (4) 7:22 49:5 55:14
 160:15
instead (3) 39:24 133:19
 137:19
instinct (2) 83:6 85:23
instincts (1) 169:11
instructed (1) 17:19
instruction (1) 85:7
instructions (2) 60:13 114:8
insult (1) 28:25

intact (1) 159:23
intended (2) 59:18 77:6
intention (1) 44:15
intentionally (1) 143:12
interacted (1) 13:24
interacting (1) 12:3
interested (1) 7:14
intervals (1) 69:2
intervention (3) 193:13
 195:23 200:10
interview (1) 18:25
interviewed (1) 48:8
into (61) 3:21 6:11 16:19
 21:13,15 33:1,10,14,19
 36:13,16 37:12,16
 40:22,24 41:13 47:13
 48:25 49:16 50:3 51:17,24
 66:16 71:13 72:11 74:4
 75:6 77:5 78:21 81:14
 86:14 94:21 107:10 111:3
 126:1 130:17 132:8 137:8
 139:4,5 147:12 149:17
 151:1,18 152:25 153:6
 154:22 156:3,9 159:2,9
 163:14 171:8 184:1
 189:8,20 194:7 203:21
 205:5 209:5 213:25
introductory (2) 61:16,22
intrusion (3) 135:7,23 214:3
invaluable (1) 132:2
investigation (1) 68:1
invitation (1) 136:15
involved (3) 13:9 125:13
 148:25
involvement (2) 28:14
 170:11
irreparable (2) 209:13 210:5
isnt (3) 11:23 19:11 63:5
issued (1) 51:11
issues (2) 25:13,17
italian (2) 52:6,24
items (2) 96:7 174:24
its (70) 2:11 8:18 11:19,23
 12:11 14:6,6 16:18,21 18:8
 19:11,14 20:1 21:19
 26:7,24 29:15 32:8 52:14
 55:3 58:4 59:22 61:13 63:5
 64:8,17 74:3 98:7 113:9
 127:4 128:5 129:8 131:5
 136:19 137:6,7,23 139:25
 141:12 143:4,9,17,17,21
 144:14 146:10 159:20
 161:19 162:12 163:11
 174:18 179:19 180:16,23
 185:11 190:8 205:1,3,20
 208:16 210:18
 212:2,11,13,13,25 215:21
 216:7,9,12
itself (2) 68:6 160:2
itv (1) 48:9
ive (30) 2:19 5:23 6:24
 12:11,13 13:8,25 17:15
 20:5,13 21:25 22:2,19
 27:11 46:14 58:20 73:25
 102:15 113:7 121:15
 137:4,22 140:20 142:23
 144:3 157:14 173:8 176:6
 183:1 212:4

J

jacket (3) 42:13 55:19,23
jackets (2) 42:3 94:1
jackson (1) 140:6
jason (2) 166:16 197:5
jaw (3) 117:17 126:16 209:3
jawbone (1) 126:18
jd (3) 96:9,9 183:8
jeans (18) 83:13 86:23
 98:18,22 99:24 100:3
 102:21 159:23,24 164:25
 165:1 170:5,6 173:16,20
 174:1,8 197:23
joanne (16) 40:13,18
 41:11,23 42:2,7,13,24
 43:1,13,13,17 149:10
 150:6 181:20 188:21

job (4) 8:18 18:22 85:12
 213:1
john (80) 1:6,9,19 2:10 4:9
 5:18 13:13 17:2 18:21
 21:24 25:13,17 26:8
 27:15,18 29:17,20 30:21
 31:7 32:6,13,20 37:5
 43:11,24 57:19 58:3,12,19
 59:16 60:10,14,20,24
 61:5,12,17,23 62:16,19
 84:1 89:9 99:12,21
 130:13,17 135:18,22
 136:20 137:21 138:2,11
 140:5 142:21 143:1,19,23
 144:1,6,10,13,19,21
 145:8,12 146:10 186:3,6
 198:16,19 199:21
 211:12,20 212:1 214:22
 215:1,10 216:6,8,11
join (2) 136:16 211:13
joined (2) 202:9 208:8
joked (2) 149:12 154:19
joking (1) 34:20
jolt (2) 184:23 192:7
journey (9) 17:21,23 18:1
 44:9 51:9 64:23 65:15
 149:18 150:8
judge (1) 58:17
judgement (1) 24:18
July (4) 1:1 2:23 131:13
 216:14
jumped (1) 29:25
juniper (3) 83:17 154:21
june (3) 50:16 63:5 146:16

K

keen (1) 17:8
keep (17) 22:25 55:21,24
 64:18 91:10 93:12 104:24
 109:23 112:2 122:9 124:4
 131:10 146:11 185:16
 186:14 196:18,25
keeps (1) 31:15
kelly (64) 62:2,5 63:15
 64:4,15,21 65:8,13,15,25
 68:2 70:16 71:25 72:18,21
 76:6,15 77:3,7,15
 78:11,14,19,24 81:3,16
 82:10,22 83:9 84:7,12
 85:5,19,25 86:8 87:23
 88:9,25 89:13 90:18,20
 94:11,20,25 95:16 96:25
 103:25 104:21 110:7,15
 113:16 116:12 118:24
 129:13,25 132:7,12,19,25
 133:8 134:3,7,11 138:17
kellys (3) 89:18,25 132:22
kept (23) 8:17 10:19,21
 14:14 26:19 32:18
 35:14,16 36:23 81:6 90:20
 91:10,19 93:12 115:6
 118:20 171:8 172:4
 175:10,18 184:23 185:11
 195:11
ketamine (9) 201:5,6,9,23
 202:2,22 203:8,15,17
keys (1) 39:11
kicked (1) 85:23
kicking (1) 79:11
kids (2) 34:20 43:15
kill (1) 203:17
kind (35) 4:23 5:14 6:24
 7:1,13,14 10:14 15:5,7
 24:16 25:4 151:24 153:19
 157:20 158:18,19,24
 159:13,25 160:8 161:1
 165:2,20 170:1 173:10
 192:9,11,16 194:11 196:11
 197:1 201:10 209:7
 212:4,4
kindly (1) 125:1
kitchen (1) 149:15
kits (1) 25:23
knee (7) 98:22 100:3
 127:15,17 128:18 1

132:5 143:2 154:25 174:12
212:17
lasted (1) 157:13
late (2) 64:21 134:5
later (15) 17:1 23:22 40:23
56:13 97:21 107:11 122:1
134:14 153:16 165:12
166:18 169:12 175:13
203:3 205:16
latest (1) 65:4
laughed (1) 156:7
lauren (10) 48:4,6,10 50:13
185:9,11 186:12 190:1
195:11 217:18
laurent (1) 147:9
lawyer (1) 144:4
lay (4) 36:6 171:17 173:17
194:10
laymans (1) 9:2
layout (3) 45:11 67:6 205:3
lead (1) 28:23
leading (5) 53:7 55:7 71:24
109:18 148:7
leads (2) 51:23 111:3
leahy (2) 120:17 121:24
leaning (4) 42:20 76:18
82:22 214:4
leant (2) 41:21 42:5
learned (7) 29:21 75:13
120:15,23 144:6 162:22
170:17
learning (2) 21:21 23:6
learnit (1) 173:9
least (4) 165:16 185:2
202:17,18
leave (25) 6:2 7:10 13:11
25:11 35:14,16 44:14
70:7 73:12 81:13 86:2
100:7,14,19,24 104:20
116:7 146:9 156:24 164:2
172:1 173:9 174:13 191:6
213:14
leaving (12) 23:15 34:21
38:2 45:16,22 46:10 64:21
96:25 118:22 155:15
181:17 192:25
led (1) 72:23
led (66) 17:5 23:19,25 26:5
27:7 31:22 34:15 35:21
41:7 45:24 48:23
49:1,13,22 52:24
54:1,13,23 55:10,14 64:9
66:13 68:15 70:24 71:7,19
72:12,24 74:4 76:15 77:9
99:23 100:4 109:23 110:11
114:14 119:8 122:3
126:5,9,19
127:11,12,14,16
128:5,12,16,22 132:15
133:22 136:11 139:11
153:3 159:8,9,11
181:10,15 198:3
209:2,3,10,12,13 213:7
lefthand (2) 36:4 46:13
leg (18) 39:19 49:22,23
86:19 99:23 127:11,16
128:16,22 159:24 167:7
168:8,10,20 173:22
209:5,7 210:8
legal (1) 132:6
legs (40) 9:14 10:1 44:20
53:14 79:11 83:20,25 87:5
98:25 101:6,17,20
102:20,24 109:4
158:5,6,7,17,18 160:16,19
166:23 169:4 173:24 176:7
183:6 184:24 191:14 192:8
195:13 200:25 207:1,4
208:3,24 209:2,20,24
210:1
lent (1) 28:24
less (7) 29:16 69:22 72:4
103:18 137:4 165:17,17
let (16) 18:21 31:18 39:12
74:15 91:20 92:14,20
93:5,10 104:10 116:15

131:3 133:1 140:21 159:19
198:4
lets (2) 145:12 183:25
letting (2) 108:6 141:15
level (4) 11:23 24:9 51:14
118:6
lewis (4) 44:1,3 48:3 217:15
liaison (4) 6:23 120:4 131:24
136:11
lie (2) 177:7 183:5
life (32) 18:7,12 20:3 21:4,8
22:23 25:6 29:12 31:3
54:25 74:2 97:3 127:4,5
129:8 138:18 142:9,12,14
143:9,10,13 182:4,17,17
186:14 200:7 212:14,15
214:8 215:12 216:1
lifelong (1) 29:13
lifesaving (2) 18:13,19
lift (7) 36:15 41:11,12 44:11
51:16,18 191:14
lifted (3) 36:18 191:18 211:1
lifts (2) 51:15,16
light (7) 22:1 30:14 38:21
42:18 73:24 158:24 213:13
lights (3) 57:4 71:7 113:25
like (283) 3:24 5:14,24
7:2,18,19,20 8:9 9:21
10:1,5 11:6 12:23 14:16
21:6 30:4 31:12 33:17
36:12,14,21
38:10,13,13,16,18 39:20
43:4 54:22 55:8 56:11
60:11,12,15 70:8
73:21,22,25 74:1 75:21
85:9,9 87:18 92:6 93:7
96:15,19,21 97:6 98:22
106:4 111:10,17 112:5
113:21 115:7 116:22
119:21,23 123:16,16,17
125:14,16 129:18 131:22
135:3 137:20 140:3,3,4,25
141:9 149:13,24 151:22
152:7,7,22,25 153:3,5,7,12
155:10
157:10,10,12,13,15,18,19
158:5,18,18,23,24,25
159:3,3,11,11,12,12,13,14
160:7,9 161:5,19,21,25,25
162:7,10,10,11,11,15
164:3 165:1,1,4
167:21,21,25 168:1,2,3,16
169:8,10,22,23 170:2,3,5
171:21 172:8,8,16,20
173:25,25 174:2,4,14,19
175:18 176:1,9,25
177:5,9,22,25,25
178:14,15 179:4,4,7
180:13,15,17,18,21 181:1
182:9,23,24,24,25 183:25
184:1,2,3,8,9,10
185:3,12,15,18,23,25
186:1,8,15,16,24
187:1,1,2,2,6,8,22
188:12,14,16
189:11,13,15,15,17 190:7
191:12,20 192:9,10,12,17
193:5,10,23 194:12,15,21
195:5,13,15,18
196:5,8,10,20,24,25
197:1,15,24 198:1:1 199:8
200:24,25
201:1,2,10,14,14,15,16,20,20,24
203:6,7,8,11 204:18,19
205:1,3,4,23 206:1,19
207:21,21,23,24,25
208:12,13,15,17,18
209:6,7 210:11,13
211:1,14,14,15,19,23
212:2,11,12,15
line (6) 71:19 84:7 94:22
133:16,24 134:20
lined (1) 123:11
lines (1) 114:6
link (1) 178:6
linking (1) 53:5

lip (1) 42:20
lips (1) 12:25
list (2) 69:7,10
listen (1) 215:21
listening (3) 65:4 78:15
150:8
lit (1) 163:18
literally (6) 15:9 180:15
187:2 206:5 207:22 211:16
little (19) 5:2,10 6:5 23:9
25:24 34:2 54:13 56:3 60:7
64:19 67:17 70:10 97:21
106:14 107:10 124:9
147:22 153:16 187:18
live (7) 21:3,8 48:10 64:2
210:23 214:18 216:1
lived (2) 130:11 215:4
liverpool (3) 44:4,8 210:23
lives (5) 58:11 136:8
213:5,10 214:21
living (2) 3:19 29:7
load (1) 43:5
loaded (1) 126:1
loads (3) 70:10 123:11
154:17
locate (2) 132:17 134:18
location (1) 53:8
locked (1) 175:4
lol (1) 52:23
long (41) 26:13 28:5 35:3
36:12,21 44:22 56:6 67:20
69:20 84:14 95:20
97:17,19 98:10 99:5 104:9
106:4 119:24 121:12,15
122:21 123:14 124:24
139:11 143:7 144:7,21,25
154:14 166:6 168:1 174:19
175:19 184:2 187:4 200:22
201:25 204:7 205:19,21
208:1
longer (5) 6:6 94:22 183:4
193:10 214:1
longsleeved (1) 69:2
look (19) 7:2 13:15 21:18
25:18 34:4 38:1,11 42:1
43:12 77:13 79:7 85:11
106:18 120:9 121:3 137:17
140:3 152:2 161:2
166:14,25 203:15
looked (24) 4:14,17,19 7:24
12:14 41:24,25 42:22 50:9
51:10 54:19 69:6 76:22
79:9 90:8 121:4 135:18
161:12 164:5 165:1,4
173:25,25 203:15
looking (23) 4:14 17:3 25:1
33:18 34:25 35:13 42:11
46:21 54:11,12 55:12 56:7
88:8 109:23 110:7 113:15
153:13 165:11 173:13
174:3,14 179:7 205:20
looming (1) 96:20
lose (6) 71:22 91:23 108:8
117:13 171:4
loss (6) 145:3 164:24 212:16
213:4,8 215:16
lost (12) 13:3 16:24 57:16
58:11 83:12 110:10 115:12
116:12 125:14 127:24
165:7 173:12
lot (34) 8:1,4,15 21:4
24:13,19,20 35:12 41:18
50:25 58:17 77:22 97:11
106:5 112:25 113:24
114:11 117:13 118:3
142:23 164:10,25 165:3
168:2 173:23 185:19,21,24
201:3 206:25 211:9,10
212:10 215:13
lots (9) 21:16 36:7 45:22
67:16 71:13 86:13
114:19,20 131:21
loud (15) 42:17,18 45:25
46:12 49:5 54:24 74:1
96:12 113:25 125:6,9,10

161:8 176:4 177:24
loudest (1) 46:14
loudspeaker (1) 114:9
louise (1) 62:22
love (1) 22:19
loved (6) 4:5 5:16 10:16
57:16 93:13 200:14
lovely (4) 4:13 65:2,3 66:5
lower (2) 68:19 101:20
luck (1) 31:5
luckily (1) 110:2
lucky (6) 20:9 29:9 117:20
175:21 213:24 215:17
lunch (6) 60:7,12 61:3,4,6,9
luncheon (2) 60:1,23
lying (10) 42:24 46:17,21
158:12,19 165:13 166:4
193:22 200:5 204:22

M

maybe (16) 12:24 17:21 18:4
34:21 36:9 45:2 69:20
106:2 148:17 152:22
153:2,19 167:9 168:16,16
191:18
mcdonalds (2) 90:25 91:3
mcorley (1) 40:13
meal (7) 4:13 33:20,20 41:7
52:6 66:17 67:2
mean (10) 14:2,6 25:25 26:4
50:25 88:6 106:3 174:15
194:20 207:21
means (3) 9:2 26:21 134:4
meant (13) 5:5 31:7 38:5
81:6 117:21 127:15 140:10
147:12 173:9 185:18,21,24
197:1
medals (1) 29:1
media (7) 4:19 135:6,25
136:3,9,12 214:3
medical (21) 24:8 57:14 94:7
102:16 107:3 113:3 119:25
122:19 130:24 137:7,10
138:6,19 180:12 187:4,23
193:13 195:23 197:25
200:10 207:10
medicallied (1) 118:9
medication (8) 18:13
19:16,18 20:12,15 120:11
199:11 203:4
medications (1) 19:10
medics (3) 22:16 25:8 105:9
meet (6) 33:17 39:21 44:15
53:8 118:13 156:16
meeting (1) 115:8
meg (3) 148:3 150:17 197:12
megan (62) 145:25 146:4,25
147:3,21 148:25 149:4
150:6,25 151:17
152:2,14,22,24 153:14,22
154:8,14 155:1,8,22
156:3,4 160:24 161:2,9
162:5 164:3,17 165:8
167:1,3,9 169:12 173:12
176:7 177:3,9
178:8,11,13,21
179:11,14,17,21,24
180:3,11 182:2 190:21
193:1,4 196:19 206:18
212:16 213:4,8,15 214:16
215:13,18
megans (6) 149:9 155:15
175:4,15 176:23 214:17
memory (4) 87:12 88:12
104:21 137:9
members (11) 24:21,22
87:19 104:13 137:18
138:20,22 139:9,25 208:8
214:15
memorial (7) 113:11 123:6
178:4 202:7 203:21
204:2,4
memory (2) 22:16 65:25
men (12) 33:3,9 34:1
40:11,19,21 44:6 45:7
178:20,23 193:2 197:24
mentally (1) 212:19
mention (1) 75:19
mentioned (4) 39:5 140:24
141:3 188:6
merchandise (12) 41:24 42:6
43:6 45:19 68:7,24 96:7
108:24 151:25 152:1
168:23 186:21
mess (2) 95:23 134:1
message (6) 47:7 52:9,20,21
114:1,5
messages (3) 21:11 52:8
69:16
messed (1) 209:8
met (1) 33:15
metal (1) 107:25
method (1) 162:23
metres (8) 6:24,25 7:2,4
46:6 75:16 83:3 163:3
michael (6) 89:6 141:3

145:23 150:5 178:6 181:14
michal (1) 19:2
mick (3) 202:12 206:15,18
middle (6) 71:21,25 154:21
164:6 184:5 187:16
midline (1) 19:5
might (8) 18:5 34:22 130:9
137:18 163:12 199:3 201:4
208:15
mike (2) 32:2 121:16
military (1) 7:14
mind (12) 8:17 9:10 79:16
84:1 91:7 93:7 164:11
165:6 182:16 186:17
200:20 201:3
mine (2) 13:2 135:3
minute (8) 12:15 23:24
87:18 123:16 195:16
196:24 199:14 207:22
minutes (24) 23:20,22 34:9
37:19 38:4 42:16 47:11
52:21 64:21 69:17,21
122:1,4 130:6 174:15
175:13 190:12 193:9
201:24,25 202:16 205:8,16
208:13
miracle (1) 16:21
miss (2) 46:10 212:20
missed (1) 143:13
missing (1) 134:19
mistaken (1) 105:15
misunderstood (1) 58:6
mitchell (1) 121:25
mixed (1) 12:24
mixture (1) 196:14
mmhm (5) 65:6 102:1,5
112:17 141:16
mobile (3) 52:4 174:22
199:12
mode (2) 162:7 189:8
moment (11) 12:14 23:13
62:24 74:10 80:6 81:20
117:6 121:21 142:22 143:6
161:17 214:7 215:23 216:2
momentarily (1) 74:23
moments (2) 76:7 138:18
monday (8) 3:18 37:11
40:10,13 44:4 48:11 50:17
51:6
month (2) 148:20 209:17
months (7) 20:15 22:2,11
51:2 128:8,13 210:1
mood (2) 66:4 149:24
moore (4) 185:11 186:12
190:1 195:11
moral (1) 29:3
more (51) 9:3 15:7 21:9
30:22 38:4,13 45:16,20
46:3,3 54:5,5 64:5 69:22
72:4 74:1 75:6 81:7,8,9
86:23 87:19 98:22
102:20,23 105:8 106:2
112:23,25 114:12 132:14
137:4 142:14,25 143:13
153:10 160:8 168:16
169:15 179:6 180:21
187:23 189:20 203:15,18
204:19 206:4 212:11
213:14,14 216:1
morning (8) 1:5,6,9,10
121:18 133:3 206:20 208:4
morphine (2) 120:25 199:13
mosquito (1) 157:10
most (9) 8:23 36:17 72:3
80:9 83:15 124:14 136:8
138:3 214:20
mother (12) 62:13,14 133:5
150:13 154:5 156:15 182:5
188:11,24 197:7 198:12
202:10
motherly (2) 83:6 85:23
motivate (2) 21:6,10
motivational (2) 10:8 21:4
motives (1) 136:20
mottram (2) 66:1 199:3
mouth (3) 8:12 90:15 197:15

N

n (1) 217:1
na (1) 187:9

name (12) 2:17 17:13 19:1
33:5 62:21 81:17 145:22
161:8 166:16 185:9,9
195:16
named (2) 1:22 202:12
names (2) 35:12 140:24
narrative (1) 10:24
narrow (1) 36:13
natural (1) 72:3
naturally (1) 20:13
near (16) 33:8,11,24 39:1
40:19 42:6 44:8 47:19 49:4
53:5 55:10 118:5 124:11
150:14 189:23 203:20
neared (1) 150:12
nearest (1) 41:17
nearby (3) 46:6 72:4 155:20
necessarily (1) 163:8
necessary (3) 24:17 174:8
196:3
neck (7) 9:4,7 25:22 55:20
56:7 82:14 84:19
necks (1) 47:15
need (18) 5:19 22:22 66:22
102:16 129:6 138:25
142:15 145:1 161:21,23
167:24 181:8 188:16 199:9
206:2 208:14,15 211:13
needed (24) 76:1 85:4,10
88:18 95:9 100:18,19
104:19,20,22 105:4,10
121:5 126:21 130:5 131:4
138:16 139:20,24 150:13
152:1 166:20 189:23
196:18
needing (3) 78:11 83:3,4
needs (4) 22:24 29:13
134:20 137:12
neither (3) 76:21 107:3
120:10
nerve (1) 127:14
neurological (1) 23:8
neurosurgery (1) 19:7
never (27) 4:18 5:18,23
54:24 72:8 73:25 75:23
94:24 96:25 97:17
119:6,18 126:11 129:21
135:15,20 139:23 142:5
158:8 163:20 171:21
178:13 181:1 182:10,17
186:5 190:14
newbuild (1) 65:10
news (3) 48:13 90:5 133:15
newspapers (1) 135:14
next (30) 12:15 37:7 40:6
41:23,25 42:5,8 43:8 44:2
46:16 48:5 49:7 50:15 53:6
56:23 59:19 65:21 81:15
115:13 119:21 122:23
128:12 152:11 164:3
171:22 178:7 186:13 193:7
195:7 206:20
nice (1) 70:10
night (46) 3:6 5:1,11
14:23,24 18:9 20:3 21:5
27:2 31:14 72:9 95:17 96:8
97:23 104:14 108:25 112:7
115:3 118:4 119:8 124:14
129:15,17,24 131:6 138:16
139:4,15,20 144:15
155:9,10,13 166:18
185:8,10 195:10 198:10,14
204:25 210:12,21 211:9,19
213:8,15
nightmare (1) 182:22
nobody (14) 9:9,11 26:10
78:15 84:10,13 88:11 97:1
106:7 118:19 119:21
123:11 125:17 140:9
nobodys (1) 26:5
nodding (2) 60:9 143:8
noise (3) 54:22 73:25 157:11
none (3) 120:14 123:9
138:21
normal (6) 150:2,4 169:9

186:15 198:7 216:1
normally (1) 138:3
northwest (1) 58:16
note (4) 144:3 199:10
203:15,16
noted (1) 110:13
notes (3) 199:8,12,15
nothing (14) 52:10 79:18
82:22 97:19 106:5,12
142:14 152:4 161:7
162:10,15 189:14 203:11
215:18
notice (7) 41:1,15 87:1
93:17 140:7 143:20 152:24
noticed (10) 8:11 53:16
54:13 55:14 77:17 78:24
82:21 89:17 99:23 186:9
noticing (1) 184:15
notified (1) 80:9
noting (1) 54:14
nowhere (1) 46:11
number (31) 36:20 45:12
47:20 57:25 58:10,22
79:25 80:4 86:15 95:14
101:10,19 105:22
106:15,16 108:12 110:13
111:5 118:17 128:12
133:5,7,12,19,25 136:3
141:5 165:23 173:7 179:13
188:20
numbered (2) 58:11 173:2
numbering (1) 174:13
numbers (2) 59:1 106:24
numbness (1) 178:15
numerous (2) 20:5 139:12
nurse (4) 98:13 100:1
197:17,19
nursery (1) 65:18
nurses (3) 140:11 207:17
210:9
nut (2) 117:18 126:17
nwas (1) 123:10

O

object (1) 54:23
observation (3) 136:14
187:12 188:23
observations (1) 60:4
obstructed (1) 94:23
obvious (2) 174:1 188:11
obviously (70) 2:4 4:24
6:3,22 8:1 9:20,24 10:2
11:13 12:11,17,19 13:8,14
14:2,22 15:3 16:12 20:1,11
24:20,23,23 30:8 31:2 54:6
60:8 70:14 106:7 111:8,21
113:19,20 118:4 130:17
132:6 137:4,19 138:10
142:22 149:25 153:20
157:16 158:9 161:1,20
163:25 164:3 165:18
174:17 178:12 185:10
186:2 187:11 188:16
189:17 190:5 192:8,9
194:9 196:4 198:6 204:25
210:25 212:19
occasion (2) 1:22 3:12
occasionally (1) 194:23
occasions (2) 11:24 188:20
occurred (1) 125:24
oclock (6) 60:7,21 64:10,15
216:7,9
october (1) 23:2
offduty (5) 89:5 95:11 98:13
197:16,19
offer (1) 65:9
offered (2) 99:8 124:4
office (19) 34:13 37:23
41:18,20 44:12 45:4,9 46:5
48:25 64:22 72:12 73:16
74:5 77:10 81:15 82:4
94:17 176:14,17
officer (18) 19:6 49:24 89:5
94:10,12 95:11 97:9

101:13 120:4 125:1 132:24
166:19 185:5 190:1 195:8
197:5 202:12 206:15
officers (42) 36:13,16 43:9
47:12 93:17,21,23 94:1,2,5
100:6 101:11,19 102:19
107:17,24 109:22
114:20,22 115:3,6,7,20,24
116:14,15,20 117:21,25
122:18 124:13 131:24
134:5 136:11 139:14 141:5
169:19 172:10,23 184:21
188:19 191:8
official (1) 170:15
oh (1) 161:21
okay (31) 14:14 36:24 39:9
52:14 56:2,3 60:24 61:5,6
63:2 64:20 68:4 79:20
84:23 87:21 88:23 90:20
93:1 110:22 111:1 122:8
130:19 135:22 141:21
163:14 172:8 177:3,7
185:17 187:6 189:18
oh (4) 50:19,19 62:16 128:4
older (1) 144:19
oldest (1) 144:20
omg (1) 52:11
once (20) 26:12 36:19 66:6
67:2 68:5 84:6 96:23
101:6 112:22 117:2 118:8
123:14 135:2 138:17 141:9
174:2 175:23 205:15 213:6
ones (2) 57:16 118:6
ongoing (4) 29:11 30:7 58:5
128:23
online (3) 69:6 214:9,14
onto (1) 19:7
open (6) 45:8 48:17 51:17,22
114:12 194:14
opened (4) 11:11 34:15
45:24 152:20
opens (1) 40:22
operation (1) 208:11
operations (7) 126:22,23
128:10,12 203:5 209:20,23
opinion (3) 97:22 132:13
139:17
opposite (5) 45:7 66:17
77:19 122:11 143:21
option (1) 146:10
orally (1) 196:10
order (3) 163:8,12 190:5
ordering (1) 100:6
orders (1) 18:5
ordinary (3) 34:8 36:1 152:4
organisation (1) 183:25
organise (1) 140:8
organised (1) 179:11
141:11,17 142:7 143:4
213:21
paragraphs (1) 140:21
paralysed (2) 8:25 9:2
paramedic (14) 17:17 18:4
19:1 106:9,18 107:1,4,6
120:16 121:24,25
122:8,9,22
paramedics (31) 10:6,20
13:23 14:4,10,15 17:9,13
18:4 23:21 28:8 36:10
92:24 107:10 114:19
118:2,5 121:17 126:2
130:5 141:19 172:11,24
183:20 184:4,16 185:2
188:4 195:25 196:15
205:12
parcels (1) 142:16
parents (25) 50:7 119:1
134:7 147:3,6 150:5
164:21 165:7 171:4,9
175:11,21 181:23 182:9
183:19 184:13 186:2
190:4,7,10 191:22 210:19
213:24 214:11 215:23
park (17) 33:24 40:19,20
48:17 49:2,17 50:2
51:12,12,14 55:7,13,17
57:11 66:9,13 103:19

96:14,14 114:1,1,17 115:6
118:21,22 128:8 135:14
141:9 152:12 159:8,13
166:19,25 167:17 168:25
169:5,21 170:4,8 178:1
183:22 194:24 195:25
196:15 197:19 201:17
205:20 209:17 211:18
214:4
overhear (1) 172:23
overheard (1) 172:19
overly (2) 53:9 151:24
overnight (1) 20:18
overspeaking (1) 84:3
overspoken (1) 19:23
overwhelmed (1) 189:16
own (2) 18:11 141:10
owns (1) 3:15 73:19
78:17,18 85:21 88:21
104:21 117:2,22 132:16
135:16 138:19 142:15,17
148:2 149:7 152:12 189:20
195:5 203:25 208:7
oxygen (1) 188:9

P

p1 (1) 26:18
p1ed (1) 16:14
package (1) 5:5
packing (1) 5:5
pain (47) 8:16 82:22 109:13
143:16,16 158:1,5,8
159:15 160:17 163:15
171:13,19,22 173:11
174:16 184:22,24 185:1
188:12,21 189:7,17 190:13
191:23 192:9 193:13
195:21 22 196:2,5 198:25
199:24 200:7,10 201:22,23
203:3 204:9 205:19
206:4,5 207:1,4 210:8
215:10,11
painful (8) 111:20 159:14
160:5 191:16,19,24
192:14,14
painkillers (1) 188:7
pair (1) 124:7
panels (2) 186:20 189:21
panic (6) 36:3 77:22 143:14
161:20 163:20 180:19
panicked (2) 91:23 183:24
panicking (3) 7:19 8:16
14:11
paper (1) 22:5
paracetamol (1) 196:9
paragraph (6) 111:19
141:11,17 142:7 143:4
213:21
paragraphs (1) 140:21
paralysed (2) 8:25 9:2
paramedic (14) 17:17 18:4
19:1 106:9,18 107:1,4,6
120:16 121:24,25
122:8,9,22
paramedics (31) 10:6,20
13:23 14:4,10,15 17:9,13
18:4 23:21 28:8 36:10
92:24 107:10 114:19
118:2,5 121:17 126:2
130:5 141:19 172:11,24
183:20 184:4,16 185:2
188:4 195:25 196:15
205:12
parcels (1) 142:16
parents (25) 50:7 119:1
134:7 147:3,6 150:5
164:21 165:7 171:4,9
175:11,21 181:23 182:9
183:19 184:13 186:2
190:4,7,10 191:22 210:19
213:24 214:11 215:23
park (17) 33:24 40:19,20
48:17 49:2,17 50:2
51:12,12,14 55:7,13,17
57:11 66:9,13 103:19

parked (8) 4:7,11 33:11,24
40:18 48:17 51:13 66:9
parking (3) 4:12 49:17 51:11
parks (1) 48:17
parry (1) 141:12
part (7) 32:23 48:8 86:22
99:16,16 191:8 209:4
participated (1) 75:14
participation (1) 163:1
particular (5) 2:2 13:9 53:2
57:3 65:25
particularly (9) 17:8 59:24
63:6,25 128:2 155:14
185:6,6 210:19
partner (10) 44:5 48:15
50:18 51:8 53:11,13,21
55:24 65:8 89:25
parttime (2) 148:15,21
pass (4) 30:18 73:15 138:22
139:23
passed (5) 83:16 113:22
142:24 150:21 186:7
passenger (1) 56:23
passing (2) 55:24 78:12
past (12) 16:14 41:16 45:1
49:15 67:3,11 72:12 77:18
142:24 150:25 195:13
202:16
paths (1) 72:11
patient (5) 121:9 132:19
189:23 190:3,12
patients (2) 116:9 118:18
patrick (3) 170:11,13,22
paul (8) 17:16,17 18:6,11
57:20,23 58:14 217:24
pause (2) 60:16 61:1
paying (4) 34:6 35:1 53:2
56:8
pc (1) 185:11
penetrating (1) 19:5
pennington (1) 205:12
people (136) 2:1,3 8:15
10:24 12:19 13:9,24
14:11,12,13 16:16
20:19,22,23 21:10,18
24:12,15 25:1 27:11 29:16
34:17,21,23 35:11
36:3,5,6,7,9,9 38:4 39:7,9
41:19 42:10 43:6,16 44:14
45:14,16,19,20,22,24
46:3,23 49:11,15 52:17
53:20 54:5,6 57:10 71:13
72:24 73:12
77:18,19,22,25 80:9 83:15
84:9,10,12 86:13 88:8
92:4,8,23 94:7,13,20
95:8,15 96:10 97:24
100:18 101:7 105:4,22
106:6 107:15 108:15
110:13 111:5 112:23
118:18 130:2 131:15
134:11,19 138:1
139:3,13,15,21,22,23
140:10,25 141:14,18
143:19 144:23,24 153:13
163:25 165:16,23 166:11
169:21 170:1 171:20 176:1
178:16 179:14 180:17
182:23 184:12 185:23
186:19,25 187:5,17,21,24
188:2,5 121:17 126:2
192:10,17,18 194:24 198:4
208:17 210:15 215:6
peoples (1) 169:25
per (1) 199:14
perforated (1) 209:12
perform (1) 64:2
performance (2) 34:16,22
performing (1) 180:3
perhaps (19) 3:14 8:20 17:13
24:8 28:17 59:24 61:13
70:6 73:12 106:2 111:6
117:15 121:20 140:7,10
145:9 159:17 212:1 215:6
period (8) 63:10 73:6 112:11
131:11 146:8,22 156:23
164:11

periodically (1) 133:15
permission (1) 214:17
permitted (1) 130:24
perrier (1) 147:9
person (10) 22:4 88:3 99:2
127:5 141:10 145:8 179:4
197:18 211:22 212:6
personal (4) 135:16,23 137:2
199:12
personality (1) 212:8
personally (4) 121:6 138:16
144:4 166:19
personnel (1) 25:20
petrified (5) 76:1,9 103:8
116:11 131:3
phone (48) 39:14,16 47:3,4,8
52:4,14 56:14 66:1 70:21
79:23,24,25 80:25 81:16
85:14 89:22 91:10
92:19,20 93:4 94:15 95:5
103:14 123:4 125:1
137:22,24 156:15
174:22,24
175:3,4,10,11,15,20,25
176:8,11,23 177:4,8
197:10 198:5 199:8,11,13
photo (1) 158:24
photograph (1) 68:10
photographs (5) 65:17
135:10 149:10 154:11
214:12
photos (4) 149:15
214:4,16,18
physical (4) 127:1 129:4
211:3 213:1
physically (2) 59:7 129:5
physiotherapy (1) 210:4
pick (3) 45:18 150:17 154:6
picked (8) 40:14 47:14
49:10,15 51:6 77:1 111:3,8
picking (3) 64:15 167:24
175:3
picture (4) 4:18,23,24 69:3
pictures (2) 148:11 154:17
piece (1) 209:5
piercing (3) 5:25 7:17 157:9
pillar (1) 53:19
pillars (1) 53:17
pin (3) 79:25 80:4 148:25
pizza (1) 66:17
place (11) 3:2 22:8,10 33:17
40:23 50:9 57:13 160:11
168:24 173:19 178:4
placed (13) 15:15 26:13,22
110:18 112:18,20 113:10
114:17 116:22 138:16
190:12 194:4 205:15
places (1) 138:17
plainly (2) 2:11 188:23
plan (3) 65:11 119:22 150:18
planned (2) 33:8 51:5
planning (3) 28:2 65:19
162:14
plans (3) 27:25 65:16,21
plasters (1) 25:25
plastic (5) 42:7 149:17 150:3
183:17 193:19
played (1) 27:1
playing (5) 4:2 24:15 38:3
42:10 69:15
pleaded (1) 190:18
pleasant (2) 150:8 153:18
please (43) 2:16 3:17 5:11
7:12 8:22 12:10 14:21
21:23 23:17 24:4,10
28:11,15 30:2,18 60:14,14
61:22,23 63:9,10 73:10,20
79:4 91:16 106:3,11
112:11,13 117:16
145:12,21 147:23 158:2
173:6 191:13 192:5 196:5
197:18 203:8,8 216:5,7
pm (12) 44:20 45:1,15
61:8,10 69:13 129:12
134:11 145:13,15 154:3
216:13

pocket (1) 47:4
pointing (1) 87:25
points (3) 115:16 213:18,22
police (74) 2:23 3:3 6:23
11:17,20 12:3 13:6 24:22
31:14 32:2 36:6,7,13,16
43:9 47:12 49:24 50:3
56:22 58:15 67:25 73:3
80:10 87:19 89:5 93:17,21
94:3,5 101:10 104:10,10
109:1 110:17 114:20 118:3
122:18 124:13 125:8
129:23 131:25 132:1,24
134:4 136:11 138:25
139:22 141:4 151:20
164:16 166:8,19 169:15,19
171:15 172:10,15 178:2
179:10 181:14 184:20
185:3,5 188:19 190:1
191:8 195:8 196:14,16,23
197:2,5 202:12 206:15
policeman (8)
56:6,13,15,16,24,25 57:1
84:22
policemen (1) 57:14
policewomen (1) 188:13
policies (1) 137:8
policing (1) 58:16
policy (4) 134:18 139:1,25
140:1
politely (1) 53:19
pool (1) 8:2
popcorn (1) 52:10
portion (1) 112:12
position (11) 8:21 30:8 58:13
94:21 109:9 116:23 138:15
160:20 183:7 193:23 202:5
positions (1) 191:12
possibility (1) 164:23
possible (1) 206:23
possibly (1) 130:18
post (1) 73:6
postdetonation (9) 2:5 3:4
7:6 23:20,24 146:8 156:24
181:24 202:19
posterior (1) 19:5
posters (1) 12:13
posts (1) 94:18
poured (1) 149:17
practice (1) 28:4
praise (2) 17:9 131:17
praised (1) 30:24
prayers (1) 28:22
praying (1) 110:15
prealert (1) 19:13
prebomb (1) 63:11
predicament (1) 138:21
prefer (1) 61:2
prepared (1) 125:11
preparing (1) 58:9
prescriptions (1) 131:22
present (6) 3:23 5:13 48:14
62:13 134:15 148:2

proactively (1) 190:8
probably (16) 4:25 7:3
 17:20,23 18:2
 22:13,14,15,22 31:9 34:19
 42:10 93:5 124:20 129:7
 188:18
problem (2) 32:20 54:2
problems (1) 128:24
procedure (1) 135:1
procedures (1) 137:8
proceedings (2) 1:3 73:13
process (7) 3:2 10:11 163:2
 182:7,13 187:13 191:12
processes (3) 75:14 132:14
 211:18
professional (3) 29:3 167:10
 186:2
professionals (5) 25:9 27:22
 29:2 180:21 207:10
prominent (2) 166:17 197:6
promised (3) 87:15,16 88:22
pronounce (1) 19:1
prop (1) 183:4
proper (3) 36:14 170:4,8
properly (1) 198:1
propped (1) 158:16
protect (2) 110:3 169:6
protruding (1) 159:25
proud (4) 22:21 28:19,22
 144:1
prove (1) 140:11
provide (1) 211:2
provided (10) 1:13 2:21
 58:17 63:4 99:14,16,18
 185:7 198:14 210:20
providing (1) 11:20
provoke (1) 161:9
proximity (2) 6:16 7:5
psychological (2) 143:16
 211:4
psychologist (1) 211:23
ptsd (8) 20:14 23:8 127:3,4
 129:10 142:9 143:5 211:9
pub (4) 41:5,7 45:2 52:6
public (11) 24:21 29:13
 87:19 88:12 104:13 135:1
 137:9,13,15,18 139:25
publicly (1) 138:5
published (1) 214:16
pulled (1) 206:1
pulse (10) 81:19 89:14
 95:1,7 113:19 161:16
 167:3 169:21 170:1 178:24
purchase (1) 68:12
purchased (8) 63:18 65:10
 68:15 69:2 108:24 147:6,9
 183:9
purely (1) 170:17
purposely (1) 153:7
purposes (1) 62:23
pushed (3) 74:4,7 175:23
pushing (1) 74:3
putting (4) 32:7 91:10
 117:23 199:4
pyrotechnics (2) 35:20 74:14

Q

q (800) 2:19 3:2,8,12
 5:3,8,10 6:4,8,15,19 7:6,24
 8:6,11,20 9:17 10:4
 11:8,19 12:1,6,9 13:20
 14:9,18,24
 15:11,13,18,20,24 16:2,5,8
 17:8,12 19:18,20 21:23
 23:11,24 24:3 26:21,24
 27:4,10 28:7,11 62:23
 63:3,10,18,22,24
 64:1,4,8,12,14,17,21,25
 65:2,4,7,13,15,21,25
 66:6,9,12,16,20,24
 67:2,11,16,20,24
 68:5,10,12,15,18,21
 69:1,6,10,13,15,20,25
 70:2,6,19,23
 71:1,3,6,9,11,17,21,24

72:2,8,11,15,18
 73:2,6,11,19 74:6,9,13,22
 75:1,5,9,13,18
 76:3,9,12,15,18,21,24
 77:1,3,5,9,13,17,22,25
 78:2,4,7,11,21,24
 79:2,5,9,11,15,20,23
 80:2,7,9,13,15,18,20,23
 81:3,6,21,24
 82:2,7,9,14,17,19,23
 83:1,6,9,12,15,19
 84:5,14,18,22,25
 85:3,7,12,14,17,21,23,25
 86:2,4,8,11,13,18,21,25
 87:3,5,8,12,15,17,23,25
 88:2,9,12,15,18,21,25
 89:2,4,8,17,20,25
 90:4,8,11,17,20,22,25
 91:3,5,10,13,17,23
 92:1,9,13,17,19,23
 93:1,3,11,16,19,23
 94:1,5,9,15,17,20,25
 95:3,5,10,14,19,22,25
 96:3,7,12,14,17
 97:5,9,12,21
 98:2,10,13,16,18,21,24
 99:2,5,8,11
 100:2,3,6,9,11,14,16,21,23
 101:1,6,10,13,16,19,22,25
 102:2,4,6,8,18,23
 103:1,5,7,10,14,19,22,25
 104:2,4,6,8,13,17,24
 105:7,12,15,19,21
 106:2,9,17,23
 107:3,6,9,14,20,23
 108:2,5,10,15,20,24
 109:3,6,8,16,21
 110:5,10,17,23
 111:2,11,16,19
 112:8,11,18,22
 113:1,6,10,14,18,24
 114:4,8,11,14,19,22
 115:1,6,10,15,19,24
 116:2,6,11,14,17,20,22
 117:1,5,10,15,20,25
 118:11,24
 119:4,8,11,13,15,23
 120:2,7,9,15,19,23
 121:1,8,11,20
 122:3,6,11,14,17,21
 123:2,6,14,18,21,24
 124:1,3,6,9,13,16,20
 125:1,5,8,11,21,23
 126:1,5,8,13,23
 127:1,6,9,14,21,24
 128:2,7,10,12,15,18,22
 129:1,3,9,12,15,20,23
 130:2,5,8,24
 131:9,17,21,24
 132:4,7,11,24
 133:3,10,12,14,18
 134:2,10,14,17,23
 135:6,10,14 136:3,6,14,18
 138:24 139:3,7,11,17
 141:3,8,11,17,21,23
 142:1,3,7,11 145:24
 146:18,22
 147:2,5,9,12,15,17,19,21
 148:6,10,13,22,24
 149:3,7,9,17,20,22
 150:5,8,12,16,22,25
 151:5,8,12,16,22 152:9,16
 153:13,16,22
 154:2,5,8,11,13,17,19,21,25
 155:4,7,14,17,20,25
 156:3,7,9,12,15,18,21
 157:5,8,21,24
 158:1,12,16,21
 159:5,15,17,21
 160:2,4,12,14,19,23
 161:8,11,14,16
 162:3,7,9,17,20,22,25
 163:6,14,18,20
 164:5,9,14,19,21,23
 165:6,10,15,21
 166:1,3,6,10,14,19,22,25

167:3,6,12,16
 168:4,6,19,22
 169:2,12,15,18
 170:3,10,16,20
 171:1,4,7,12,24
 172:4,10,13,21,23
 173:1,6,15,19 174:6,11,21
 175:3,6,9,13,15,23
 176:16,19,21,23
 177:12,16,20
 178:2,6,10,18,20,23
 179:1,10,13,16,19,23
 180:2,6,9,11,22,25
 181:3,5,7,10,13,23
 182:1,4,9,12,20
 183:3,11,17 184:11,15,18
 185:5 186:12,18,23
 187:12,15,20
 188:1,6,9,19,23 189:8,18
 190:1,11,17,21,24
 191:2,5,8,11,25
 192:5,20,25
 193:8,12,15,18,21,25
 194:4,17,22
 195:8,17,21,25 196:13
 197:2,5,10,16 198:11,25
 199:12,16,19
 200:2,13,16,19 201:5
 202:1,5,9,12,14,21
 203:1,12,19
 204:4,7,9,11,15,21
 205:5,7,12,15,18
 206:7,11,14,22,25
 207:4,8,13,17,20
 208:2,7,10,20,24
 209:1,9,12,15,17,20,23
 210:1,4,8,15,18 211:3,7
 212:8,21,25 213:3,12,17
qc (1) 11:11
qualifications (1) 24:17
qualified (2) 24:12 25:3
quarter (4) 16:14 32:13
 40:12 48:11
question (3) 119:5 143:2,2
questioned (1) 7:2
questions (16) 2:15
 29:18,22,23 30:1 61:20
 91:7 140:17 145:20
 186:13,15 214:25 217:4
 218:3,4,7
queue (3) 44:13 67:20
 152:13
queueing (1) 51:25
quick (2) 106:13 144:24
quicker (1) 179:5
quickly (6) 55:8 101:10
 151:16 161:6 163:14
 207:23
quiet (6) 42:1,21 45:14
 54:16 91:13,18
quite (16) 18:15 34:13,20,22
 48:23 57:3 74:18 106:8
 111:8 151:2 153:3,12
 167:23 201:20 213:1 214:4
quivering (1) 12:25

R

r (1) 147:19
raced (1) 164:10
racing (1) 182:16
railway (2) 26:19 41:13
raised (3) 83:20 141:12
 202:2
raising (1) 4:25
ramp (1) 34:11
ran (11) 39:1 49:11 50:2
 69:20 73:22 77:1,5 78:21
 84:22 189:20,21
rang (2) 85:14 176:24
rapidly (1) 101:14
rather (5) 51:12 75:20 79:3
 126:12 215:5
rational (1) 93:8
rationale (1) 7:15
reached (3) 71:6 104:10
 214:14

react (2) 176:11 178:17
reaction (1) 161:9
reactions (1) 191:23
read (41) 1:12 2:19 3:12
 13:8,23 14:7 28:17 31:18
 32:21,22,24 37:4,6,7
 40:4,5,7 43:23 44:1,2
 48:4,5 50:14,15
 57:18,20,22 59:18 75:20
 79:3,4 91:14,16 127:6
 217:7,10,13,16,19,22,25
reads (1) 32:25
ready (6) 4:2,3 23:1 70:17
 149:3,15
real (3) 114:8 125:13 215:6
realisation (1) 96:18
realise (4) 22:16 200:6
 201:23 205:2
realised (11) 46:16 47:7,22
 77:14 78:18 82:14,19 85:3
 125:15 157:22 158:6
realising (1) 201:17
realistic (1) 174:4
realities (1) 29:8
reality (2) 73:23 82:5
really (69) 4:9 7:21 10:18
 12:25 13:13 23:7 27:15
 31:20 32:6 34:6 35:1,3
 36:13 38:9 46:12 52:18,19
 56:8 64:4 66:4 69:24
 70:12,13,13 74:1 84:15
 88:18 91:13,18,19 95:9
 96:12 97:4 104:4 105:2
 106:6,18 113:3 115:2,14
 118:9 121:3 122:6 125:10
 137:23 139:20 140:5
 143:15 144:24 155:10,12
 157:10 162:1 165:15 170:7
 171:1 173:10,10 174:14
 175:23 182:25 185:20
 195:15 199:21 201:18
 211:24 212:11 215:2,22
reason (5) 9:7 100:19 102:19
 138:24 140:8
reasonably (1) 45:13
reassessed (1) 121:2
reassurance (3) 98:6 186:10
 195:22
reassure (6) 14:14 140:21
 172:10,17 180:22 185:24
reassured (2) 200:19 203:9
reassures (1) 140:22
reassuring (5) 98:7
 185:17,20 195:12,15
recall (23) 1:11 11:16 36:1
 50:6,20 51:2 54:16 56:9
 69:21 72:18 74:10 95:10
 100:9 107:15 109:22 116:6
 120:9,11,13 121:6
 170:14,24 180:2
recalls (1) 95:25
receive (4) 95:15 119:11
 193:13 203:3
received (15) 19:11,12,25
 43:21 50:5 52:9 53:25
 57:23 60:19 62:8,12 65:9
 127:9 135:24 170:3
receiving (3) 19:7 138:19
 200:9
recently (2) 22:2 99:14
receptionist (1) 132:17
recollection (14) 12:6 13:10
 14:21,22,25 15:1,8,9 16:2
 106:10 118:1 163:9 170:12
 197:16
recommend (1) 5:19
recommendation (1) 131:7
recommendations (2)
 130:10,14
reconstructed (1) 128:18
record (1) 32:10
recorded (2) 63:7 70:20
recovery (3) 129:4 145:6
 216:1
red (4) 42:13 83:16 86:23
 203:12

refer (1) 45:6
reference (9) 19:3,14 29:16
 37:8 120:19 133:12,19,25
 146:4
referring (1) 47:20
referral (1) 196:18
reflect (1) 141:1
reflection (2) 129:15 193:19
regained (1) 208:2
regret (1) 150:23
regular (1) 215:24
regularly (1) 34:17
regulatory (1) 135:19
relates (1) 138:15
relation (1) 40:9
relatively (1) 29:10
relatives (1) 136:4
relay (1) 125:2
relayed (3) 94:15 95:5
 119:19
release (1) 147:5
relevant (2) 1:14 15:20
relief (14) 89:2 95:9 172:8
 185:1 188:12,21 193:13
 195:22 196:2,5 198:25
 199:24 200:10 215:10
relieved (4) 56:2 95:6 103:22
 106:25
relive (1) 215:24
relived (1) 215:23
reliving (1) 144:14
relying (1) 53:1
remained (3) 117:22 126:6
 183:7
remarkable (1) 143:24
remember (85)
 4:13,14,15,17 5:21,25 7:20
 12:16 34:20 35:13 38:9
 41:11 42:16 43:8 45:15
 49:7 50:7 56:11 67:16,21
 69:20 80:3 83:21 84:14
 86:8 87:8 90:4 92:2,3,7
 93:20 94:10 95:12 106:13
 107:8,13,16 110:11 112:23
 114:4,5 120:14 129:17
 148:16 149:3 150:22
 151:24 157:14,18,19 158:3
 161:8,23 162:22 164:14
 165:10 166:10 167:13
 168:2,2,5 175:3 177:11
 178:23 179:16 181:7
 182:14 183:18 184:15,17
 188:9 195:8,12
 196:1,6,16,24 197:2 198:2
 199:7,16,24 200:13 201:22
 205:2
remembered (1) 185:9
remembering (2) 123:18
 203:12
remembers (1) 199:4
remind (1) 4:9
reminded (2) 145:2 190:21
remorse (1) 27:19
removal (1) 14:19
removed (4) 13:18 101:16
 108:25 214:12
repeat (1) 133:19
repeated (1) 171:7
repeatedly (3) 108:16
 132:20 134:25
repeating (1) 114:1
replacements (1) 129:6
replied (3) 52:11,23 54:4
reply (1) 91:19
reput (1) 24:24
reported (1) 214:18
represent (1) 30:3
represented (1) 106:24
request (1) 214:13
requested (1) 19:4
required (6) 59:11 126:23
 127:25 128:10 129:1
 209:21
requiring (1) 127:18
rescue (1) 27:1
resources (1) 187:18

respect (3) 63:3 146:15
 178:3
respond (1) 79:12
responding (1) 113:20
response (7) 11:3 23:12 24:6
 91:7 100:16 213:20,23
rest (9) 18:6 20:3 22:22
 44:22 51:20 95:16 160:11
 183:9 213:10
restaurant (1) 52:7
restaurants (1) 3:24
rested (1) 45:6
restricted (1) 204:23
restriction (1) 179:13
result (1) 44:22
resulted (2) 127:18 209:23
resuscitation (1) 184:19
retraced (1) 53:1
retriaging (1) 121:12
retrieve (2) 99:3 181:10
retrieved (2) 190:7,18
return (2) 212:21 213:2
returned (3) 134:4 181:19
 212:24
returning (1) 181:16
reveal (2) 173:17 174:8
revealed (1) 198:23
review (2) 120:23 170:14
reviewed (4) 3:8 52:4 151:13
 156:12
revision (1) 33:23
revisit (1) 78:7
reynolds (1) 121:24
righthand (4) 46:5,17 49:18
 73:17
rightly (1) 30:23
ring (2) 89:23 175:15
ringing (7) 22:3 66:1 85:18
 89:22 103:14 132:20
 133:14
ripple (2) 20:22,24
rise (1) 145:12
risk (1) 211:15
rmch (1) 118:18
road (6) 27:5 39:18 40:20
 103:19 124:3 210:20
rob (2) 83:17,24
roberts (1) 29:22
rock (2) 192:10 207:2
role (1) 27:1
roll (1) 154:11
roman (1) 24:16
roof (2) 34:4 193:19
room (94) 6:11,13 7:10
 13:17 15:9,14,16,24
 16:13,17,20 26:12,15
 37:23 38:6 45:10 47:18
 54:9 65:18 72:12,15
 73:4,13 74:23 82:7 83:15
 90:11 93:16,24 94:6 96:21
 99:19 100:18 103:9 105:24
 106:4 107:10
 110:3,20,21,25 112:6,9
 115:11 131:10,14,15 138:9
 146:9 151:5,10,18,22
 152:6 155:25 156:4,9,24
 157:2 163:14,18 164:6
 166:8,10,12 168:23 169:20
 170:8 172:24 173:16
 174:13 176:4 177:17 178:6
 181:15,17,18,20,24 182:1
 184:25 187:21 188:20
 189:6 191:6 192:22
 193:4,12 202:10,16
 206:16 177:208 213:25
rooms (1) 205:3
roughly (2) 69:8 123:17
round (24) 25:7 31:23 36:3
 37:19 47:15 49:23 54:11
 79:5 82:2,3 85:3 88:7
 96:24 106:15,16 113:10
 145:10 165:11 171:20
 173:1 201:12,13,16,21
route (4) 6:9,10 41:8 53:3
routes (1) 27:24
row (4) 48:21 68:19 147:19

155:4
rowley (1) 32:1
royal (7) 17:25 18:12,20
 19:13 122:24 132:17
 206:12
ruin (1) 182:4
ruined (1) 143:9
run (4) 75:24 77:7,8 78:25
running (14) 10:5 50:24
 55:11 69:7,10 77:18,19
 78:2 83:15 84:10,11
 103:19 176:1 181:5
runs (1) 127:4
rush (2) 49:13 66:22
rushing (1) 49:15
russell (2) 32:2 121:16

S

sadly (1) 130:2
safe (5) 33:17 35:15 97:3
 111:10 204:17
safety (1) 47:13
salford (1) 17:25 18:12,20
 19:13 28:9
same (17) 40:22 41:8 42:17
 66:9 93:21 96:14 97:

<p>scenes (1) 193:15 scheduled (2) 60:3.5 school (3) 3:20 64:12 143:13 schools (1) 137:14 scissors (4) 26:1 98:16,21 99:3 scream (2) 192:9 207:4 screamed (4) 78:16 80:25 81:9 92:20 screaming (8) 35:11 70:2 77:23 81:17 82:23 83:4 159:2 191:20 screams (2) 5:22 163:15 screen (4) 175:7,16,17,24 screens (1) 69:16 scullion (1) 50:18 search (3) 28:21 132:12 174:21 searched (2) 67:22 153:11 seat (3) 56:23,24 163:3 seated (2) 66:21 68:18 seats (9) 48:21 53:17 68:16,19 70:24 147:17,19,19 155:20 second (11) 18:25 41:19 64:5 75:25,25 80:11 159:1 173:9 202:22 209:9 212:23 secondary (4) 97:2 147:6 159:19,20 secondly (2) 32:1 62:6 seconds (8) 42:23 69:17 70:3 73:24 157:2,13 170:23 195:5 security (4) 10:12 45:13 53:22 153:10 see (90) 4:20 5:8 6:4,15 7:24 8:1,2,8,8,10,14 12:14,20,22,25 13:7 15:14 19:12 20:19 22:15,18 31:14 33:3 34:7,14,16 37:21 38:11,20 42:4,22 44:13 45:12,21 46:7,19,23 58:9 60:9 68:1 70:10 75:7-10 76:10 77:13,25 78:6,14 80:13 82:11,24 83:24 84:7 88:4 90:18 94:22 97:7 98:24 101:25 102:23 104:14 105:16,19,20,23 109:24 110:12,12 111:12 114:23 121:17 132:19,21 143:8 148:24 150:1 158:23 159:22,23 161:4 164:5,25 165:3,3 178:16 181:13 182:9 185:13,22 193:22 seeing (17) 15:1 23:6 42:17 43:8 50:7 67:16 89:12 112:23 113:15 160:24 165:10 170:12 178:10 182:1 184:17 193:18 201:10 seek (1) 117:2 seem (4) 45:17 119:22 180:18 200:1 seemed (28) 10:5 14:15 33:17 36:21 39:20 45:25 46:12 54:15 93:16 105:25 106:7 118:15 119:16 133:25 144:22 152:7 153:10 171:25 183:23,23 184:12 185:12,14 187:1,18 188:10 201:9,23 seems (3) 152:8 155:8 173:13 seen (30) 5:3 14:19 27:12 31:11 34:5 64:1 70:9 78:25 90:4 104:13 106:25 112:24,25 113:6 121:3,15 137:6 140:10 143:23 165:16 170:17 176:1 177:12,22 178:1,13 179:2,24 187:5 193:21 selfadministered (1) 18:25 selfie (1) 66:12 selfies (1) 149:9 seller (1) 147:7</p>	<p>sending (1) 148:10 sensation (3) 159:6,18 191:25 sense (10) 10:7,9 26:2 102:13 105:24 158:17,20 159:4 167:11,22 sensed (1) 38:14 senses (2) 157:16 201:7 sent (4) 52:5,18,20 54:1 separated (3) 51:18 52:3 181:5 separately (1) 139:7 separating (1) 52:1 sepsis (1) 21:14 september (1) 137:5 sequence (15) 3:3,8 5:3 7:1 11:15 12:12 13:5 16:12 31:10 32:3 15:13:19 170:18,21 202:14 sergeant (2) 49:24 58:14 series (1) 48:9 serious (2) 7:23 8:23 seriously (7) 43:16 59:7,8,10,10 85:4 208:22 service (1) 27:1 session (1) 146:6 set (11) 1:17 33:23 41:14 51:23 64:22 66:4 69:7 109:17 133:5 134:25 149:20 setting (1) 57:1 settled (2) 61:21 117:3 seventh (2) 51:14 151:2 severe (2) 109:3 137:16 severed (2) 8:25 9:5 severely (1) 127:9 severity (1) 27:7 sexton (1) 26:25 shake (2) 46:14 183:13 shaking (1) 96:5 shall (1) 21:22 shape (1) 159:24 share (1) 4:19 shared (1) 11:21 sharp (2) 157:8,11 shattered (2) 9:15 175:6 shed (9) 5:1 8:8,8,9 12:19 64:4 95:7 110:2 188:13 sheet (1) 183:18 sheffield (1) 103:18 shell (2) 23:9 113:22 shes (33) 12:17 16:18,21 22:19,22,24,25,25 23:1,2,5,9 62:18 84:3 95:8,8 99:10,14 128:22 143:10,12,14 144:8 167:25 176:8,12 177:7,8 188:14 196:23,25 198:15,18 shielded (1) 9:22 shin (1) 159:22 shining (1) 4:1 shivering (1) 194:21 shock (11) 14:13 46:15 110:14 157:21 161:20 178:15 180:19 182:6 188:17 194:8 196:21 shocked (2) 137:5 188:10 shocking (4) 71:10 189:6 213:13 214:4 shocks (1) 173:10 shoe (3) 83:12,13 173:24 shoes (3) 25:24 155:23 198:22 shoot (1) 75:24 shooting (1) 158:5 shopping (2) 142:16,18 shops (2) 142:18 211:16 short (10) 32:16 45:3 47:7 56:12,24 60:11 145:14 150:25 164:11 170:24 shorter (1) 192:10 shortly (4) 107:17 124:17 125:6,23 shorts (1) 98:22 shot (1) 8:9 should (19) 11:3 52:12 58:12</p>	<p>97:24 101:3 115:24 134:23 135:1 136:10,11 138:5 140:3 144:6 149:12 159:25 164:14,15 168:17 199:22 shoulder (1) 55:6 shouldnt (4) 134:24 140:2 199:21,23 shout (1) 55:3 shouted (5) 77:3,10 92:3,8 177:23 shouting (11) 14:11 35:11 46:24 79:12 82:24 161:8 163:15 166:10 169:15 197:24 199:7 show (8) 22:20 35:20 64:4 69:7 148:8,11 150:1 154:6 showing (2) 62:24 65:16 shown (5) 3:3 6:11 11:17 12:2 112:8 shows (2) 5:4 29:2 showsec (3) 86:15 87:12 129:23 shrapnel (14) 8:23 9:13 75:7 90:13 126:20,21,23 127:10,10 160:5 162:20 173:21 209:1,5 shut (1) 34:14 shutting (1) 10:13 sick (4) 80:15 192:25 199:17 201:2 side (23) 9:4 36:4 46:5,13,17 49:6,18 56:17 73:17 76:16 79:5 89:15 108:10 111:24 117:17 126:2 127:14 130:21 131:2,5 159:8,11 209:3 sides (1) 200:1 sideways (2) 42:19 111:23 sight (2) 84:7 131:4 sign (3) 49:9 200:9 208:14 significant (4) 9:25 11:9 129:7 136:7 silent (2) 74:24 159:1 silver (1) 195:1 similar (6) 37:14 117:12 143:2 146:19 162:25 190:16 similarly (4) 62:14 129:9 165:11,24 since (14) 16:11 51:10 52:3,4 55:9 89:10 137:5 173:9 185:10 186:4 198:17,18 207:6 210:12 sing (2) 54:18 136:16 singing (1) 54:10 single (3) 210:24 213:9 214:15 sipping (1) 150:9 sir (102) 1:5,6,9,19 2:10 4:9 5:18,20 13:13 17:2 18:21 19:2,14 21:24 25:13,17 26:8 27:15,18 29:17,18,20 30:21 31:7 32:6,13,18,20 37:3,5 40:3,6 43:24 44:2 48:3 50:13 57:19,21,25 58:3,12,19 59:9,16,19 60:10,14,17,20,24 61:5,11,12,17,23 62:16,19 84:1 89:9 99:12,21 130:13,17 135:18,22 136:20 137:21 138:2,11 140:5 142:21 143:1,19,23 144:1,6,10,11,13,19,21 145:8,12,16,24 146:10 186:3,6 198:16,19 199:21 211:12,20 212:1 214:22,25 215:1,10 216:4,6,8,11 siren (1) 57:4 sirens (7) 97:14 105:7 129:20 172:5,7 187:7,20 sister (11) 62:2 63:14 83:2 88:19 125:17 144:16,16,19 145:3 146:24 167:1 sisterly (1) 79:11 sisters (1) 215:17 sit (11) 41:18,22 42:4</p>	<p>43:10,12 44:22,24 53:15 83:19,24 185:23 site (1) 86:22 sitting (2) 47:25 56:23 situation (18) 10:9 27:11 97:4,25 115:20 137:3,25 138:3 148:13 163:22 164:4 169:25 178:16 185:22 196:23 198:3 200:6 204:20 situations (2) 136:10 211:15 six (1) 32:22 sloe (1) 205:3 skin (2) 159:6 183:11 slats (1) 192:13 sleep (11) 91:21 92:5,14,21 93:5,9,10 122:7 141:15 207:20 210:2 sleeping (1) 31:19 sleeve (1) 69:4 slept (1) 31:12 slied (1) 109:10 slide (3) 111:24 112:3 192:12 slided (1) 194:11 sliding (2) 111:22,23 slight (1) 77:9 slightly (3) 49:2 60:2 83:20 slow (1) 183:23 slowly (2) 73:22 91:20 small (2) 6:25 45:2 smashed (2) 175:15,18 smell (2) 38:13 90:14 smelling (1) 36:2 smiling (1) 169:8 smith (3) 40:5,7 217:12 smiths (1) 43:22 smoke (4) 38:10,14 46:19 54:23 smokehouse (1) 33:19 smoky (2) 90:14 163:18 smooth (1) 160:10 sneak (1) 153:7 snooker (2) 33:11,25 social (1) 4:19 socially (1) 212:6 soe (1) 14:19 sold (2) 96:8 147:5 somebody (11) 18:10 25:11 85:9 93:9 104:22 105:10 143:12 167:6 168:22 173:1,7 somebodys (3) 25:10 75:24 88:6 somehow (2) 183:12,15 someone (28) 34:15 39:8 43:9 46:24 86:18 95:11 98:16,21 106:25 114:15 116:7 117:11 119:5 139:20 153:1 158:24 167:9 168:8 169:12 172:1 174:23 175:3 185:13,16 195:9 196:22 197:21 203:14 something (39) 4:4 7:22 11:2,6 18:10 33:10 39:5 55:20 72:18 74:16,21 78:7 97:22 98:3 114:5 117:12 120:23 123:9,17 124:4 128:2 131:5 137:12 138:3 147:15 148:25 155:12 157:15 167:21 171:7 176:2 180:20 182:10 194:17 195:6 197:23 203:13,15 216:1 sometimes (2) 143:15 208:16 somewhere (3) 72:23 118:20 137:15 son (23) 33:7,9,19,21 50:18,21 51:7,8 52:1,3,10,13,16 53:9,25 56:1,14,16,18 188:15,16 190:8,21 song (8) 38:5 46:2 48:24 54:19 70:17 74:14,18 154:25 songs (3) 70:24 148:3 154:19 sons (1) 51:6</p>	<p>soon (20) 10:23 38:7 45:23 48:23 64:22 70:16,24 89:22 91:11 93:14 98:8 101:4 102:6 103:8,20 109:23 174:19 199:19 206:23 207:20 sooner (1) 86:21 sore (2) 44:21 189:17 sort (7) 50:1 88:8 112:1 118:7 125:14 143:19 209:5 sought (3) 55:17 136:3 163:9 sound (4) 7:17 35:4 157:9,10 sounded (3) 7:16 96:15 159:3 sounds (3) 164:10 172:7 189:12 south (1) 132:1 space (5) 51:13,22 53:18 114:12 179:13 speak (12) 22:15 116:14 125:2 136:9 140:2 153:17 166:1 176:3 185:23 186:3 198:16 212:2 speaker (1) 90:5 speaking (6) 13:21 56:8 63:3 167:20 185:18 195:9 special (1) 14:6 speckled (1) 75:5 speed (2) 189:19 206:23 spend (1) 44:15 spent (5) 52:1 128:7 153:1 209:17 210:4 spinal (9) 8:25 9:1 11:1 20:1,17 21:2,12 22:13 24:11 splint (1) 128:15 split (3) 72:11 108:7 193:5 spoke (5) 39:16 53:17 167:18 171:25 207:17 spoken (4) 25:8 61:2 120:3 198:18 sports (1) 96:9 spotted (1) 152:10 square (1) 195:18 st (1) 43:11 stadium (3) 48:22 133:22,23 staff (10) 24:8 45:13 53:22 86:15 87:12 119:25 122:15,19 129:23 154:2 stage (22) 9:18 39:11 69:16,18 70:4 71:3 74:14,17 153:25 154:13 171:9 172:5 174:21 178:20 183:4,24 184:25 187:5 190:6 199:2 200:2 202:21 stair (22) 41:17,19,20,22 47:15 49:1,4,11,12 67:15 71:1,6 108:12,16 111:5,14 112:24 151:18 155:17 187:9 192:11,22 stall (6) 41:24,25 42:6 45:19 68:7 151:25 stalls (1) 186:21 stand (7) 24:22 42:13 55:11 68:15 158:4,10 163:23 standard (1) 28:4 standing (2) 54:6 178:7 stands (3) 52:11 194:10 195:10 stared (1) 177:16 staring (1) 50:8 stars (1) 42:22 start (9) 59:21 60:3,7 61:5 63:10 69:22 146:22 154:3 213:19 started (23) 22:12 36:21 39:18 45:15,17 46:1 52:17 54:18 69:15 70:13 78:12 86:23 91:18 164:1 172:6,15 183:13 184:25 199:6 200:20 201:3 206:3 208:4 starting (5) 18:16 84:15 105:2 122:6 200:5 stated (3) 56:16 69:10 151:9 statement (86) 1:12,13,14</p>	<p>2:20,20,22,24 3:10,13,25 4:14 6:4 10:4 11:14,20 14:9 18:24 24:7 32:21,24,25 37:3,6,7,9,10 40:4,5,6,7,8,9 43:23 44:1,2,9 48:3,4,5,7 50:13,14,15,16 57:8,18,20,23 58:2,9,21,25 59:9,14 60:18,19 63:4,7,12 70:20 73:14 74:6,9 78:8 99:15 136:24 140:19 146:15 150:19 159:5 160:23 163:7 165:21 167:12 170:10,16 190:11 208:21 209:4 217:6,9,12,15,18,21,24 statements (7) 11:9 13:9,23 32:4,22,23 120:24 stating (1) 53:17 station (59) 16:3,6,9 33:15 34:4,5,11 36:16 37:18 41:13 44:12,25 53:7 67:4,7,9,11 72:16 111:3 112:12,15,20,22 113:12,14 118:1 119:4,23 121:23 122:3,4,18 124:10 126:5,9 135:11 139:5 151:1,5,12 152:6 156:1,10 158:14 178:3 181:15,19 194:1,2,5 195:4,17 200:5 202:17 203:10,22 204:13 205:10 214:5 stationed (1) 58:16 stay (28) 6:3 10:13 15:6 39:6 53:20 56:12,12 78:13,19 85:4 100:21 103:25 116:17 117:1 129:21 153:24 160:20 165:19,19 171:1,2 176:12,14 177:2 189:13 190:24 193:3 210:23 stayed (15) 6:5 48:22 82:5 88:25 97:3 98:14 167:23 168:1 185:15,25 206:16,18,20 210:1,22 staying (3) 88:4 89:13 138:17 step (2) 111:21 192:7 stepped (1) 51:17 steps (11) 40:20 44:22 45:4,6 49:16 53:1,6 55:13 67:12 155:21,21 steven (1) 33:11 steward (1) 152:16 stick (3) 24:14,19 53:16 still (73) 7:5 12:17,21 16:15,18,21,25 18:14,15 20:10 21:20 22:25,25,25 24:25 26:18 29:7,11 38:3 42:9 46:8 47:21 52:16,17 54:1 71:3,3,9 74:19 78:2,24 81:16 83:15 84:8,8 86:13 97:6 101:23 103:14,17 104:14 105:19 108:25 115:15 124:1,14 126:21 127:4 134:8 158:19,22 159:23 172:16 183:6,14,15,24,24 188:16 189:6 190:9 193:15 195:21 200:9 201:2 204:10,12 206:2 207:5,5,14 213:7 214:13 sting (1) 159:12 stinging (2) 159:12 183:14 stomach (2) 9:8 161:4 stood (18) 9:21 37:22 41:23 42:8,25 45:13 49:12 53:5,7 79:9 81:17 82:10 83:13 105:17 152:2 171:17 196:11 204:4 stop (6) 86:19 120:21 156:25 171:10 180:14 191:21 stopped (4) 39:20 45:25 77:13 153:8 stories (1) 214:16 straight (7) 9:6 48:25 67:11 68:7 88:3 184:9 194:7</p>	<p>straightaway (13) 10:25,25 16:20 42:25 66:22 75:21 137:11 158:7 161:3 162:11,17 187:10 208:12 straighten (2) 160:19 207:6 straightforward (1) 25:18 strange (4) 41:1 162:3 164:10 182:24 strangely (2) 85:8 161:17 strategic (1) 28:2 straw (1) 149:18 street (4) 33:24 39:13 150:14 214:15 strength (1) 29:11 stress (2) 136:7 200:4 stressful (1) 117:6 stretcher (8) 14:19,25 15:15 110:19 111:14 121:18 187:9 215:6 stretchers (4) 186:20 192:2,3 215:5 strewn (1) 174:23 string (1) 106:14 striped (2) 98:11 99:5 strong (1) 36:17 strongly (1) 128:3 struggled (1) 47:6 struggling (1) 39:16 stuart (1) 2:18 stubborn (1) 22:18 stuck (1) 164:2 student (2) 148:14,15 studying (1) 148:22 stuff (21) 70:12,17 142:24 153:11 159:2 160:7 161:24 168:16 170:2 176:1 185:18 186:16 187:23 192:17 201:20 203:6 205:3 207:24 208:17 211:13 212:2 stunned (1) 165:12 stunning (1) 40:17 subject (1) 9:23 subsequent (3) 1:13 2:21 11:19 subsequently (2) 19:25 59:15 successful (2) 20:15 128:20 suddenly (2) 38:10 93:16 suffer (4) 29:16 129:5 142:8 210:8 suffered (5) 8:3,23 127:2 210:5 211:8 suffering (3) 144:25 145:4 209:9 suffers (4) 22:6 23:7 129:9 143:5 suggest (1) 179:4 suggested (2) 179:8,8 suggesting (1) 188:11 summarise (2) 58:1 59:12 summarised (14) 32:21 37:6 40:5 44:1 48:4 50:14 57:20 217:7,10,13,16,19,22,25 summary (1) 19:21 summer (1) 124:1 sun (1) 4:1 sunny (2) 149:25 150:22 super (2) 159:14 194:21 supplies (1) 25:23 support (12) 19:24 26:7 29:14 38:19 41:22 68:23 104:6 115:4 118:2 132:1 153:17,25 supported (2) 141:5 210:11 supportive (1) 206:19 supposed (1) 205:25 sure (31) 5:20 8:18 19:1 43:14 46:18 56:15 58:12 72:9 85:4 88:23 99:2,4 124:7 138:25 140:5,11,12,25 144:14 148:18 166:16,18 185:17 195:15 199:2 202:21 203:23,25 215:23 216:8,9 surely (3) 179:5 186:24 187:23 surgeons (1) 210:9</p>
---	---	--	--	---	---	---

surgery (2) 129:1 134:5
 surmised (1) 167:19
 surname (2) 50:20 166:17
 surprised (3) 69:21,24 93:20
 surreal (5) 111:7 171:18
 193:24,24 197:11
 surrounded (2) 86:14 101:10
 survivability (1) 25:5
 survivable (1) 25:2
 survival (1) 162:7
 survive (5) 11:5 17:23 22:5
 25:11 201:4
 survivor (2) 174:12 191:6
 survivors (3) 28:16,20,24
 susan (4) 40:5,7 43:22
 217:12
 suspect (1) 140:9
 suspicions (1) 37:22
 suspicious (1) 34:8
 sustained (15) 8:7 9:19
 35:10,24 37:2 43:3 50:12
 62:7 117:15,17 126:16
 127:17 146:2 208:24 211:4
 swallowed (1) 9:8
 sway (1) 207:2
 swearing (1) 191:21
 sweater (1) 150:23
 swipe (1) 175:20
 swiped (1) 175:17
 switch (1) 204:19
 sworn (5) 2:14 61:15 145:18
 191:21 217:3
 system (1) 132:18

T

t10 (1) 9:1
 taken (39) 3:2 8:8
 15:2,2,3,8,13,21,24 16:9
 23:20 28:5,23 32:4 36:25
 39:23 43:15,17,18 47:18
 48:1 103:17 110:20
 118:24,25 121:23 122:23
 123:15 135:10,12 168:20
 187:6,7 189:2 192:21
 200:9 205:9 207:13 214:1
 takes (2) 64:25 158:24
 taking (9) 5:1 6:10 26:17
 33:2 53:11 57:2 118:17
 124:24 154:17
 talk (5) 1:21 10:8 21:19,22
 22:18
 talked (2) 65:15 197:20
 talking (12) 10:8 21:4 34:20
 41:14 42:3 54:17 56:1
 91:19 93:12 186:14 189:12
 197:25
 tall (1) 67:12
 taller (1) 192:10
 tannoy (2) 96:12 113:25
 tapping (1) 54:11
 taste (1) 90:15
 taxi (1) 56:19
 team (1) 132:6
 teams (1) 57:15
 teenager (1) 143:10
 teenagers (1) 67:17
 teath (1) 183:13
 telephone (3) 124:22 133:4
 135:24
 telling (26) 14:15 23:1 27:12
 35:14,16 56:16 80:18
 90:22,25 91:11 93:9,13
 107:17 109:22 115:19
 177:4 180:2,6 189:8,9
 190:24 195:12 197:11
 199:16 200:14 215:21
 tend (1) 210:21
 terms (13) 7:15 9:2 11:12
 12:9 14:22 16:8 29:15
 57:21 115:21 120:15
 130:14 197:25 205:7
 terrible (1) 144:15
 terrified (1) 197:7
 terrorist (7) 46:25 96:20
 125:13 137:10,16 162:18
 184:6

terrorists (1) 75:19
 terrorists (2) 211:9,19
 text (5) 52:8,9,13 53:25 54:2
 texted (3) 42:14 52:16 154:5
 texting (1) 52:3
 texts (1) 52:5
 thank (60) 1:19,20 2:10,13
 3:12 13:16 14:9 18:23
 19:20 21:23 24:3 27:10
 29:20 30:11,13,17,20
 31:17 32:1,12,14 37:5
 43:24 57:19 58:3,19 59:16
 61:6,17 62:16,19 63:2 68:4
 70:19 73:2 97:5 99:11,21
 111:20 121:1 130:19 131:9
 135:22 140:14 143:1
 144:10 145:7,11 146:13
 149:3 155:14 159:21
 160:12 177:13 211:22
 214:22 215:1,25 216:3,4
 thankful (5) 20:7,9 57:13
 129:23 192:17
 thankfully (2) 9:21,22
 thankyou (1) 31:24
 thats (76) 4:22,23 5:25
 6:15,16,24 7:14,18
 8:4,6,19 10:25 13:22,22
 15:5,7 16:11 19:18 21:14
 23:19 32:20 59:17 60:17
 63:21 64:16 66:15,23
 67:23 72:17,24,25 75:12
 77:12 78:21 81:8 82:5,8
 85:6 86:24 89:7 92:15
 97:14 98:3 102:14,15
 105:6,18 112:4 114:18
 115:23 117:4 119:18
 120:23 121:18 122:14
 128:2 137:13 139:17 140:1
 148:4 152:1 161:23 162:7
 165:18 169:22 172:6,11
 176:9 181:13 184:3 187:10
 188:15,15,23 199:15
 211:22
 theatre (4) 136:1,16
 208:10,14
 themselves (4) 28:20 137:25
 172:18 179:11
 therapy (1) 142:24
 therefore (1) 71:24
 theres (17) 21:19 22:5
 75:23,24 97:21 120:19
 130:12 162:15 176:5
 182:25 184:8 185:2 186:24
 187:23 189:13 199:5
 200:23
 theyd (1) 103:20
 theyll (2) 97:19 102:16
 theyre (9) 10:22,22 21:7
 27:12 97:16,17,19,20
 135:20
 theyve (7) 13:24 32:7 129:5
 172:9 190:5,5 194:10
 thigh (1) 208:3
 thighs (1) 197:23
 thing (24) 8:17 17:25 26:7
 43:8 46:14 49:22 72:3 91:6
 96:14 143:20 157:24 158:4
 161:1 167:11,14 168:18
 177:1,13 180:13 190:16
 192:14 193:24 197:14
 215:24
 thinking (11) 4:17 87:9
 157:14 161:22 165:17
 167:13 171:10 176:9
 187:10 200:23 208:18
 third (2) 178:1 212:24
 thirddegree (1) 159:20
 thorpe (5) 48:4,6,10 50:13
 217:19
 though (8) 12:21 18:14 25:3
 74:18 76:19 125:11 185:19
 194:13
 thought (54) 6:5 12:19 15:1
 31:22 35:19 38:1,15 55:9
 74:20 75:23,23 76:2,21
 80:10,15 82:11 84:11,19

86:8 93:1,20 96:20 103:11
 107:20 110:8 111:24
 113:2,21,22 126:14 141:21
 149:5 155:23
 164:15,16,21,23 165:6
 167:20 168:15,15 169:24
 174:18 177:20 178:23
 179:3 186:24 187:1,13
 192:25 194:6 195:6 211:18
 215:6
 thoughts (6) 28:22 75:18
 79:19 93:8 164:10 182:15
 threat (3) 96:21 97:3 137:16
 three (11) 13:6 64:1
 66:13,24 73:3 94:18
 138:9,17 139:21 177:23
 201:18
 threes (1) 34:18
 throat (3) 82:17 84:18,25
 through (68) 8:9,17 9:7,24
 10:3,11 11:4,4 12:11 16:9
 22:7 26:4,7 27:13 31:19
 32:5 33:14 38:12,18 39:2
 41:13 46:3 49:3 53:4 66:1
 67:14,22 101:3 103:1,5
 104:11,19 110:6 113:14
 115:2 116:15 132:4 137:13
 138:22 140:1,20 151:12
 152:18 155:25 157:18
 158:5 161:24 163:7 164:11
 165:6 169:20 177:22 178:3
 182:16 190:16 192:2
 194:15 205:22 207:11,22
 214:10,10
 215:3,4,5,11,14,20
 throughout (4) 41:14 78:8
 104:14 135:25
 thud (1) 46:12
 thumbs (2) 24:16,16
 thursday (1) 1:1
 tibia (2) 9:15 127:11
 ticket (5) 51:11 147:5 148:2
 152:21,23
 ticketmaster (1) 50:24
 tickets (11) 3:22 4:7 48:14
 50:23 51:1,4 63:18 147:2
 151:9 152:14,20
 ticking (1) 140:20
 tie (1) 49:22
 tier (1) 68:19
 time (136) 3:19 4,4,11
 5:4,12 8:3 16:2 17:20
 23:15 24:14,19 25:21
 26:13 32:4 36:12,21 37:15
 38:24 39:19 40:2 41:3,16
 42:17 44:18,20 45:3 46:22
 47:1 49:20 50:24 52:1
 53:21,24 54:2,5,8 55:2,16
 56:5,12 58:9,15,21 59:3,6
 63:16 64:6 66:9 69:8,22
 71:6,18 73:12,15 78:9 79:2
 80:3,10 83:2 89:21 90:11
 92:19 93:4 95:15,20 96:22
 97:9 104:15 106:4 107:11
 112:11,13 118:16 119:4,24
 121:8,15,24 122:3,17
 123:2 126:15 127:22 131:3
 133:18,24 136:8 139:11
 140:16 141:6 146:11
 148:18,22 149:23 151:23
 153:1,18,23 155:7 158:21
 159:21 160:25 165:7 167:3
 173:8 174:19,19 176:25
 177:23 178:1 180:11 181:3
 184:2 186:1 189:13
 193:12,21 194:23 197:21
 198:2 200:21 201:19,25
 204:2 205:19 206:17,18
 207:2 208:18 210:16,22,24
 212:1 214:21,23 216:6
 timed (4) 6:12 66:14 68:10
 151:14
 timekeeper (1) 69:25
 timer (1) 69:17
 times (14) 4:6 12:4 20:6
 21:13 23:16 67:6 69:7

97:11 100:9 118:14 144:23
 151:6 177:24 201:18
 timing (1) 193:8
 timings (6) 15:11,20 112:14
 113:7 121:22 205:7
 tiniest (1) 191:16
 tiny (1) 99:23
 tired (2) 91:20 122:6
 today (16) 1:18,21,23 2:7
 11:13 17:16 18:5 21:15,20
 62:15 63:3,8 140:7
 146:1,14 215:21
 together (7) 32:3,8 65:22
 149:10 154:15 155:13
 181:20
 told (85) 10:11,15,21 13:20
 15:21 20:6 21:7 22:3,13
 28:7,12 36:8
 39:6,9,11,12,14,17
 43:11,13 47:9 50:23 53:23
 55:24 56:15,18 57:1 63:16
 70:19 77:7 78:25 80:5 81:3
 83:23,24,25 85:1,17,21
 86:18,21 88:18 92:14,23
 94:25 97:1 98:13 100:14
 102:4 103:15 104:24
 105:15 111:12 115:20,25
 116:7,20,23 118:17,21
 122:25 123:2 124:16
 126:3,16 133:6
 141:4,14,18 142:8 144:4
 166:20,25 168:8,9 169:9
 173:15 177:1 183:8 190:2
 200:16 208:10,20 209:15
 216:7
 tomorrow (3) 216:5,6,7
 too (19) 16:15 21:1,10 31:2
 41:15 46:4 49:14 50:2
 52:22 60:9 87:1 100:1
 108:8 125:19 143:17
 154:21 164:23 172:13
 206:25
 took (47) 4:18,23 6:10 10:6
 17:10,24 18:12 26:13
 33:13 36:17 38:19
 39:16,23,25 40:23 43:5
 44:11 47:4 55:4,13 66:12
 68:10 69:1 83:6 111:22
 124:6 126:2 141:23
 149:9,10 156:15
 168:10,12,12,19,19 173:23
 178:4 187:9 189:19 191:8
 192:7 197:22 198:22
 205:12,21 214:18
 tops (1) 42:4
 total (3) 40:19 58:10 128:7
 totally (4) 8:25 18:11
 192:6,18
 touch (3) 62:2 141:13 200:1
 touched (2) 23:11 26:11
 touching (1) 160:8
 tough (1) 215:21
 tour (1) 67:12
 tourniquet (4) 101:16 167:7
 168:7,20
 tourniquets (2) 18:15 169:19
 towards (17) 42:11 45:4 46:4
 48:22 49:1 50:3 55:6,7,13
 67:3 72:12 76:18 90:18
 141:17 158:13,19 164:6
 traffic (2) 27:6 50:1
 tragedy (1) 213:7
 tragically (1) 179:24
 train (17) 34:4,5,11 42:11
 44:25 67:9 72:16
 151:1,5,12 152:6 194:4
 195:4 200:5 203:10 204:13
 214:5
 trained (2) 141:24 196:8
 training (2) 92:11 136:19
 tranexamic (1) 120:21
 transfer (1) 19:4
 transfusion (2) 127:25
 208:16
 transplant (1) 128:18
 transport (2) 19:6 109:10

transported (1) 120:16
 trauma (3) 18:1 58:23
 142:24
 traumatic (2) 23:5 214:20
 travel (1) 51:5
 travelled (7) 3:18 37:11
 40:15 43:18 44:4 50:17
 139:7
 travelling (2) 9:10 206:22
 travelodge (1) 39:6
 travels (1) 127:14
 treat (1) 25:23
 treated (4) 5:14 48:2 120:5
 139:12
 treating (1) 116:24
 treatment (17) 19:24 28:1
 43:21 50:5 57:6,7 62:8,11
 107:4 117:2 119:11 131:22
 187:4 195:19 211:20,21,24
 trial (4) 28:13 75:15 163:2
 213:12
 tribunal (1) 61:3
 tried (15) 35:8 47:4 50:1
 81:11 86:4 93:12 118:24
 129:24 157:24 160:17
 161:16 190:8 191:11,14,15
 191:12 66:12 72:23
 trolley (1) 202:2
 trouble (1) 153:6
 truck (1) 7:19
 true (2) 2:24 109:24
 truly (1) 129:23
 trusted (1) 147:6
 trustee (1) 21:2
 trusting (1) 31:17
 truth (3) 11:7 28:21,24
 try (19) 2:4 21:5,6,10 47:3
 64:18 91:7 112:2 132:16
 153:7 161:22 162:13
 164:14,15 169:24 174:22
 180:7 188:14 206:23
 trying (26) 20:14 56:14
 78:17 86:15 101:3 104:24
 108:7 110:3 134:18 160:15
 161:9 163:20 164:16
 165:19,19 169:23 172:17
 175:18 176:3 180:19
 185:14 186:16 188:17
 189:13,15 210:16
 tshirt (10) 55:10 68:12 69:2
 86:18,25 117:11 152:2,3
 154:23 159:9
 tshirts (8) 12:12 25:21 43:5
 92:4,10 110:14 149:5
 152:19
 tunnel (3) 33:14 40:21 72:22
 turn (9) 52:14 76:9 77:9
 107:17 119:9 165:17 191:3
 204:16 207:2
 turned (8) 7:3 38:5 55:6
 76:12 133:1 161:11 183:12
 198:9
 turning (1) 200:13
 tv (2) 24:14 135:14
 twisted (1) 49:13
 twos (1) 34:18
 txa (3) 19:16 199:7,13
 type (5) 38:13 157:12 162:2
 169:24 200:10
 typical (1) 3:25

U

uk (1) 92:11
 unable (8) 67:21 95:10
 105:23 128:15 171:13
 182:6 183:6 196:2
 unacceptable (1) 139:17
 unaided (1) 128:15
 unarmed (1) 36:7
 unassisted (1) 22:21
 unbearable (1) 154:22
 uncertain (1) 115:21
 unclear (1) 167:6
 uncomfortable (4) 169:3,11
 171:16 192:6

unconscious (2) 46:18
 177:10
 uncovered (1) 101:6
 undermined (1) 27:8
 underneath (4) 89:14 159:24
 173:20 191:18
 understand (17) 3:5 13:13
 26:8 30:9 45:11 88:5 102:9
 104:18 130:14 138:24
 139:22 140:5 146:15 174:7
 188:2 201:1 215:14
 understanding (4) 6:17 8:20
 58:7 137:17
 understood (1) 162:1
 underwater (1) 158:25
 underwear (2) 108:22 114:14
 undervert (1) 209:20
 undoubtedly (1) 13:15
 unfamiliar (1) 27:23
 unfeel (1) 211:23
 uniform (6) 55:19 56:6 94:3
 107:1 141:24 203:13
 uniforms (3) 93:19 94:2 97:7
 unimaginable (2) 54:21
 213:4
 unit (7) 11:1 18:1 22:13
 24:11 127:22 179:20
 209:18
 united (1) 5:21
 university (7) 23:7
 148:17,19,19,20 186:16
 212:22
 unknown (1) 9:7
 unless (2) 6:19 165:22
 unlikely (1) 129:3
 unmovable (1) 160:16
 unnatural (1) 197:14
 unqualified (1) 24:8
 unsafe (4) 57:9,12 169:3
 192:15
 unsteady (3) 111:7 192:6,15
 unsure (1) 169:13
 unsurvivable (1) 13:10
 until (20) 31:11 43:15,17
 51:13 69:17 82:7,22
 51:8 52:24 54:6 101:5
 131:13 150:16 153:24
 170:7 186:10 202:16
 204:16,20 206:5,8,20
 216:4,4
 untrusting (1) 198:8
 unusal (1) 50:6
 unwell (2) 70:13 71:9
 update (2) 58:5 95:11
 updates (1) 95:16
 updating (1) 58:5
 upgraded (1) 126:10
 upon (11) 17:24 23:11 29:3
 36:5 62:2 67:22 141:13
 178:10 190:12 201:6
 212:25
 upper (1) 29:10
 upset (3) 78:4,5 136:8
 upstairs (5) 47:22 114:2,23
 174:3 194:13
 urgent (1) 83:3
 used (11) 4:19 25:21 74:13
 151:5 162:23 168:24
 169:18 179:20 183:8
 212:10 214:5
 using (2) 180:17 193:8
 usual (5) 13:7 60:21,23 94:3
 147:17
 usually (1) 151:8
 utter (1) 110:14

V

vacate (1) 166:12
 vague (1) 65:21
 van (2) 50:4 206:4
 vans (1) 50:3
 various (1) 21:14
 vegetative (1) 22:14
 vehicle (1) 33:24
 vehicles (1) 28:3
 venue (1) 187:23
 venues (1) 27:24

vest (2) 108:21 114:14
 via (9) 34:17 48:24 67:9,11
 68:2 136:11 151:10 156:1
 178:6
 vice (3) 172:15,19 176:2
 vicinity (3) 16:25 59:3,5
 victim (2) 61:25 132:1
 victims (5) 58:8,10,18 59:2,5
 victoria (16) 16:10 33:14
 34:3 37:18 44:12,25 53:5
 67:7 150:14 151:1,12
 156:1,10 158:14 178:3
 181:19
 video (1) 22:19
 videos (5) 69:16 70:21
 148:10 154:17 214:18
 viewing (2) 16:12 31:13
 views (2) 23:12 129:15
 vigilant (1) 197:3
 vip (3) 4:7,11 5:5
 virtually (1) 140:22
 visible (1) 173:20
 vision (8) 75:3,6 84:15 94:22
 157:2 158:21,23 201:6
 visited (1) 151:16
 vocal (1) 11:1
 voice (3) 28:24 62:15 64:19
 vomit (1) 18:16
 vomiting (2) 200:7 201:1
 vulnerability (1) 171:12
 vulnerable (2) 169:5 193:23

W

wait (1) 9:1
 wait (11) 37:20 39:20 81:13
 115:25 123:12 135:3
 150:16,20 189:14 204:7
 206:2
 waited (12) 28:5 34:12,13
 42:2 43:17 54:9 114:15
 127:24 138:13 203:20
 204:5
 waiting (24) 32:19 34:24
 36:20 42:12,14 45:8 50:8

41:15 42:5 53:2.9 54:2
 56:8.15 73:25 81:3 90:5
 96:25 100:19,20 103:8
 106:6 111:25 113:20
 114:10 118:9,23 160:10
 161:3,4,5 175:18,22
 176:2,4 177:5,25 178:14
 184:10 185:19 192:18
 200:11
watch (6) 25:14 54:19 68:22
 70:12 78:13 146:9
watched (2) 7:16 88:25
watching (4) 5:22 37:24
 62:23 156:25
water (3) 149:17 159:3 165:2
way (66) 3:16 4:22,23 6:9,10
 10:22 14:10,15 37:19
 39:17 44:11 65:16,17
 66:12 67:13,15 71:24
 72:23,25 74:3 79:7,11
 88:16 90:13 93:14 97:17
 98:7 100:17 102:4 103:23
 110:19,23 111:25 112:4,6
 113:3 116:11 123:4 130:10
 142:14 143:6 150:9 151:18
 152:7 154:8 155:17,23
 162:25 169:6,24 170:6
 172:11 176:19,21 178:16
 180:23 182:25 183:22
 184:19 186:25 189:11
 192:18,23 195:11 200:3
 201:14
wear (2) 149:7 201:13
wearing (16) 25:24 42:13
 48:20 67:17 87:25 88:15
 92:24 108:21 133:10 134:7
 141:19,24 148:24 149:4
 150:23 167:17
weather (4) 29:23,25
 30:13,16
weatherbys (1) 29:22
website (2) 214:5,13
wed (12) 3:23 4:11 6:1 42:15
 51:18 53:8 67:14 68:22
 70:8 131:15 153:4 155:11
weeks (6) 126:24 127:21
 135:8 148:7 209:17 210:13
weigh (1) 142:19
weight (1) 36:18
weird (1) 183:16
weirdest (1) 183:1
went (41) 3:20 15:4 28:9
 33:19 38:7 39:7 42:16,21
 48:12 49:16,23 64:14
 66:10 68:6,12,15 70:3,13
 73:21 79:5,20 81:16 88:3
 91:18 99:2 119:5
 151:12,17 152:24 157:3
 159:1 165:6 173:1 179:8
 189:8 191:2 201:10
 209:5,6 215:4,11
werent (18) 20:9 24:13
 25:3,25 72:9 85:3 96:24
 102:9 104:18 105:3,4
 107:5 160:19 172:14
 196:7,21,21 214:1
west (1) 3:19
wetherspoons (1) 45:3
weve (14) 7:6 23:21 27:18
 31:1 101:5 107:9 123:10
 130:11 135:20 137:15
 177:12 190:7,8 212:17
whatever (6) 60:10,15 152:7
 184:1,1 187:24
whats (9) 24:23 27:19 31:19
 118:1 162:16 172:20 177:1
 189:4 211:17
wheelchair (6) 20:2 36:15
 49:21 107:24 110:24 111:4
wheeled (4) 109:18 110:6
 111:2 123:6
wheels (1) 36:14
whenever (1) 142:18
wheras (2) 73:23 138:3
wheres (1) 176:7
whilst (22) 41:6 42:1 45:12

47:21 52:5 54:11 55:12,17
 61:21 121:20,21 126:1
 136:15 138:24 173:15
 179:10 181:5 182:15
 184:25 195:17 200:6 203:4
white (2) 51:23 157:3
whoever (1) 179:8
whole (17) 46:13 48:23
 110:3 157:5 159:8,9,10
 191:18 192:14 193:24
 204:25,25 206:17,18
 210:22,24 215:24
whom (1) 115:16
whos (1) 200:8
wide (1) 209:2
widely (2) 137:6 214:13
wider (2) 30:10 181:13
wife (13) 10:16 20:18,20
 29:7 31:11 33:7,9,12,19
 34:21 35:5,13 37:8
window (3) 42:6,6 72:13
windows (4) 45:9 73:16
 81:15 94:17
wine (4) 149:17 150:3,10
 153:3
wish (1) 145:8
wish (19) 2:3 6:19,20 7:9
 30:9 73:8,11 132:7 136:9
 143:19 146:8,14,19
 156:24,25 185:5 191:25
 211:7 213:17
wished (2) 3:9 204:16
wishes (11) 1:18,21,24 30:18
 31:4 62:6,14 140:16
 145:25 214:23,24
witness (48) 1:7 2:21 6:4
 10:4 11:9,14,20 14:9 24:7
 32:3,21 37:6 40:5,6,7,8
 44:1 48:4,6,7 50:14 57:20
 58:25 59:9 61:13,14
 63:4,7,11 70:19 74:6 99:18
 120:24 145:17 159:5
 160:23 163:6 165:21
 170:10,16 190:11
 217:6,9,12,15,18,21,24
witnessed (4) 11:23 14:18
 179:24 182:5
witnessing (2) 184:18 190:11
woke (5) 10:24 85:10
 202:1,9 203:6
woman (6) 4:20 23:3,4
 153:9,16 203:7
wonder (4) 17:12 19:22
 48:12 49:16,23 64:14
 66:10 68:6,12,15 70:3,13
 73:21 79:5,20 81:16 88:3
 91:18 99:2 119:5
 151:12,17 152:24 157:3
 159:1 165:6 173:1 179:8
 189:8 191:2 201:10
 209:5,6 215:4,11
worered (3) 74:15,20
 113:18
wonderful (3) 4:6 18:22
 155:9
wondering (3) 59:22 60:6
 139:11
wont (4) 21:15 84:1 97:17
 137:7
wore (3) 93:21 128:15
 157:21
work (16) 22:23 32:7 36:9
 47:8 60:24 64:9,15 67:25
 73:2 110:17 148:15,21
 178:2 181:13 212:25
worked (3) 64:9 148:18
 213:24
workers (1) 132:2
working (5) 36:10 179:19,23
 190:9 200:11
world (5) 5:22 7:16 22:5
 23:1,10
worn (1) 92:10
worried (1) 171:4
worry (2) 13:25 90:22
worrying (2) 124:23 200:7
worse (3) 39:10 160:9 187:2
worsen (1) 209:15
worsening (1) 126:12
worst (5) 164:4 170:9 177:13
 200:7 214:7
worth (1) 211:16
wouldnt (15) 13:3 17:23

22:14,15 39:4,12 43:13
 56:17 104:2 108:19 137:10
 138:7,12 174:3 175:9
wound (2) 55:25 117:22
wounded (1) 166:11
wounds (6) 8:23 9:13 19:5
 117:23 127:10 209:1
wrap (3) 49:23 124:4 187:25
wrapped (1) 167:6
wrist (3) 106:15,16 173:7
wristband (1) 173:6
wristbands (1) 173:2
write (2) 198:25 199:8
written (3) 22:6 24:23 137:8
wrong (2) 35:21 74:21
wrote (2) 150:18 199:15
wylie (1) 205:13
wythenshawe (1) 17:20

X

x (1) 217:1

Y

yeah (2) 152:3 172:9
year (8) 1:12 2:20,23 17:18
 146:16 211:21 212:23,24
years (15) 17:17,18 29:8
 31:12 50:18,19 67:6
 128:4,8,16 129:7 132:5
 210:4,12 212:18
yellow (3) 53:22 73:16 94:1
yesterday (1) 141:13
yet (4) 29:8 54:1 137:8
 171:10
yorkshire (2) 3:19 132:1
you (33) 6:5 28:13 69:6,8
 70:19 71:14 72:8 78:25
 82:17 84:18 85:1 88:21
 89:23 90:25 94:3 100:1
 112:24 113:3 116:4,18
 119:23 122:12 123:14
 125:12 135:15 139:11
 140:25 186:12 193:21
 200:20 202:6 203:13 206:8
youll (4) 1:11 31:9 118:20
 137:17
young (3) 29:10 34:20
 102:10
younger (3) 34:18 144:19
 215:17
youre (22) 12:23 15:15
 26:4,6 31:2 63:3 84:11,12
 98:3 99:2 113:6 117:13
 126:15 137:16 140:13
 148:24 167:6 184:9 192:21
 195:14,14 202:21
yours (2) 28:1 83:20
yourself (9) 25:6 72:6 82:20
 120:10 131:10 136:12
 137:18 162:9 193:21
youve (31) 7:16 8:18 9:17
 13:20 14:18 15:21
 19:9,21,24 23:11 25:14
 32:18 63:7 89:4 120:20,23
 127:1 136:14 139:13 145:4
 146:18 156:12 171:7
 173:15 175:23 187:12
 188:24 190:1 202:23
 209:15 212:5
yvonne (4) 50:14,16 57:17
 217:21

Z

zone (1) 26:16

0

0018 (2) 17:6 23:25
0022 (1) 120:5
002447 (1) 23:19
0025 (1) 24:1
003207 (1) 23:22
0055 (1) 121:18
015905 (1) 121:22
0207 (1) 122:1
024437 (1) 205:8
025158 (1) 205:18

1

1 (18) 19:16 23:19,24 50:16
 60:7,21 64:10 68:19
 121:5,6,8,13 126:10,10
 147:19 193:9 195:18
 202:16
10 (16) 6:24,25 7:2 22:2,11
 31:21 41:16 42:15 47:11
 52:21 64:21 70:3 121:17
 170:23 216:7,9
100 (4) 44:14 48:9 61:6
 180:18
1000 (3) 1:2 216:11,12
1010 (2) 41:8 45:15
1012 (1) 1:4
102 (1) 147:19
1030 (2) 69:13 154:3
1045 (1) 54:4
105 (1) 61:10
1059 (1) 32:15
107 (2) 68:18 142:7
10mg (1) 199:13
10minute (1) 17:25
10ml (1) 199:13
10tonne (1) 7:19
11 (2) 16:14 173:21
110 (1) 143:4
111 (1) 59:11
1126 (1) 32:17
12 (6) 48:21 62:18 63:16
 99:17 128:4 143:9
1205 (2) 59:23 61:8
13 (3) 48:21 127:10 205:8
130 (1) 60:5
14 (3) 1:11 4:11 48:21
140 (1) 218:4
1445 (1) 51:6
145 (2) 218:6,7
15 (6) 34:8 37:19 42:16
 50:18 69:21 208:13
15yearold (1) 146:24
16 (2) 50:19 62:18
17 (1) 128:10
1745 (2) 51:10 66:7
1747 (1) 66:14
18 (2) 20:15 23:2
1832 (1) 52:9
183552 (1) 151:14
184024 (1) 151:19
1844 (1) 52:13
191228 (1) 68:3
1915 (1) 68:10
1934 (1) 52:16
19yearold (1) 142:15
1ml (1) 199:13

2

2 (21) 16:15 17:1 23:24
 26:21 36:20 68:19
 106:16,21 120:7 121:5
 126:10 128:16 147:19
 163:3 173:7,14 174:13
 209:17 210:4 217:3,4
20 (4) 9:13 17:17,18 34:9
20000 (1) 187:24
2002 (1) 52:18
2015 (1) 64:2
2017 (18) 1:16 32:25 33:1
 37:10,11 40:8,10,13 44:3,4
 48:7,9,12 50:16,17 63:13
 121:22 205:9
2018 (1) 65:23
2019 (2) 57:24 58:4
2021 (3) 1:1 63:5 216:14
2032 (1) 52:20
2033 (1) 52:22
2035 (1) 52:23
206 (2) 48:22,24
207 (3) 48:24 121:19 126:15
20s (1) 167:16
2130 (1) 52:24
2145 (3) 34:3 37:17 52:24
22 (16) 1:1,16 8:23 20:8
 33:1 37:11 40:10,13 44:4

48:12 50:17 58:10 63:13
 99:19 146:3 148:13
2207 (1) 53:25
2230 (2) 53:23 54:20
223049 (1) 156:13
223053 (2) 6:12 73:4
225411 (1) 178:4
225444 (1) 178:7
225626 (1) 178:8
22nd (1) 51:6
23 (6) 99:20 121:22 129:12
 133:4 205:9 216:14
230 (2) 64:14 126:15
230558 (1) 181:11
230601 (1) 181:15
230642 (1) 170:22
230809 (1) 181:17
2314 (1) 107:11
231443 (1) 181:18
232014 (1) 181:21
232157 (1) 15:14
232256 (1) 15:18
232554 (1) 16:6
232555 (1) 15:25
232901 (1) 110:21
232925 (1) 110:25
232949 (1) 16:8
233031 (1) 112:16
110 (1) 143:4
233143 (1) 112:19
233954 (1) 192:20
234211 (1) 194:2
237 (1) 59:6
23rd (1) 208:4
24 (1) 57:24
240 (1) 145:13
24hour (1) 22:24
25 (2) 41:16 202:18
2530minute (1) 17:21
255 (1) 145:15
26 (1) 44:3
28 (4) 32:25 48:7 59:10
 122:4
29 (1) 146:16

3

3 (13) 32:4 35:6 38:4 46:6
 51:2 68:19 106:15,20
 116:9 122:4 126:6 157:13
 202:16
30 (1) 37:10
30s (1) 129:8
31 (1) 40:8
32 (2) 144:17 217:6
337 (1) 59:2
35 (1) 128:5
37 (1) 217:9

4

4 (13) 29:8 31:12 46:6 64:15
 126:24 128:7,8 132:5
 157:13 163:3 205:7,20
 212:18
40 (1) 217:12
4045 (1) 183:21
422 (1) 216:13
429 (1) 59:5
44 (1) 217:15
48 (1) 217:18

5

5 (3) 7:3 128:8 157:2
50 (1) 217:21
53 (3) 23:20 141:11,17
57 (1) 217:24

6

6 (2) 7:4 210:1
61 (2) 218:2,3
620 (1) 40:17
63 (1) 59:10

7

7 (3) 48:11 63:5 205:16

8

8 (6) 2:23 23:22 122:1
 127:21 174:15 193:9
803 (1) 5:8
81 (1) 111:19
830 (1) 154:9
86 (1) 213:21
8week (1) 131:11
8yearold (1) 48:14

9

9 (8) 11:11 32:23 59:18
 69:11 75:16 129:12 134:11
 154:3
90degree (2) 183:8 207:5
91 (1) 59:7
92 (1) 59:3
930 (1) 216:11
940 (2) 58:11,21
945 (2) 44:20 45:1
999 (2) 102:11,16