

Coroner's Inquests into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005  
Hearing transcripts - 6 December 2010 - Afternoon session

1 (2.00 pm)

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr Keith?

3 MR KEITH: My Lady, may I invite you to call Garri Hollness,  
4 please.

5 Mr Garri Hollness (sworn)

6 Questions by MR KEITH

7 MR KEITH: Good afternoon. Could you give the court your  
8 full name, please?

9 A. My name's Garri Hollness.

10 Q. Mr Hollness, can I ask you a favour? Could you please  
11 do your utmost to keep your voice as loud as you can --

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. -- so that we all have a chance to hear what you have to  
14 say?

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. I want you to consciously do it as loudly as you can.  
17 The microphone won't amplify your voice, I'm afraid, and  
18 there's water next to you, if you need it.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Mr Hollness, in July of 2005, were you travelling from  
21 East Croydon station to King's Cross in the morning?

22 A. Yes, I was.

23 Q. Do you, in fact, or did you, in fact, catch the same  
24 train every day?

25 A. I do catch the same train every day.

1 Q. Do you recall whether the Underground was particularly  
2 busy that morning?

3 A. It was very busy that morning, very busy.

4 Q. At King's Cross, where you walked to the Piccadilly Line  
5 from your mainline train, do you recall there being  
6 people everywhere? I think you describe it in your  
7 statement as "chock-a-block"?

8 A. It was chock-a-block, there was people everywhere.  
9 I think there might have been a delay on trains or  
10 something, because it was really exceptionally busy  
11 rather than it usually is.

12 Q. Do you normally go to the same spot on the platform  
13 every day?

14 A. Yes, I do, so that, when I come out at Russell Square,  
15 I come straight out of Russell Square, it's easy access.

16 Q. That morning at King's Cross, when you reached the  
17 platform for the westbound Piccadilly Line, were you  
18 able to get the first train that passed through?

19 A. No, no, I didn't manage to get the first train. I did  
20 actually manage to manoeuvre myself to a spot where  
21 I went to get on to the train, but I didn't actually  
22 catch the first train.

23 Q. Do you recall why you weren't able to get into the first  
24 train?

25 A. The first train was completely packed. The nearest

1 thing I can talk to about is, like, packed like  
2 sardines, it was really, really packed, so I couldn't  
3 get on to it at all.

4 Q. Do you recall, as you waited for that first train,  
5 somebody boarding the train just in front of you?

6 A. That was the second train.

7 Q. Oh, it was the second train?

8 A. I was about to board a second train that was also  
9 packed.

10 Q. The first train went through, then?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You couldn't get on it. Then there was a delay, we  
13 understand, before the second train came through?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. What happened when the second train arrived?

16 A. I was about to board the second train, because I saw  
17 there was a gap in the train for me to actually get  
18 into, and a woman actually pushed past me and jumped on  
19 there and, me and my flippant nature, just touched her  
20 on the shoulder and said "Have a nice day".

21 Q. So that train left --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- with that lady on it --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and you weren't able then to get on to even the

1 second train?

2 A. No, not at all.

3 Q. You waited then further?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. What happened next?

6 A. I waited for the third train to approach and I said,

7 "I have to get to work now", because I'm usually at work

8 between 8.30 and 8.40, so I made sure that, when the

9 third train came, I was in the correct position to

10 actually board the train, and it pulled up, right in

11 front of me, and the doors opened right in front of me.

12 Q. Were you able then to board the train?

13 A. Yes, I was able to board the train.

14 Q. But was it very full?

15 A. When I first went on, it wasn't full, it was semi-full,

16 and then, when I got on to the train, after about

17 a minute or so it became packed.

18 Q. Because more and more people were coming on?

19 A. More and more people came on.

20 Q. Do you recall saying something or cracking a joke?

21 A. Yes, it was getting so packed that there was still

22 people outside saying, "Can you please move in? Can you

23 please move in?" and, like I say, I've got a flippant

24 nature, I turned around and said, "What do you want us

25 to do? Get on the roof and go on the roof?", and that

1 made the commuters inside the train start laughing.

2 Q. Can we have a look, please, at where you were in that

3 carriage? Could you please have a look at the screen at

4 [INQ10283-10]?

5 This is a diagram, schematic diagram, showing the

6 first carriage, Mr Hollness, and the driver's cab is to

7 the left of the screen.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. You'll see there "direction of travel" pointing to the

10 left.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Do you recall which door you entered into?

13 A. I entered the door D3.

14 Q. So that is to say the door nearest the driver?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. This was the King's Cross platform?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You're right to impliedly note that the platform is on

19 that side of the train.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So D3, the first set of doors nearest the driver. When

22 the train left, where do you think you were standing?

23 A. I believe where 34 is, number 34, I think that's where

24 the pole is, that you hold on to.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. I was holding on to the pole there. So I believe 34  
2 would be me, or 33 would be me. I'm in and around that  
3 little -- that little area there.

4 Q. Now, the actual explosion was further down the train  
5 towards the rear of that first carriage, near double  
6 doors D5 and D6.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. This diagram was prepared on the basis of witness  
9 statements from all the passengers by the police and  
10 they assessed that you may, in fact, have been one set  
11 of doors further down the carriage because they put you  
12 at 85.

13 A. It was too packed at that side now, recalling back, and  
14 I was further back because I couldn't get in at D3,  
15 because the carriage -- sorry, the platform was so  
16 packed at that time, I couldn't go down further, so  
17 I decided to come in at D5. I usually get on at D3.

18 Q. Right. That's why I was asking whether you always  
19 entered by the same carriage door.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. On this occasion, it was so packed, you think you  
22 entered by the second set of doors, D5?

23 A. Yes, I definitely remember that now.

24 Q. Then you squeezed yourself into the middle of the  
25 carriage and moved slightly towards the front of the

1 train perhaps?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall people standing very closely to you as you  
4 left King's Cross?

5 A. I could feel people very close to me. At one stage,  
6 when I was holding on to the pole in front of me, I kind  
7 of braced myself backwards to try to give myself room in  
8 front of me.

9 Q. Do you recall what you were wearing, Mr Hollness?

10 A. I had on a blue pair of trousers, a blue T-shirt and  
11 a blue pair of trainers and I had a blue --  
12 a blue-handled bag, a Fitness First bag, because I was  
13 going to gym that morning.

14 Q. A holdall type of bag?

15 A. A holdall, yes.

16 Q. Were you wearing a tie, do you recall?

17 A. No, I wasn't wearing a tie.

18 Q. You're sure about that?

19 A. I'm positive I wasn't wearing a tie.

20 Q. What do you recollect happening after --

21 A. On second thoughts, to be honest with you, I can't  
22 remember whether I was wearing a tie or not, I wouldn't  
23 remember.

24 Q. All right.

25 A. But I do remember wearing a blue pair of trousers and

1 a blue top. I could have had a tie on, on

2 a short-sleeved top, but I wouldn't remember.

3 Q. You were on your way to work?

4 A. I was on my way to work, yes.

5 Q. Would you normally be wearing a tie on the way to work?

6 A. Sometimes I would wear a tie, sometimes I wouldn't wear  
7 a tie. That's why I'm saying I couldn't answer that  
8 question.

9 Q. It was a hot day, perhaps you weren't, you just don't  
10 know?

11 A. Probably I wasn't, yes, I just don't know.

12 Q. What do you recollect happening after you left  
13 King's Cross?

14 A. Well, I remember being on the train and, like I say, it  
15 was packed, and I've done -- sorry to go into something  
16 slightly different, but I've done, like, fashion shows  
17 and modelling and things like that in the past, so I've  
18 always got a tendency to look at people's clothes, their  
19 shoes, women and both men, so I think what I might have  
20 been doing is looking at people's shoes, looking at  
21 people's trousers and things like that and within, like,  
22 two or three minutes' time, it went from a scene like  
23 this courtroom is at the moment to, like -- I'd say it's  
24 like a rave scene where it's, like, pitch black and  
25 you've got, like, the flickering of lights and there's,

1 like, a smoke machine somewhere, it just completely  
2 changed within like seconds.

3 Q. Do you think you may have passed out for a moment or  
4 two?

5 A. To be honest with you, I remember my head hitting the  
6 pole in front of me, and when I was standing up -- and  
7 I remember it was a packed train. I remember I looked  
8 around, there was nobody standing up, and I was saying  
9 to myself "I've got to stay focused, I've got to stay  
10 focused", and I was looking around and looking around.  
11 I then remember, and then recall, being on the floor,  
12 but now, the last couple of years' time, like I was  
13 saying to someone beforehand, you get to understand more  
14 what happened, I actually had an out-of-body experience,  
15 because I couldn't have been standing up near a pole  
16 when the bomb's gone off. It's impossible. My body was  
17 already on the floor.

18 So my spirit and soul I believe left my body and,  
19 like I said, when I kind of recalled or was looking  
20 around, part of me then went back into my body. It  
21 might sound a bit spooky to some people, but that's what  
22 I feel happened to me.

23 Q. That's why you think you can strongly recollect your  
24 head hitting the pole and standing up?

25 A. Definitely, definitely.

1 Q. I think I can say with some confidence we'll never know  
2 the answer to that one, Mr Hollness.  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. Do you then recollect lying on the floor?  
5 A. Yes, I do remember lying on the floor. While I was on  
6 the --  
7 Q. Just pause there. Do you recollect anybody else still  
8 standing up when you realised that you were lying on the  
9 floor?  
10 A. No, everybody was on the floor, or who I presumed was on  
11 the floor. I just presumed people were on the floor.  
12 Q. Was it completely dark or was there some light?  
13 A. It was pitch black.  
14 Q. Could you --  
15 A. You couldn't see your hands in front of you.  
16 Q. Could you hear anything?  
17 A. Not at first, I couldn't hear anything.  
18 Q. Then what happened?  
19 A. And then, while I was on the floor, I remembered a woman  
20 shout out, "I've lost my legs", and that made me think,  
21 "How do you combat somebody who's actually lost their  
22 legs?" I then looked at my leg and, when I looked at my  
23 leg, where my shin was supposed to be, it wasn't there  
24 anymore, and I lifted up my leg at a strange angle and  
25 scratched the bottom of it, my foot, and I can still

1 feel the sensation in my foot, but I knew I'd lost my  
2 leg, and I go back again to my flippant side, I shouted  
3 back to the woman, "Don't worry, love, I've lost part of  
4 my leg, but we will get out".

5 Q. Was the substance of your leg, the bone connecting your  
6 foot to your leg, gone?

7 A. It was gone, it was just the skin at the back of it  
8 holding the --

9 Q. The only thing connecting your foot was the tendon and  
10 some skin?

11 A. Skin, yes.

12 Q. Could you feel pain at that stage?

13 A. I couldn't feel no pain.

14 Q. You were obviously able to say something to the lady  
15 next to you.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you also try to bring some calm to those around you  
18 by saying, "Calm down" and "Let's see if we can be  
19 quiet"?

20 A. Oh, definitely, I was saying to a lot of people, "Stay  
21 calm, stay calm. We will all get out of this", and  
22 there was times when I was underground as well, as I can  
23 recall, I was actually helping people to sit kind of  
24 upright against the rest of the chairs that were left  
25 there, and I kind of done -- I think I done that to

1 about three or four people, but I said, "Stay calm,  
2 we're going to get out, we're going to get out", and  
3 a woman I now know to be called Alison McCarthy came  
4 across to me and she said, "Garri, it's okay, we will  
5 get out, we will get out", and then she looked at my leg  
6 and said to me, "Just calm yourself down a little bit,  
7 though, but we will get out", so we were just kind of  
8 comforting each other.

9 Q. Do you recall, when you were lying on the floor and  
10 first realising that your foot and your leg had gone,  
11 whether or not other people who had been blown to the  
12 floor by the blast were lying across you at all? Were  
13 you underneath anybody else?

14 A. I think I was initially under -- on top of people,  
15 initially, and I kind of moved my body off of them  
16 people, and sat -- I kind of cleared the way and sat to  
17 myself, but I sat upright, because I think I was laying  
18 flat and people were underneath me, then I kind of  
19 straightened myself up and kind of sat upright, like I'm  
20 sitting now.

21 Q. You were there for, as we'll discover in a moment,  
22 a long time.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The longest, in fact.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you have a chance or were you able to find out  
2 whether or not the people around you, in particular  
3 those who had fallen against you, were dead or alive?

4 A. I didn't have a chance at all. To be honest with you,  
5 my first initial reaction was there was a train  
6 accident, one train had hit another train. A bomb  
7 didn't come into my head at all. So I just assumed  
8 there wasn't no dead people around me, to be honest with  
9 you.

10 Q. But as you lay there on the floor and as you waited and  
11 waited for the emergency services to arrive, did you see  
12 that there were people lying motionless in the carriage  
13 floor around you?

14 A. I did see, yes, I did see there were motionless people  
15 around me. I also saw limbs in and around me as well.

16 Q. Were there any particular people who were motionless,  
17 whom you can recall, or was it just a general sense that  
18 there must have been some dead people around you?

19 A. It was just a general sense, because at one point I was  
20 saying to Alison, after we started talking, that  
21 I needed to get up on one of the chairs because I was  
22 feeling faint, I wasn't feeling right. So she was  
23 helping me kind of slide across the carriage floor to  
24 get to where I was going, sliding in blood and various  
25 other bits and pieces.

1 Q. There were people around you who were not moving?

2 A. And there was people around me who we were moving out of  
3 the way, limbs around me that we were moving out of the  
4 way, and then I remember getting up on to a couple of  
5 chairs and swinging my leg that was kind of hanging off  
6 on to the chair. But even when I was up there, I was  
7 feeling uncomfortable and faint as well, so then I put  
8 my hands back down on to the base of the train and felt  
9 around to get back on to the floor again, and that's  
10 when I started feeling even hands and legs and various  
11 other things, but I tried to blank it out of my mind and  
12 put my hand somewhere else as well on the train, and the  
13 exact same thing happened again and I thought, 'Well,  
14 you've got to take on board what's happening now, and  
15 try and blank it'.

16 Q. Do you think you might have blanked out the fact that  
17 there were a number of bodies lying still on the floor  
18 around you?

19 A. Yes, I could sense they were there, but I just tried to  
20 remain calm.

21 Q. Her Ladyship has heard from a witness last week, a lady  
22 called Lilian Ajayi, who has recalled that, after the  
23 explosion, she saw a man whom she described as wearing  
24 a multicoloured tie being the man who had cracked the  
25 joke about "Is there room on the roof?", which is you.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. This person, who she thinks was the same person as the  
3 man who cracked the joke, was lying under a body on the  
4 floor of the carriage and put a hand out to her and  
5 said, "Can you help lift me up?" She wasn't able to do  
6 so, but she describes quite distinctly how this  
7 gentleman was trapped under another body. Might that  
8 have been you?

9 A. That could have been me, because, like I said, there is  
10 parts -- when I saw my psychiatrist, we went through  
11 a few things with regards to the bombing, and there is  
12 parts of the bombing that are still not clear to me at  
13 the moment, it's a bit stagnated and I can't pull it  
14 together.

15 Q. Of course. Can I ask you about where you think you  
16 might have moved yourself to? You managed to pull  
17 yourself along the carriage floor and haul yourself up  
18 onto a bank of seats.

19 A. 70 -- near 70 and 77, or seat 28 and 27.

20 Q. Right. In your witness statement, you refer to the fact  
21 that you think you had pulled yourself up on to seats  
22 further down the carriage, 5, 6 and 7.

23 If what you said earlier is right, which is that you  
24 were much nearer to the blast, which is consistent with  
25 your injuries, it would then have been the seats 29, 28,

1 27, that you pulled yourself up on to?

2 A. Yes, definitely, yes.

3 Q. All right. Tell us, please, about Alison McCarthy, how  
4 did she come to be helping you?

5 A. Well, Alison, after I gained consciousness again, she  
6 was saying to me, "Garri, stay calm, we will get out of  
7 here", so we was kind of comforting each other, but then  
8 I felt faint and I honestly and truthfully felt my life,  
9 like, ebbing away from me and I felt, "I have to stay  
10 conscious throughout this", and I remember saying to  
11 Alison as well, "If I ever say to you I'm feeling faint,  
12 slap me, please, because I can't go to sleep, I can't  
13 allow myself to go to sleep", and there was two or three  
14 occasions when I actually did do that.

15 Q. There was some debate between you and her as to what  
16 your name was?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. She got your name wrong in one instance?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But she stayed with you, did she not, and kept on giving  
21 you reassurance and keeping you awake?

22 A. Oh, definitely, she was my angel that day, definitely,  
23 definitely.

24 Q. In your statement, you describe how whilst you lay there  
25 on the seat, another man managed to make his way down

1 the carriage by jumping down the seats?  
2 A. Yes, from a distance, I could see somebody coming  
3 from -- from D8, that type of direction, but he --  
4 I couldn't see them, I could just see a shadow coming  
5 towards me, or a dark figure coming towards me, but they  
6 wasn't on the floor, they were jumping from chair to  
7 chair type of thing, and it was getting closer and  
8 closer and closer to me, and it got so close that  
9 I actually thought he was going to jump on me, and  
10 I just freaked out and said, "Can you slow down,  
11 please?", and he kind of froze over me and I could see  
12 the fear in his eyes, the distress in his face, and then  
13 Alison helped him off the seat and he went around me and  
14 he continued out through the --  
15 Q. Driver's cab?  
16 A. -- driver's part.  
17 Q. Did you have a sense of time passing, of being there for  
18 quite a long time?  
19 A. I believed I was down there for about -- initially  
20 I believed I was there for about 20, maybe 30,  
21 40 minutes, but I got to understand I was under there  
22 for an hour and a half.  
23 Q. Were you aware of that passing of time as you were  
24 there?  
25 A. No, because, I mean, things happened. There were so

1 many things happening, I was just trying to stay focused  
2 on the fact that I needed to stay alive. I mean, sorry  
3 to bring this in as well, but a mum's worst fear is for  
4 her child to die before her, and because I left my mum  
5 in a nursing home the day before and I was thinking  
6 "I don't want to -- this can't happen", so I kind of  
7 snapped out of it and kind of stayed focused on the fact  
8 that my mum was there and I needed to see my mum.

9 Q. Do you recall lights appearing in the carriage, torch  
10 lights?

11 A. Oh, definitely from a distance, I saw a torch light  
12 about the size of this microphone, very small, from  
13 a distance, and I saw that for about 10, maybe  
14 15 minutes, and then, gradually, it was kind of getting  
15 slower and slower and slower towards me, and then at one  
16 point it actually came to me.

17 Putting everything into order now, it would be about  
18 half an hour later it came past me, but they actually  
19 walked past me and carried on through the carriage.

20 Q. Did you realise that these were paramedics?

21 A. Yes, I realised they were paramedics.

22 Q. So the first time you saw the torch light was them  
23 approaching?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. They approached you, but then they went past?

1 A. They went past me.

2 Q. Were you conscious when they came back to you?

3 A. Yes, I was conscious enough to say to them, "Hello,  
4 there's something wrong with me as well". But  
5 I remember at one of these anniversaries I bumped into  
6 one of the train drivers who was actually down there at  
7 the time and he says to me, "Garri, I'll always remember  
8 you," and I said to him "Why is that?", and he said  
9 "Because, when we passed you, you were so calm we didn't  
10 know what was wrong with you".

11 Q. But you put your hand up --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and you announced your presence, and the emergency  
14 services started tending to you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you recollect whether there was more than one  
17 paramedic looking after you?

18 A. I think initially there was three people there, and  
19 I think two of them were dealing with me.

20 Q. Do you have any recollection of being taken out of the  
21 train at all?

22 A. No, I just remember them coming up to me, one of them  
23 saying, "He's a priority 1", I think I got an injection,  
24 and that's all I remember. Five days -- four days later  
25 waking up in the hospital.

1 Q. Were you informed that, when you woke up, you had been,  
2 in fact, the last --  
3 A. Yes, I was the last person.  
4 Q. -- casualty to be taken out of the carriage?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. How long did you remain in hospital, Mr Hollness?  
7 A. Two months, two and a half months.  
8 Q. You had a large number of operations, did you not, on  
9 your leg, and your left leg was amputated from just  
10 below the knee?  
11 A. Mm-hmm.  
12 Q. You had to have a number of operations concerning  
13 shrapnel injuries --  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. -- and cuts to your body, as well as to your other leg?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 MR KEITH: Thank you very much, Mr Hollness. Will you stay  
18 there, though, because there may be some further  
19 questions for you.  
20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?  
21 Questions by MR SAUNDERS  
22 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Hollness, can I ask you, please, again  
23 about your dress that day?  
24 A. Okay.  
25 Q. I know it may seem rather strange, but until a few days

1 ago, one of the families I represent -- Mrs Henry --  
2 because of everything we'd heard, believed that it was  
3 her son that had made the wisecrack, "Where do you want  
4 me to go? On the roof?", and it was only when  
5 Alison McCarthy gave evidence and she said, "Well, in  
6 fact, I've spoken to Garri since, and Garri believes it  
7 was he that said that".

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So that's why I'd like to deal, if I may, a little with  
10 your dress, because, as Mr Keith has just mentioned to  
11 you, the one principal witness who believed she could  
12 say who it was who made that comment put the person as  
13 wearing a blue shirt, and I think you recall clearly you  
14 have a blue shirt on?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. She thought a multicoloured tie, and you now think,  
17 "Yes, I may have had a tie"?

18 A. I may have had a tie on, yes.

19 Q. You've obviously got a fairly sober tie on today, if I  
20 may say so.

21 A. But I have got a multicoloured tie, that's why I think  
22 it could have been me.

23 Q. She describes him as a big black man.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Now, I'm not going to get personal with you,

1 Mr Hollness --

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. -- but Christian Small, Njoya Small, was, forgive me for  
4 saying, was only 5' 10". 5' 11".

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Now, you, I think, are very much taller than that,  
7 aren't you?

8 A. Yes, I'm 6' 1".

9 Q. You obviously work out. You've told us you had your gym  
10 bag with you that day, because she describes a black  
11 man, very big, towering over her, who was standing close  
12 to her, before the explosion goes off.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And obviously somebody powerfully built, and you,  
15 I think, go to the gym, work out?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. From what you've told us today, and what's clear in your  
18 statement, you would make --

19 A. That joke, yes.

20 Q. -- that sort of joke. The lady that gets on before you,  
21 doesn't push in, you say, "Have a nice day, my love",  
22 and that's the sort of thing you would say, is it?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. She describes not only the clothing and the size of this  
25 person, but also recalls, as Mr Keith has just asked

1 you, that she was only in the carriage for a short time  
2 when staff were coming through saying, "Anybody who can  
3 walk away, please do so", but momentarily had held this  
4 person's hand and he'd made this comment -- we think it  
5 may now be you, Mr Hollness, made this comment, "Can you  
6 move them off?" or "Can you move him off me?", because  
7 there's another body close to you and, from what you  
8 say, that could easily have been --

9 A. Because I also remember going to one of these memorials  
10 and a person coming up to me and saying, "Garri, do you  
11 remember me? I was holding your hand when you were  
12 underground", and I was saying "I can vaguely remember  
13 you, but I can't 100 per cent remember it", but I do  
14 vaguely remember someone holding my hand.

15 Q. This young lady, Lilian Ajayi, was a black lady, who was  
16 sat at seat number 70. Do you remember we had a look  
17 at -- can we put that back up again?

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. So forgive me, at position number 70, rather than the  
20 seat number. That's where she would have been, which is  
21 obviously in the area that you now think you were in for  
22 all that time, and that's the only words that she heard,  
23 because she then later leaves the carriage. But it  
24 sounds, doesn't it, Mr Hollness, as if, in fact, it was  
25 you?

1 A. Yes.

2 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Hollness,  
3 I have nothing else.

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Patterson?

5 MR PATTERSON: No questions.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Hollness, that looks as if it's  
7 all the questions we have for you. I don't know if  
8 you've been following the process in the newspapers and  
9 on the television, but if you have, you'll have  
10 appreciated how important it is to this process to hear  
11 from survivors like you.

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It makes a huge difference to the  
14 effectiveness of what I can do for bereaved families and  
15 survivors alike. So I'm extremely grateful to you for  
16 being prepared to come along and assist me and describe  
17 how you survived your dreadful injuries for your mum.  
18 Thank you very much.

19 A. Thank you very much.

20 MR KEITH: Thank you, my Lady. Thank you very much.  
21 May I invite you to call Imran Chaudhury, please.

22 MR IMRAN UDDIN CHAUDHURY (sworn)

23 Questions by MR KEITH

24 MR KEITH: Good afternoon, Mr Chaudhury.

25 A. Good afternoon.

1 Q. Could I invite to you give the court your full name,  
2 please?

3 A. My full name is Imran Uddin Chaudhury.

4 Q. Thank you very much. It's very difficult sometimes to  
5 hear the witnesses in this court. It's a large  
6 courtroom.

7 Could I ask you, please, for all of us, to keep your  
8 voice as loud as you can? I'm afraid the microphone  
9 won't amplify your voice, so it's very important that  
10 you keep your voice up and, if you feel like you're  
11 shouting, don't worry, it means that we can hear you  
12 clearly. All right?

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Mr Chaudhury, in 2005, were you working at King's Cross  
15 station as a customer service assistant?

16 A. Yes, that's right, I was.

17 Q. Thank you very much. That morning, were you on the  
18 early shift?

19 A. I was on the earliest shift, 6.00 start.

20 Q. It's a 6.00 start.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. When does the shift normally end?

23 A. 4.00, I remember, 4.00.

24 Q. So a 6.00 to a 4.00 shift?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In the early part of the rush hour, the middle of the  
2 rush hour, before 9.00, do you recall whether it was  
3 very busy that morning?

4 A. The station was overcrowded. It was very busy. I was  
5 working on the Metropolitan side.

6 Q. Sorry, it's very hard to hear, you're going to have to  
7 try to keep your voice up, if you possibly can.

8 A. The station was very busy.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I was working on the Metropolitan side, so it was  
11 overcrowded.

12 Q. When you were on the Metropolitan side, does that mean  
13 that you were near the Metropolitan platforms?

14 A. The Metropolitan platforms, I was working on platform 1.

15 Q. So when the trains come in, you will do the  
16 announcements over the PA and make sure that the  
17 passengers get on and get off safely and the trains can  
18 continue?

19 A. Yes, I deal with the announcement of the -- the platform  
20 announcements and service updates, and ...

21 Q. Do you recall that morning the station being so crowded  
22 that controls were put in place to stop people coming  
23 into the station at the top?

24 A. It was -- when the platforms got busy, we were put on  
25 standby saying that we might evac, but there was

1 controls in place limiting people coming into the  
2 platforms.

3 Q. Right. So you can operate controls near the platforms  
4 as well as at the top?

5 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

6 Q. Mr Chaudhury, I'm sorry to remind you again, your  
7 evidence is being recorded, it's being transcribed, and  
8 it's very difficult to record it, if we can't hear you.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So I'm sorry to -- that won't help you, I'm afraid,  
11 because it won't amplify your voice, it just relays it  
12 to the court annex.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Shout, if you can.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. As well as that overcrowding and the controls that were  
17 in place, do you then remember receiving a message that  
18 the station would have to be evacuated?

19 A. Yes, I got the message, after the trains have left,  
20 to -- the first message I got is "Prepare for evac",  
21 because of overcrowded --

22 Q. To prepare for an evac?

23 A. Yes, and then we started preparing for evac, and then  
24 the announcement come along through the radio saying  
25 "It's overcrowded, so we have to evac", so we started

1 closing the platforms down and moving the customers on  
2 the trains or off or through to the exits, and then  
3 putting the station closure boards out.

4 Q. Do you recall what time it was that you received  
5 a message to evac?

6 A. It was about 8.00 -- around 8.15, 8.16, it was --  
7 I recall -- yes, I had a message through the radio  
8 telling I have to evac. So I started preparing and  
9 getting all the customers on the trains and going  
10 through to the exits and closing the platforms down.

11 Q. I'm sorry, you're going to have to keep your voice up  
12 again.

13 A. Sorry. Okay.

14 Q. Was that all on the Metropolitan Line platforms?

15 A. Yes, on the Metropolitan Line platform side, yes.

16 Q. All right. Having cleared the platforms and evacuated  
17 that area, did you then go somewhere, the Euston Road,  
18 south stairs --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- where you heard a bang?

21 A. Yes, I -- after I closed the Metropolitan side down,  
22 I made my way upstairs to Euston Road concourse, and  
23 then I heard a loud bang. I just thought it was the  
24 escalators stopping and I kept on making my way up, and  
25 then, afterwards, there was a -- there was a smell of --

1 a smell and you could see all the soot --

2 Q. A smell of burning rubber?

3 A. Burning rubber, a smell of burning rubber and you could

4 see there was, like, a cloud of soot, like a dust.

5 Q. Where was that coming from, do you think?

6 A. It was coming from -- it's the Victoria side, where the

7 Piccadilly Line platforms are and the Northern Line

8 platforms are.

9 Q. So you were inside the station still --

10 A. Still inside the station.

11 Q. -- and the smoke is coming from the Piccadilly

12 platforms?

13 A. The Piccadilly Line, yes.

14 Q. To where you were?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you hear that help was required on the

17 Piccadilly Line platforms?

18 A. Yes, I got a radio call saying "Assistance required on

19 the Piccadilly platform".

20 Q. Just pause there. Is that over handheld station radios

21 that you, as a member of staff, would have on you?

22 A. Yes, it's just a radio.

23 Q. So it was on the net for that particular station?

24 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

25 Q. Do you know who the message was from?

1 A. Control room.

2 Q. The control room at King's Cross?

3 A. Yes, control room at King's Cross.

4 Q. A message was received that help was required on the  
5 Piccadilly Line platforms, so did you go there?

6 A. I made my way down to the Piccadilly Line platform  
7 through the -- I was on the Euston Square end of it, of  
8 the concourse. I made my way down through the Khyber,  
9 went downstairs through the --

10 Q. Through the Khyber?

11 A. Through the Khyber, which is just a passage.

12 Q. A passage linking the Euston Square side of King's Cross  
13 Underground station with the Piccadilly Line platforms?

14 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. I went through, then I went down to Piccadilly Line  
17 platforms, it was me and a few other members of staff.

18 Q. Can you recall their names?

19 A. I can --

20 Q. Was Tim Wade, Timothy Wade, one of them?

21 A. Tim was with me.

22 Q. Was he a manager at King's Cross?

23 A. He wasn't -- he was not a member of staff at  
24 King's Cross, but I later found out he was a manager of  
25 an East London Line, so I didn't know who he was, and

1 then, after he showed his ID, then I knew he was  
2 a staff, so we made our way down, and then a couple of  
3 SAs, station assistants, followed, the one was  
4 Faisal Patel.

5 Q. Is that F-A-Z-U-L Petal, P-E-T-A-L?

6 A. Yes, and the other one, I think his name was Pete, but  
7 he was a new guy, so --

8 Q. A man called Pete?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Why had you responded? Had you had any sort of training  
11 yourself in first aid or in emergency response?

12 A. Because during the station, if anything happens, if any  
13 first aid is needed -- and I'm always down there --  
14 there is an incident and then assistance required, if  
15 you are a spare member, you go down.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. So I was a spare member, and I was also a first aider,  
18 so I went down.

19 Q. Did you go to platform 6 which is the eastbound  
20 Piccadilly platform?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Could you see smoke or anything of that sort coming out  
23 of the tunnel?

24 A. When I got off the escalators and made my way over  
25 towards the Piccadilly Line platform, platform 6, you

1 could see all the dirt come out, all the dust, and you  
2 can also smell really intense burning rubber. So -- and  
3 it smelt like train -- when the train brakes really hard  
4 and all the dust comes out and you can smell all of  
5 that, it smells quite intense. So that's what I thought  
6 it was.

7 Q. Right. That's what you smelled?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. We've heard evidence, her Ladyship has heard evidence  
10 from a gentleman called Simon Cook --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- who you remember is -- was one of the duty station  
13 managers at King's Cross.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you see him as you approached the platform?

16 A. I didn't see him when I was on the platform, no.

17 Q. You didn't see him? All right. It may be he'd gone  
18 then -- he was ahead of you.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When you reached the platform, were passengers coming  
21 out of the tunnel from the eastbound tunnel, which, of  
22 course, connects to the westbound tunnel via the  
23 crossover?

24 A. When I reached the platform, there was passengers coming  
25 out. At that time, we had -- in our hand, we had the

1 short-circuit breakers, so, I mean -- me and Tim put  
2 down the circuit breakers just to make sure that the  
3 current's off.

4 Q. You and Tim Wade?

5 A. Yes, Tim Wade, put the circuit breakers down, so we  
6 smashed it against the running rails.

7 Q. That short-circuit is so, if there's any residual  
8 current, it short-circuits it away from the rails?

9 A. Yes, just before we went down, just to make sure it's  
10 all safe, for us and for everyone.

11 Q. What state were the people in who were coming out of the  
12 eastbound crossover tunnel, if you like, on to the  
13 eastbound platform, platform 6?

14 A. The people that are coming out of the tunnel, they were  
15 covered in soot or black dust.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. But they were able-bodied, so they were just shocked.

18 So, at that time, after we put the circuit breakers  
19 down, we left one of the members of staff on the  
20 platform just to help give a hand pulling them up, and  
21 then we left Faisal, we left him on the platform.

22 Q. Faisal Patel?

23 A. Yes, we left him on the platform, and then I took with  
24 me -- Tim went a little bit ahead. I took Pete with me.

25 I left him just halfway through, and then Tim Wade went

1 ahead and, basically, we agreed he goes ahead and then  
2 I'll just carry on in the middle.

3 Q. How far into the tunnel did you walk?

4 A. We went -- we went quite next to the train.

5 Q. So you went down into the eastbound tunnel?

6 A. Yes, initially, I walked --

7 Q. The west side of the eastbound platform --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- through the tunnel to the crossover --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- across the crossover, or through the crossover, to  
12 the westbound tunnel?

13 A. I walked -- because there was people coming out,  
14 I helped people -- I was on the crossover, I was just  
15 giving people a hand crossing that bit over, and then  
16 when the able bodies were, like, walking, they were all  
17 right, and then, when the -- when some people started  
18 coming out with difficulties, and then other passengers  
19 was carrying them out, so I then -- I had supplies in my  
20 pocket of first aid anyway, so I was giving them some  
21 bandage because some people, I think the first one that  
22 was treated was -- sorry, I have to remember this as  
23 well; yes?

24 Q. It's quite all right. Can I perhaps break it up  
25 a little bit?

1 A. Yes, go on.

2 Q. The first passengers who came out were walking

3 wounded --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and didn't seem to be terribly injured?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But they got progressively worse?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So when the later passengers came out with more and more

10 injuries, you had the first -- some first aid on you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that a first aid box that you'd got from the station

13 supervisor's office or first aid that you had on you

14 anyway?

15 A. First aid I had on me already.

16 Q. Did that quickly run out?

17 A. Yes, that ran out quickly. When --

18 Q. Sorry, did you give them the first aid whilst you were

19 still in the crossover tunnel or next to the train?

20 A. Yes, I gave them first aid when I was in the tunnel,

21 I think -- yes, I gave them, and then, when I come up to

22 the platform, I actually put -- you know when the -- the

23 ones that were bleeding, I gave them the bandage to put

24 on top of it.

25 Q. You gave them a bandage to put on top of their cuts?

1 A. On top of it, just to hold -- stop the bleeding.

2 Q. Then you would let them carry on to the platform?

3 A. Then we get to the light, then basically, I'll just put  
4 them on and help them carrying them up, and I'll pass  
5 them upstairs. That's what I did.

6 Q. Were there a very large number of passengers coming out  
7 through the crossover tunnel, do you recall?

8 A. There were quite a lot of passengers coming out. We  
9 took them out through the crossover passage, there  
10 were -- because it's quite dangerous and quite tricky,  
11 so we just -- we just tried to limit six at a time, or  
12 ten at a time, or twelve at a time, and then I took  
13 them, I walked them towards the platform, and then  
14 a couple of more guys down there and they were pulling  
15 them up.

16 Q. Other members of London Underground staff --

17 A. Other members of London Underground staff.

18 Q. -- were helping them onto the platform?

19 A. Were helping them onto the platform.

20 Q. Did you then go back and forth, then, from the crossover  
21 to the platform back again and so on?

22 A. I left Pete in the middle, because I gave him the torch,  
23 I left him there and I said, "You just shine the torch,  
24 make sure everyone is okay", and I kept on bringing  
25 everyone back and forward, back and forward, and then --

1 until there was no more. And then --

2 Q. And then?

3 A. And then there was -- it was people who -- the injured  
4 started coming up.

5 Q. You've told us already that your first aid equipment ran  
6 out?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were you, therefore, forced to leave the crossover  
9 tunnel area and go to the control room and get some more  
10 equipment?

11 A. Yes, I -- one of the guys I treated, I gave them my last  
12 first aid, I took him upstairs, and then I took him  
13 upstairs through escalators, I carried him up, and  
14 then --

15 Q. Were the escalators moving?

16 A. Escalators were moving, yes. So I carried him up, and  
17 then I gave him -- I handed him to other members of  
18 staff, and then I went to the control room to pick up  
19 more supplies.

20 Q. Is the control room where the first aid box for  
21 a London Underground station is generally kept?

22 A. Yes, there's two places where it's kept: one is the  
23 supervisor and one in the control room for all supplies.  
24 So I went to the control room to pick up -- to just --  
25 I just filled up my pocket with as much as I can.

1 Q. Did you take all that was there or some of what was  
2 there?  
3 A. I took some of it that was there.  
4 Q. What did it mostly consist of?  
5 A. Bandages, large pads, slings, just large bandages,  
6 I didn't bother with the small ones because, the large  
7 ones, you --  
8 Q. Because the injuries were so severe?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. You stuffed your pockets full of the medical equipment?  
11 A. Yes, I stuffed -- I just filled my pockets up with all  
12 the stuff I can and just took it, took it there.  
13 Q. Do you recall whether there were other members of  
14 London Underground staff in the control room?  
15 A. Yes, there were -- the group station manager,  
16 Peter Sanders was in the control room. There was  
17 Ken Leach and then --  
18 Q. Was Ken Leach the DSM?  
19 A. The duty station manager, yes.  
20 Q. The duty station manager?  
21 A. Yes, he was in the control room, and there was a control  
22 room assistant there as well, but I couldn't remember --  
23 Q. Were they aware, as far as you could tell, of what was  
24 going on in the tunnel?  
25 A. They were -- there was cameras everywhere, they're fully

1 aware of everything that's going on.

2 Q. Do you recall any police officers being in the control  
3 room?

4 A. No, no police officers.

5 Q. British Transport Police officers, at that stage?

6 A. No, no police officers, I couldn't see any police  
7 officers in the control room.

8 Q. Did you have difficulty in getting hold of the medical  
9 equipment? Was it hard to find?

10 A. I got the medical equipment as much as I can and then  
11 one of the DSMS, Ken Leach, basically he told me to --  
12 he told me -- I'm sorry to say it, but he told me to  
13 piss off, basically, and so I just took what I got, take  
14 my supply, and then --

15 Q. Was he aware that you were looking for medical  
16 equipment --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- to take down to the tunnel --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- to help the badly injured?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you receive any sort of reason as to why he said  
23 that to you?

24 A. I didn't receive no communication why, but I just put it  
25 down he's under stress.

1 Q. But you did your duty --

2 A. I --

3 Q. -- and you went back down?

4 A. I didn't take no notice of what they were saying. The  
5 group station manager was there, GSM Peter Sanders was  
6 there, he didn't say nothing and he was always in the  
7 control room. He didn't -- he was just looking at me  
8 and -- by then, I'm already covered in blood anyway,  
9 yes? So I just carried on what I was doing, I threw my  
10 radio on the floor, and I took what supplies, what  
11 I could, and I just carried on and I was helping who  
12 I can really.

13 Q. Did you go straight back to the tunnel to carry on doing  
14 what you had been doing before?

15 A. I went back down to the tunnel. First of all, I helped  
16 the people who can come out with injury to limbs, to  
17 upper body, and then people with -- who are limping,  
18 I helped them out, and then people who had injuries to  
19 their head, to their face, I helped them out, and then  
20 after I've helped those people out, yes, then I went in  
21 to the train to pull out --

22 Q. So you went through the crossover tunnel --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and then you boarded the side of the westbound train,  
25 carriage 4, which is the carriage immediately adjacent

1 to the crossover?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Presumably then you turned right. Did you then start  
4 moving your way towards the front of the train?

5 A. Yes, I started moving my way towards --

6 Q. Were there still people inside carriages 2, 3 and 4, do  
7 you recall?

8 A. Yes, there were still people inside, some people were  
9 inside. There were -- they couldn't move. I remember  
10 one --

11 Q. Can I pause you there? I'm just still talking about  
12 carriages 2, 3 and 4, rather than the bombed carriage.

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Were there severely injured people in carriages 2, 3 and  
15 4, or was it just in carriage 1?

16 A. No, there was injured people who actually walked and  
17 they were just sitting down there.

18 Q. Having a rest as they tried to get out?

19 A. Yes, so -- because they were resting and some of them,  
20 there was -- there was a lady there who was in shock, so  
21 I didn't move her, I just left her there. I gave her --  
22 I had water on me as well, so I gave her water.

23 Q. Do you recall there being other members of  
24 London Underground, because we know that there were some  
25 there --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- or British Transport Police, because we know there  
3 were some police officers there as well, inside the  
4 carriage of the train when you boarded?

5 A. When I boarded there was -- it was me and Tim Wade.

6 Q. So he was with you throughout, was he?

7 A. Yes, when I boarded, when we went on to the train inside  
8 the train, there were no police there, there was no  
9 British --

10 Q. Did you work your way through to the first carriage?

11 A. Yes, we didn't rush in to go into the scene  
12 straightaway, we slowly -- whoever was in the way, we  
13 were helping them out, we were helping the people trying  
14 to come out, yes, we were just trying to help as many  
15 people as we can, and then we started walking towards  
16 the bombed carriage.

17 Q. Did you come across a colleague called Mr Cook?

18 A. Yes, then --

19 Q. Where was he?

20 A. We went through -- when I went through the bombed  
21 carriage door, Tim Wade was in the -- was in the middle,  
22 and -- sorry, before I went in, Tim Wade was in the  
23 middle. Then I went in through the bombed door and then  
24 Simon Cook was on the floor. He was with this --

25 Q. He was on the floor?

1 A. He was on the floor with a lady.  
2 Q. Yes.  
3 A. He was talking to a lady, and then --  
4 Q. Could you see the injuries that that lady had?  
5 A. Yes, she had injuries -- I could see -- I can see she  
6 had all blood behind her, and then I can see injuries --  
7 she had, like, injuries on her leg, she had quite a deep  
8 injury on her leg, so my initial reaction was just to --  
9 what I did was I got the large bandages out, and  
10 I bandaged her leg up to stop the bleeding, and  
11 I elevated it.  
12 Q. She was conscious?  
13 A. Yes, she was conscious, yes.  
14 Q. How far into the carriage, the bombed carriage, did you  
15 go, Mr Chaudhury, do you remember?  
16 A. There was -- I went -- I went as far as I can, until  
17 there was all bodies in the middle.  
18 Q. Were those bodies moving?  
19 A. The bodies in the middle weren't moving.  
20 Q. Weren't moving?  
21 A. Weren't moving. The people on the left, yes, there was  
22 only one person who was crying out, and then the others  
23 I can remember some who had no faces -- sorry, I have  
24 to -- some had no faces, other ones had missing limbs  
25 and things like that, but it was so dark in there --

1 Q. It was very hard to see?

2 A. -- it was very hard to see, and the person who was  
3 crying out for help, they couldn't see the person next  
4 to them was dead and basically lying on them. So --

5 Q. I'm not going to ask you in detail about what you can  
6 remember seeing, but I need to ask you this, if I may:  
7 was the number of motionless people such that -- and was  
8 the devastation such that you could see piles of people  
9 literally lying on the floor of the carriage?

10 A. There were lots of piles of people -- there was a lot of  
11 people in the middle, yes, there was a lot of dead  
12 people with missing limbs and lots of blood everywhere,  
13 lots of limbs everywhere on the floor, you had lots of  
14 body -- like meat, the legs and things, there was lots  
15 of stuff everywhere.

16 Q. All right. Can I pause you there, because I'm going to  
17 ask you specifically about one particular person?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You describe in your statement a large number of bodies  
20 you saw.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Those who had passed away.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You saw particularly, because you recall him, a black  
25 male who was -- who had passed away, who had suffered

1 injuries to his face and was lying on top of another  
2 body. Can you recollect that? If you can't, say so,  
3 but if you can, then tell us.

4 A. When I looked at him, I couldn't really confirm if he  
5 was a black person or if he was -- because everyone was  
6 covered in black soot, so I assumed it was a black  
7 person. Yes, he had -- yes, it's a clear image in my  
8 face anyway, I remember his -- he's had all his -- his  
9 face, it was just -- just all of this part was gone  
10 anyway, yes, it was just someone's, like, ripped it out.

11 Q. Did you reach the conclusion that he was dead because of  
12 the severity of the injuries, therefore, and the fact  
13 that he wasn't moving, or did you check him yourself?

14 A. First of all, there was a lot of obstacles in the way,  
15 yes, there was a lot of bodies in the middle.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. So I couldn't really get to him, I've done what I did,  
18 I try -- I called out for anyone, I raised my voice,  
19 "Can anyone hear me? Can" -- you know, I just told  
20 everyone "The emergency services are on their way", even  
21 though I didn't know what was happening, I just told  
22 them, so if anyone spoke to me, so I will go to them.  
23 But the people on the left never spoke to me. On the  
24 right, people spoke to me. So that person never spoke  
25 to me.

1 Q. Never spoke?

2 A. Never spoke. So I assumed he was dead, but I couldn't

3 confirm that.

4 Q. When you were in the carriage, Mr Cook was there?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you recall there being other members of the emergency

7 services there with you or not?

8 A. When I was in the bombed carriage, later on, they

9 started drifting in, they started -- I saw a couple of

10 the local British Transport Police guys, I recognised

11 them.

12 Q. Some British Transport Police from King's Cross?

13 A. The people who -- yes, from King's Cross, yes.

14 Q. You recall London Fire Brigade attending on the

15 King's Cross side?

16 A. London Fire Brigade turned up after, it must have been

17 a good half an hour or 40 minutes they turned up

18 afterwards.

19 Q. Paramedics?

20 A. Yes, paramedics turned up same time as ambulance as

21 well. It took a while.

22 Q. Is that the same time as the police?

23 A. Yes, the same time as the Fire Brigade turned up, the

24 paramedics turned up as well.

25 Q. What were you doing in the carriage while you waited for

1     them? Were you trying to comfort and bring help to the  
2     people who were in there?  
3     A. Some of the people I can remember, I was just speaking  
4     to them, just giving them support and giving them --  
5     I knew that they had -- they were severely bleeding,  
6     there was nothing I can do, so I knew just talking to  
7     them -- and then I said -- I did say a prayer with one  
8     of the ladies, one of the ladies on the right, I said  
9     a prayer with her. She said, "Say a prayer". I helped  
10    her. We just said, you know, "Let's say a prayer", so  
11    we said a prayer together, but I can see she's in  
12    a state and I didn't want -- because I was there,  
13    I didn't want anyone passing away, I was just trying to  
14    keep on talking to everyone, just telling them ambulance  
15    services have arrived, even though I didn't know what  
16    was happening.  
17    Q. As far as you are aware, did that lady survive, do you  
18    know?  
19    A. I can't recall, but --  
20    Q. You don't know?  
21    A. I can't recall, but I did get a message afterwards  
22    saying one lady came in to thank me, but I don't know if  
23    it was her, if it was anyone else, so --  
24    Q. When the emergency services arrived, had you used all  
25    the additional equipment -- the additional medical

1 equipment that you'd got from the control room, and so,  
2 were you out of medical aid by the time they arrived?

3 A. I was already -- from the time of getting the medical  
4 equipment, I went in -- going down to the tunnels, and  
5 before even going into the bombed carriage, I was  
6 already -- I was already running low, I only had about  
7 a couple of arm slings left, which I used on the lady  
8 who was on the floor. So that was -- yes, I've already  
9 run out by then.

10 Q. Was it very, very hot and difficult to breathe?

11 A. It was very dusty, it was very, very hot, and there was  
12 hardly any air coming in.

13 Q. What did you do to try to make things better?

14 A. Because I -- I don't know what was happening about the  
15 paramedics or the Fire Brigade, what we did, me and Tim,  
16 Tim Wade decided we need some ventilation, so we started  
17 kicking the windows down, so we kicked the windows down.

18 Q. In carriage 2?

19 A. Yes, in -- not the bombed carriage, the one next to it,  
20 we kicked the windows down, and we broke as much as we  
21 can and then that brought some air in to -- ventilation  
22 into the carriage.

23 Q. Did you injure yourself in the course of trying to smash  
24 those windows?

25 A. I tore my tendon muscle in my right leg, and I had all

1 glass in them, yes. I did injure myself, but I only  
2 found out afterwards I did, but it wasn't during the  
3 process.

4 Q. After the emergency services arrived, did you help in  
5 both moving some of the passengers who had passed away  
6 down the carriage to make space for the emergency  
7 services to get in, and also the carrying out of living  
8 casualties from the carriage back to King's Cross?

9 A. Yes, that's right. I -- after the Fire Brigade came  
10 down, they brought all the heavy machinery, the  
11 hydraulic cutters and things like that, so they cut  
12 a couple of poles so we were able to move people out,  
13 because it was a lot difficult moving people with  
14 injuries out. If you move them, you'll injure them  
15 further. So after the Fire Brigade went in there, they  
16 started bagging up the bodies, so we made a line,  
17 like --

18 Q. To carry people out of the carriage?

19 A. Yes, to carry the people out.

20 Q. We know, Mr Chaudhury, that two of those who passed away  
21 were moved into the second carriage.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you think you would have assisted in that process of  
24 carrying them out of the first carriage into the second  
25 carriage?

1 A. I can -- I helped out a lot of people, so I can't  
2 pinpoint who.

3 Q. You obviously can't say who they were.

4 A. Yes, I can't recall who passed away and who's not, but  
5 I did --

6 Q. Who else was there helping with that process of  
7 moving --

8 A. There was a Fire Brigade right in the bombed carriage,  
9 and then they were inside, in the core of it, and then  
10 there was Tim Wade, yes, carrying in the front, then it  
11 was me, and then it was other British Transport Police  
12 and there was a line of people. So the body would come  
13 along, we would pass it down, and then we will put it at  
14 one side, and then the people who -- they were the  
15 people, they were the fatalities. The people who had  
16 injuries, then we'd just carry them out on stretchers  
17 and we'd just pass them along and they would go round.  
18 I do recall, I think it was one lady, with all her  
19 limbs -- sorry to say -- all hanging off, so we quickly  
20 put her onto the board and then we just passed her down,  
21 and then --

22 Q. Did you stay where you were as the stretchers were  
23 passed out, or did you stay with the stretcher and take  
24 the stretcher out of the train?

25 A. No, I stayed where I was.

1 Q. You stayed where you were?

2 A. For a while, until --

3 Q. Do you recall there being any discussion or debate about  
4 a shortage of stretchers? Do you remember calls going  
5 out for more stretchers needed in the first carriage?

6 A. Yes, that's right. We -- we quickly ran out of  
7 stretchers, and then we -- we ran out of stretchers and  
8 we sent a message with some of -- I think it was some of  
9 the guys going back in, we sent a message with them,  
10 "Bring some water", because we were dehydrated, so bring  
11 some water for us and some more stretchers.

12 Q. Did stretchers come back the other way, once casualties  
13 had been taken out on them?

14 A. Yes, it did come back, but it was a very slow process.

15 Q. Do you recall using blankets and sheets for stretchers?

16 A. Yes, we took -- yes, we had -- we started using blankets  
17 as well, and then, after the blankets ran out, then we  
18 took our blazers off, so I took my blazer off, yes,  
19 and -- sorry, my jacket, my overcoat, the really long  
20 raincoat jacket type, so I took that off, yes, because  
21 it's big, can assist, so I hand that over.

22 Q. That was used as a stretcher?

23 A. Yes, that was used as well. Other guys done the same  
24 thing as well, so ...

25 Q. Mr Chaudhury, do you know whether you stayed there in

1 the Tube carriage until the last living casualty was  
2 taken out?

3 A. Yes, I stayed there until the last living casualty, yes,  
4 that's right, I did stay there.

5 Q. Did something happen at the end? Did the police come  
6 through and tell you that it was now to be a crime scene  
7 and you should all leave?

8 A. Yes, after all the bodies and all the people treated was  
9 out, then the police told everyone, "Right, it's a crime  
10 scene now, we're taking over".

11 I didn't know -- I can't -- I don't recall whether  
12 they were British Transport Police or who they were.  
13 Someone said, "Right, it's a crime scene now, everyone  
14 has to leave".

15 Q. But you knew that you had to go then and that was it?

16 A. Yes, and that was it, yes.

17 Q. Were you taken to St Barts for treatment on your own  
18 leg?

19 A. Yes, I was -- I went to St Barts Hospital, yes, for --  
20 I tore my tendon muscles, and then, because I had all  
21 the glass in them as well, I was pulling the glass out  
22 on my leg as well, and I had breathing difficulties as  
23 well.

24 Q. You had?

25 A. I had breathing difficulties --

1 Q. Right.

2 A. -- because I breathed in so much dust. So I was -- they  
3 gave me a bit of oxygen, and then I was all right, and  
4 then they treated my leg. They said, basically, "Keep  
5 it -- don't put pressure on it".

6 Q. Were you discharged that afternoon or did you have to  
7 stay in overnight?

8 A. No, I was discharged, I was discharged, yes.

9 MR KEITH: All right. Mr Chaudhury, thank you very much.  
10 Will you stay there, because there may be some more  
11 questions for you, but those are all the questions that  
12 I have for you?

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Coltart?

14 Questions by MR COLTART

15 MR COLTART: Mr Chaudhury, I represent a number of the  
16 bereaved families in relation to King's Cross.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. I've only got the a few questions for you. Before  
19 I start, can I thank you on their behalf for your  
20 amazing efforts on that day.

21 I just want to clarify firstly, if I may, something  
22 which you said quite near the beginning of your evidence  
23 where you refer to where you had been before the  
24 incident took off.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You talked about going down a passageway which linked  
2 the Euston Square side of King's Cross with the  
3 Piccadilly Line platform.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can I just clarify with you, Euston Square Underground  
6 station and King's Cross Underground station are two  
7 completely separate Underground stations, aren't they?

8 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

9 Q. They are both on the Euston Road --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- but Euston Square is about half a mile or so further  
12 west down the Euston Road?

13 A. That's right, yes.

14 Q. Is there any connecting tunnel of any description  
15 between those two Underground stations?

16 A. No, there's no connection between the two stations.

17 Q. They are two completely separate stations?

18 A. Yes, completely separate, no connection, no.

19 Q. Let's move forward in time to when you reach Mr Cook --

20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Just before we do, I'm terribly  
21 sorry, Euston Square Tube is where in relation to Euston  
22 mainline?

23 A. Euston Square Tube station is -- the mainline is  
24 upstairs, so Euston Square is --

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: So they're -- essentially, I know

1 Euston mainline and the Euston Road.

2 A. Euston Square is -- Euston is different, Euston Square  
3 station is a bit further down towards the left, yes, and  
4 Euston Square -- Euston is -- has its own Underground  
5 station itself, and the mainline is upstairs. So from  
6 King's Cross, they're about -- if you walk down  
7 Euston Road, it's about five minutes -- if I walk down  
8 it's about five minutes, for a person walking slowly,  
9 it's about 15 minutes' walk.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: So would I come to Euston mainline  
11 first and then Euston Square, walking down -- walking  
12 down the Euston Road from King's Cross?

13 A. Euston Square is towards the left more.

14 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Other people who know the Euston Road  
15 are nodding.

16 A. Euston Square is a little bit on the -- on towards the  
17 left. Euston is more simpler to get to.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I follow.

19 MR COLTART: Can I assist, because I have the advantage of  
20 Google maps on the screen in front of me?

21 If you were to come out of King's Cross mainline  
22 station on to the Euston Road and turn right, head down  
23 the Euston Road, and about two-thirds of the way down  
24 the road before you hit Regent's Park on the left-hand  
25 side would be Euston Square Underground station.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Right.

2 MR COLTART: But before that point, you would have turned  
3 right to head to Euston mainline and Euston Underground  
4 station.

5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I have it, thank you.

6 MR COLTART: I'd like to ask you a few questions about the  
7 moment at which you met with Mr Cook at the  
8 interconnecting doors between the first carriage and the  
9 second carriage.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Before I do that, I'd like to confirm with you that, at  
12 that point, when you first saw Mr Cook, there were no  
13 emergency services on the train at that stage. They  
14 only arrived afterwards?

15 A. No, there was only -- there was no emergency services,  
16 no.

17 Q. So if we were to undertake a very quick audit of what  
18 you've achieved by this point, you've evacuated,  
19 according to your statement, 500 or 600 people from the  
20 train back out into King's Cross station.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You've assisted the man with his eye hanging out back up  
23 the escalators --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and you've gone to your control room?

1 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

2 Q. You've restocked with first aid equipment?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You've gone back down to the train and bandaged another

5 man who had a very serious head injury?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you've worked your way through the train --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- treating people, as you went, with bandages and so

10 on?

11 A. Yes, that's right, yes, that's right, yes.

12 Q. And providing reassurance to others?

13 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

14 Q. You had done all of that before any of the emergency

15 services arrived on to the train?

16 A. There was -- yes, I've done -- a lot of things I did,

17 yes, was before I saw any uniformed officers or any

18 police. It was just -- mainly on scene, it was --

19 Simon Cook was already there, Tim Wade, and there was

20 me, and then it was -- then we, amongst station

21 assistants, we arranged for people to help us.

22 Then, when I was in the train, I can't confirm who

23 was outside helping out, because I was too busy pulling

24 people out, and helping them out, getting them out the

25 train, so I can't confirm who was on the platform or

1 helping out, if there was any police or things like  
2 that.  
3 Q. But that was the position, as far as you were  
4 concerned --  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. -- inside the train, certainly the King's Cross side of  
7 it, in any event?  
8 A. Inside the train, there was no -- there's no police  
9 whatsoever. There was just the staff.  
10 Q. Or ambulance or London Fire Brigade?  
11 A. Or ambulance or London Fire Brigade.  
12 Q. Can I ask you about the lady that you saw Simon Cook  
13 treating in between the interconnecting doors?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. It's terribly difficult, given the situation which you  
16 found yourself and the passage of time --  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. -- but can you assist us at all with a description of  
19 that lady? For example, what colour was she? Was she  
20 white, black, Asian, something other?  
21 A. Okay, she was an English lady, a white female.  
22 Q. What sort of age was she?  
23 A. She was -- two seconds here. She was -- I remember her  
24 having blond-like hair, or brown hair.  
25 Q. What sort of length? Collar length or long?

1 A. It was long hair, but I can't confirm -- because she was  
2 lying down on the -- on her back. She had long hair.  
3 Q. Age, were you able to put an age on it?  
4 A. Looking from her face, plus 30, yes, I'm not --  
5 Q. What sort of build was she?  
6 A. She was a medium build. Actually ...  
7 She was medium build, yes, she wasn't skinny, she  
8 was medium build, yes.  
9 Q. Are you able to remember anything about her clothing?  
10 Was she wearing a skirt or trousers, for example?  
11 A. She was wearing trousers. Trouser-like. I can't  
12 confirm. I know it wasn't a skirt. It was  
13 a trouser-like. But I ... dark coloured material.  
14 Q. Did you ever obtain a name, by any chance? In the  
15 course of looking after her, did you or Simon ever  
16 obtain a name from her?  
17 A. Because her speech was so slow, and every time we asked  
18 her something, it took a while for her to respond, so we  
19 kept on asking her questions, or shall I say I kept on  
20 asking her something -- you know, "Is there anything you  
21 want me to do to make you comfortable?", and things like  
22 that, I was just asking her silly questions, really,  
23 just to keep her talking, but it was -- her response was  
24 very -- it was mumbo-jumbo really.  
25 But, when I initially spoke to her, she was speaking

1 clearly, she said -- she kept on saying, "My leg, my  
2 leg".

3 Q. She deteriorated, did she, as time wore on?

4 A. Yes, and then, the more I spoke to her, then the less  
5 reactive she became.

6 Q. Do you know what happened to that lady? Was she one of  
7 those who was passed out through the carriage  
8 subsequently?

9 A. Yes, she was passed down, because she was in the way  
10 of -- she was in the way for us accessing anyone else,  
11 so basically, we will have to -- in order for -- I had  
12 to go over her to help someone else on the left and the  
13 right, so when the Fire Brigade came in, she was moved  
14 out the way.

15 Q. Was she alive or dead at that point?

16 A. When we handed her -- when I moved away from her, she  
17 was still alive.

18 Q. Do you know what happened to her subsequently? Did you  
19 see her again?

20 A. Just give me ten ... She was picked up, yes, she was --  
21 sorry, I have to recollect.

22 Q. Of course, take your time. This is not easy. I'm  
23 asking for a particular reason in relation to one of my  
24 clients. We're trying to identify what happened to her.

25 A. Yes, no problem, just give me two seconds. Yes, okay.

1 The Fire Brigade came in; yes? Simon Cook was next to  
2 her head. I was next to the leg. Because I was helping  
3 towards this way, towards my left; yes? So the  
4 Fire Brigade came in, I got up; yes? Simon was still --  
5 Simon Cook was still on the right, and then, yes, she  
6 was still alive then. When I moved, she was still  
7 alive.

8 Then, after the Fire Brigade assessed the situation,  
9 they discussed with everyone and said, "Right, we have  
10 to move her in order for us to go in", so they moved  
11 her, then we got stretchers, we got stretchers, it was  
12 a green stretcher we got; yes? It was a green stretcher  
13 and she was put on and she was passed down.

14 Q. She was passed out into the second carriage?

15 A. Yes, she was.

16 Q. After that, you couldn't say what happened to her, that  
17 was the last time you saw her?

18 A. After we passed her down, I can't recall what happened,  
19 but I know she was severely bleeding, and there was --  
20 you know, I can't really -- I'm not a medical expert.  
21 She was severely bleeding and, because she was on the  
22 floor, she must have lost a lot of blood and her limbs  
23 were all cut and her right leg was not attached  
24 anywhere, I think. Sorry, I can't confirm right or ...  
25 I think it was left, yes. Sorry, I can't recall.

1 Q. Don't worry.

2 A. But one of them was very loose, yes, it was --  
3 basically, it was the other way round, so it was not  
4 attached.

5 Q. Right. She had very serious leg injuries?

6 A. Yes, so she had very -- but I couldn't confirm if she  
7 was bleeding from the head or from where, but she was  
8 picked up and she was passed for the stretcher.

9 Q. Just two more short topics. In relation to the  
10 Fire Brigade generally, is this the situation, that it  
11 wasn't really until they arrived that it was possible to  
12 start moving bodies and survivors from the first  
13 carriage back through into the second carriage? You  
14 needed that manpower, in other words.

15 A. It's not that we needed manpower. We needed the  
16 machinery to cut the door, because when we went in --  
17 just give me two seconds.

18 When we went in, the people who can move, were moved  
19 sideways, so we had to go -- move sideways. I had to  
20 even go in sideways myself.

21 Now, the people with injuries, you can't take them  
22 out, because the door is wedged, it's like that,  
23 basically.

24 Q. Following the blast, it was pushed into that position?

25 A. So the door was fixed with the hinges all bent.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. So they got the hydraulics in and they cut the door and  
3 then a couple of guys, including myself, we carried the  
4 door into the middle and just put it there.

5 Q. What, after they'd cut it off?

6 A. The Fire Brigade just cut the door, they passed it down,  
7 so -- and then I was carrying it, and there was two  
8 other guys there, including Tim Wade, so we carried it  
9 and put it onto the seat.

10 Q. But until that had been done, until the Fire Brigade had  
11 entered the carriage with their cutting equipment and  
12 removed the door, it wasn't possible to start that  
13 evacuation process?

14 A. The people with injuries, you can't really move them  
15 because, if you move them, (a) you'll injure them  
16 further, so we decided we can't really get them out  
17 anyway, and we couldn't go the other way, because people  
18 were thinking, "Can we take them the other way round?",  
19 the Russell Square end, but because there was such  
20 a huge pile of bodies, you couldn't really go over it  
21 without injuring yourself, and it was so dark as well.

22 Q. Just one final topic, if I may, please, Mr Chaudhury.  
23 After this had all finished and in the days and the  
24 weeks that followed, were you ever asked by your  
25 employer to engage in a feedback process, a debrief

1 process as to what you had seen on the day, how the  
2 operation had gone, what had gone well, what had gone  
3 badly?

4 A. After all of this took place, I was completely out of it  
5 anyway, because I was -- even up to this day, I've still  
6 got treatments, I can't -- no one approached me about  
7 debrief or anything, but I'm still very mentally  
8 traumatised and, because of all this incident, I've got  
9 multiple illnesses and I still feel the effect as if it  
10 was yesterday, I still taste it, I still smell it, it's  
11 very raw to me. Even now we speak, I can -- it's -- it  
12 goes through my head like a PowerPoint slide, it's like  
13 flash, flash, flash. So, yes, I haven't been approached  
14 by ...

15 Q. Can I put your mind at rest? Not only are we all  
16 enormously sympathetic to your plight, as far as that's  
17 concerned, but we've got no interest in intruding upon  
18 the treatment you've received or the discussions which  
19 you've had on that basis.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you've never been asked to complete a questionnaire  
22 about the actions you took on that day or how the  
23 operation had gone?

24 A. Apart from the police coming to me to take a statement,  
25 I was not -- to be fair to say, I was not in the

1 mind-frame of giving any statements, even when the  
2 police turned up, and I wasn't really well enough to  
3 give a statement. I had to tell them, "I can't, I can't  
4 do it". I was too -- it's too much, too in-depth, the  
5 whole thing for me, so I said "You have to come back  
6 another day".

7 So they tried calling me, but I don't know what, it  
8 was just -- I can't really tell you if it was for this,  
9 for that, or just to see how I was, or, you know,  
10 I can't really say anything to that.

11 MR COLTART: I'm not going to prolong this experience any  
12 longer for you and thank you for your assistance.

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

14 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

15 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Chaudhury, similarly, I'm not going to keep  
16 you long at all. Could we have up, please, [INQ8865-3]?  
17 Mr Chaudhury, you're about to see in front of you  
18 now the map I think you very helpfully produced setting  
19 out a number of matters.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So you can get your bearings, the left-hand side is the  
22 driver's cab, so that's obviously facing Russell Square.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The right-hand side is the end of carriage 1 --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- obviously joined to carriage 2 and behind it  
2 King's Cross.  
3 A. Right.  
4 Q. You have described in your statement and in giving  
5 evidence seeing a black man, and I don't ask you for any  
6 specific details, but it's a gentleman you describe as  
7 having serious or severe facial injuries.  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. Do you remember?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. I think if I've got the two together right,  
12 Mr Chaudhury, that black man you've put at position F.  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. All right? So what I've done, I've looked at your  
15 statement, looked at this plan you've produced and, as  
16 I understand it, the black man that you believe, because  
17 of the injuries, was dead is at position F.  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Okay? Now, at position E there were a number of other  
20 bodies.  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Were you ever aware as to whether there were any other  
23 black men in that group?  
24 A. To be honest with you, because everyone's all covered in  
25 soot anyway, so everyone all looks the same, so to

1 identify -- to have a clear identification, it was  
2 really difficult, unless you can wipe them down and  
3 physically find out what colour they are.

4 There was a few people, yes, there was other people  
5 who -- other than white, yes, I can --

6 Q. Can I explain, why Mr Chaudhury, I'm asking? Because we  
7 know that when, eventually, all the survivors are taken  
8 off, and the final thing that happens is that those who  
9 died and were left for a period, they were in certain  
10 positions.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. We know that Christian Small was in the doorway here,  
13 it's not clear on the numbers, but it's D5, do you see  
14 that double door, the middle of the carriage?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Christian Small was found lying or placed possibly in  
17 that area.

18 Now, the only reason I ask that is because you've  
19 got a black man at position F.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you see anybody moving anybody because of access,  
22 trying to get access behind or forward?

23 A. Now, that position, yes, there was -- okay, that  
24 position, yes, there was a few people there; yes?

25 Q. Forgive me, when you say "that position"?

1 A. Next to that door, there was --

2 Q. At D5?

3 A. Yes, at D5, yes -- sorry, I have to recall here. Yes,

4 there was a -- there was a person, but I can't really

5 confirm what they were, yes, but there was a person

6 there because there was -- yes, I remember pushing --

7 because there was limbs on the floor, I remember pushing

8 that aside for me to actually -- so I can kneel down, so

9 I pushed it aside. I can't really go into details,

10 because I can't --

11 Q. You can't picture it clearly?

12 A. I can't really picture it clearly, and I'll have to have

13 a really deep think about it, I can't really picture it.

14 That's the problem.

15 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Chaudhury, I'm very grateful, for my part,

16 in the description you've already been able to give and

17 it may explain another part for one of the families

18 I represent as to where this lady's son may well have

19 been. There's been some confusion, that's the only

20 reason I've asked you the few questions I have.

21 Mr Chaudhury, thank you very much for your help.

22 A. Cool, thanks.

23 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Patterson?

24 Questions by MR PATTERSON

25 MR PATTERSON: Just a few short points, if I may, please,

1 Mr Chaudhury.

2 First of all, up in the control room I think you  
3 said that anyone in the control room would have the  
4 assistance of the CCTV screens --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- and so would be fully aware of what was going on,  
7 I think, were the words that you used.

8 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

9 Q. Does it follow, therefore, that you could see the  
10 comings and goings along the platform?

11 A. Up until the tunnel end -- the cameras don't go inside  
12 the tunnels.

13 Q. No, but people emerging, for instance, from the tunnel,  
14 the injured coming out?

15 A. Yes, you can see the injured coming out, you can see  
16 whoever's coming out of the tunnels, yes, there's  
17 a camera there facing towards that tunnel.

18 Q. You said that, when you went up after running out of  
19 equipment and coming up to get more supplies of first  
20 aid kit, you were able to get more supplies.

21 Was there any discussion at that stage about more  
22 first aiders and more assistance coming down with you,  
23 perhaps, to increase the amount of first aid supplies  
24 that could be brought to that carriage?

25 A. First of all, I was -- during that shift, I was the only

1 first aider there.

2 Q. Right. So of all of the London Underground staff on  
3 duty, it was just you?

4 A. It was just me, the first aider there. So -- there  
5 wasn't any other first aider, and I knew where the  
6 supplies were, and, yes. So it would be a lot faster if  
7 I get the supplies, so that's why I got all the supplies  
8 myself.

9 Q. You didn't have any difficulty in getting your supplies  
10 or getting any support from your colleagues? You  
11 mentioned being told to go away in rather colourful  
12 language. Was that because of the stress of what was  
13 going on?

14 A. I can't recall, but -- I can't recall why he said it,  
15 but it was very rude and upsetting for me, yes, so  
16 that's the time when I put the radio down, "Have your  
17 radio", and I just got what I got and I looked at  
18 Peter Sanders, the GSM, who was in the control room, who  
19 said nothing at that time, and Ken Leach, who actually  
20 said those things to me, and then I just looked at them  
21 and I thought "Forget it", you know, I thought, to be --  
22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Before he said -- I'm sorry to  
23 interrupt you, before he said that to you, had you said  
24 to him what you faced down on the train? I mean, had  
25 there been a discussion between you about what was going

1 on on the train?

2 A. There has been no discussion, but he can see clearly on  
3 what's happening, because he can see I've been pulling  
4 out the injured people, bringing them up, yes, and  
5 passing them down, and then I've got -- all over my  
6 jacket, I've got blood on my jacket. So he can clearly  
7 see there's -- even -- it's not very hard to work out,  
8 there's something going on here.

9 So I've got blood all over my jacket, and then I ran  
10 out of supplies, I went to get the supplies, I pulled  
11 out what I could, and then, when I went to get -- when  
12 I went to reach out for further, it's then when I had to  
13 move him, because -- basically -- it's basically,  
14 I opened the door, on the left is some medical supplies,  
15 yes, and then behind -- he is in front of me. Behind  
16 there's a cupboard there, basically it's the rest of the  
17 supplies there, so it's only then he told me to -- he  
18 said -- he told me what he told me, and he said  
19 I haven't got a licence to be in the control room.

20 MR PATTERSON: Hang on a moment. You've already used up all  
21 your first aid supplies --

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. -- helping injured members of the public?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You're trying to get more, and it sounds as though you

1 weren't having much support in getting more. Is that  
2 what it --  
3 A. Yes --  
4 Q. -- seemed like to you?  
5 A. Yes. For me, that was very upsetting. I didn't get the  
6 help from those management, I didn't get any help from  
7 them, but, as a human being, I didn't see myself as --  
8 Q. The cupboard where this kit was kept, was it in the way  
9 of where they were trying to do their jobs and carrying  
10 out their duties?  
11 A. It's basically he was just standing -- he was standing  
12 in front of the cupboard.  
13 Q. In any event, you've told us that you got as much as you  
14 could carry in your pockets and so forth?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. You went back down?  
17 A. Yes, that's right.  
18 Q. Taking it briefly, you went through the train?  
19 A. Yes, that's right.  
20 Q. By the time you got to carriage number 1, and saw  
21 Simon Cook, I think, at this stage, you, yourself,  
22 didn't see any other members of the various agencies or  
23 emergency response personnel?  
24 A. No, I didn't, no. No, I didn't.  
25 Q. So it's you and Simon Cook and, by the time you reached

1 carriage 1, you had run out of your medical supplies.  
2 Is that the position?  
3 A. Yes, that's right, yes.  
4 Q. So it was just reassurance and things of that sort that  
5 you were able to give in carriage 1?  
6 A. Yes, reassurance and just making do with what -- because  
7 I had other things like tissue and -- in my pockets and  
8 things like that. So I just made use of what I could,  
9 and then reassured and just kept on speaking to whoever  
10 I can and then -- it's very -- it's very emotional.  
11 After I said the prayers, it was really hard, but it  
12 was -- yes, it was -- I ran out of supplies and  
13 I couldn't really do anything.  
14 Q. You said earlier that it seemed to you as though it was  
15 a good half an hour or 40 minutes before the London  
16 Ambulance Service turned up.  
17 A. Yes, that's right.  
18 Q. The London Fire Brigade arrived at about the same time?  
19 A. Yes, that's right.  
20 Q. As the events were developing, did you have the feeling  
21 that these were excessive delays?  
22 A. My feeling during that time was: do as much as I can for  
23 those people, and then -- basically, I wasn't  
24 clock-watching, but I knew it was taking forever. It  
25 felt a really long time.

1 When I found out -- I only worked out how long it  
2 was when I came out, at the time I went in there, and  
3 then I found out -- later on, a couple of my colleagues  
4 told me it took a good 30 or 40 minutes for someone to  
5 come down.

6 Q. You said, I think, the order you have events taking  
7 place, the first other people that you saw were the lady  
8 members of the Fire Brigade who reached that carriage,  
9 and you said in your statement that you moved out of the  
10 way so that they could assess what happened and then  
11 left to discuss what they had to do, and then you went  
12 in to carriage number 2 and began breaking the glass.

13 A. Yes, that's right.

14 Q. Is that right? Is that how you remember things?

15 A. Sorry, did you say a lady I mentioned?

16 Q. Lady members of the Fire Brigade came into the carriage?

17 A. Lady?

18 Q. Forgive me:

19 "Members of the Fire Brigade came into this  
20 carriage. They left to discuss what they had to do."

21 Is that right that, they came in and then went out  
22 again?

23 A. When the Fire Brigade came in, I was still sitting down,  
24 yes, with Simon Cook. They looked at the situation,  
25 they walked back out. They came in, they stepped into

1 the bombed carriage and then they stepped out of the  
2 bombed carriage, and then I remember a guy saying "You  
3 need to get someone to cut the door", and things like  
4 that.

5 Q. So it was then that there was the discussion about the  
6 door?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. After that, the paramedics arrived?

9 A. After that, they had -- the paramedics were -- came at  
10 the same time; yes? But when the Fire Brigade came in,  
11 it all started happening, everyone started clearing out.

12 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Did I hear you say then it was your  
13 colleagues who told you it was 30 to 40 minutes before  
14 they arrived? Is that your estimate or theirs? Please  
15 tell me if it's theirs not yours.

16 A. The time I went in, yes, I looked at the time, and then  
17 I asked them "What time did the paramedics come along?",  
18 so I worked out it took about that length of time for  
19 them to come down.

20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It's just I need to be careful when  
21 I'm trying to work out what the timings are, whether  
22 I'm, as it were, being given the same information by the  
23 same people but through different sources.

24 A. No, it's my working out, but I asked them what time did  
25 they actually come.

1 MR PATTERSON: I hope that clarifies things. Thank you,  
2 I've no more questions.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Canby?

4 Questions by MS CANBY

5 MS CANBY: Mr Chaudhury, I just have a couple of questions  
6 to try to clarify some of your evidence and I'm asking  
7 you questions on behalf of Transport for London.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You said in answer to a question that Mr Patterson, the  
10 last gentleman, just asked you, that you were the only  
11 first aider there on duty.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Are you sure that's right, Mr Chaudhury?

14 A. During that 6.00 shift, I was the only first aider.

15 Q. Because in your witness statement that you gave  
16 in November 2005, you refer to Vera Kelly. She was  
17 a trained first aider, wasn't she?

18 A. Yes, that's right. She was a 9.00 start, so she came  
19 early, so --

20 Q. I see. So when you say you are the only trained first  
21 aider, you mean on that very early shift from 6.00?

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. But by the time the bomb has gone off, there are, in  
24 fact, a number of first aiders there, aren't there?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We've heard from some them. Simon Cook was obviously  
2 one of them. You are another.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. We heard evidence from a Mr Faisal Patel back  
5 in October, he told us that there was another first  
6 aider, Patrick Akimbiya.

7 A. Yes, no --

8 Q. Do you recognise that name?

9 A. I recognise him, but --

10 Q. Then we also know that there was another first aider,  
11 Osita Ugbene, and Pete Sanders is a first aider.

12 Then, at Russell Square, we've heard evidence from  
13 Dave Boyce and Gary Stevens, they were both trained in  
14 first aid.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And also a lady called Helen Long. So there were  
17 a number of people who were first aid trained that  
18 morning.

19 A. Well, all the people you mention, they're the first  
20 aiders, but they weren't all there.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. So they're all first aiders, yes, you're right, but they  
23 weren't all there, and Simon Cook is not a first aider,  
24 to my knowledge. But if you --

25 Q. We've heard from him this morning and he told us that he

1 has had some first aid training.

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I think he was trained -- it may or  
3 may not be within the London Underground -- he's trained  
4 in first aid in other organisations he'd worked with.

5 A. All right, okay. During that shift, I was the only one  
6 there, but -- yes.

7 MS CANBY: Mr Chaudhury, very briefly, this conversation  
8 that you have with Mr Leach -- and we're hearing from  
9 Mr Leach next week and we can hear what he says about  
10 that -- but he doesn't prevent from you getting any of  
11 that first aid equipment, does he? You manage to get as  
12 much as you can on to your own body, you fill all your  
13 pockets up and then you go back down and carry on with  
14 your work down there. Is that right?

15 A. No, he did prevent me.

16 Q. But eventually, you say you managed to get -- you got  
17 down?

18 A. I just moved him out -- I just ignored him and done it  
19 myself, so it's not a matter of, if I was -- I just seen  
20 it as something I've got to do, I just done it myself.

21 Ever since -- his voice and Peter Sanders, up until this  
22 day, it still haunts me, how -- it's very emotional,  
23 that people will actually do this, it's too much,  
24 I can't really say.

25 Q. Mr Chaudhury, you've obviously found the experience very

1 difficult, but you've done your best to try to help the  
2 court today.

3 A. That part of it, I'm really upset with that part, but --

4 Q. Were you aware that Mr Leach was acting as Silver, so he  
5 was very much in an organisational role, and he was  
6 trying to get more first aid equipment? Were you aware  
7 that that's what he was doing?

8 A. No, he wasn't doing none of that. It doesn't matter if  
9 he's Silver, Gold, or whatever he is, yes, he has no  
10 right to obstruct me in what I was doing and use that  
11 kind of language to me, and also throw me the authority  
12 badge, "You haven't got the licence to be in here", you  
13 know. It's -- you know, it's very hard, you know, and  
14 to make it worse, Peter Sanders is just -- he didn't  
15 even -- he didn't even -- being more senior, he didn't  
16 even say anything.

17 MS CANBY: Thank you very much, Mr Chaudhury.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for Mr Chaudhury?  
19 Thank you very much indeed, Mr Chaudhury. You told  
20 me of one lady who came to work looking for you to thank  
21 you. From everything I've heard, many, many others  
22 would have had good cause to thank you.

23 I appreciate how difficult it is for you to go back  
24 over the events of that day, and I'm sorry I've had to  
25 ask you to do it. I hope we haven't, as it were, put

1 back your own recovery, because obviously you were  
2 traumatised, too, by what you saw. But thank you for  
3 helping me and thank you for all you did.

4 A. Cheers.

5 MR KEITH: Thank you, Mr Chaudhury.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: What do we have left for today,  
7 Mr Keith?

8 MR KEITH: My Lady, I'm afraid quite a lot. But if my Lady  
9 was minded to take a short break, I think everyone would  
10 probably welcome that.

11 What I was hoping to do was to call Mr Collins,  
12 who's the last remaining live witness, but read out  
13 Inspector Mingay's statement first because it sets the  
14 context of Mr Collins' evidence, call Mr Collins and  
15 then deal with the remaining four or five other  
16 statements that we still have outstanding.

17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Right. Very well. Shall we make it  
18 just ten minutes, please?

19 (3.35 pm)

20 (A short break)

21 (3.45 pm)

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Keith?

23 MR KEITH: My Lady, may I commence by reading out the  
24 statement of Stephen Mingay, who is an important witness  
25 but who, as my Lady knows, is unable, due to health

1 reasons, to give evidence orally.  
2 It's his statement dated 11 July 2005.  
3 Statement of INSPECTOR STEPHEN MINGAY read  
4 "I am a temporary police inspector currently based  
5 at Baker Street."  
6 The statement is dated July 2005.  
7 "The week of 7 July 2005, I had been the former  
8 ground coordinator for G8, which was monitoring the  
9 forward traffic going up to Gleneagles. On Thursday,  
10 7 July, I got the train to King's Cross and I went down  
11 to the Metropolitan and Circle Lines using the staircase  
12 at the front of the station. I went down there and used  
13 the access barriers halfway along the westbound platform  
14 and got the train to Baker Street. I booked myself on  
15 duty on the computer, downloaded intelligence for the  
16 day for the forward traffic. I then did a micro-brief  
17 of the 'L' Area Officers on the fourth floor that were  
18 being deployed to King's Cross and Euston. I just made  
19 sure that they were all together and just deployed them  
20 at 7.20 or thereabouts. There were a few more bits  
21 I needed to do.  
22 "I then made my way down to King's Cross. That  
23 would have been about 7.45, I suppose. There was  
24 nothing of any significance or out of the ordinary that  
25 came to my attention whilst deploying my officers.

1 I was supervising in the region of 20 officers on that  
2 morning. There was a Scottish train due out, I think it  
3 was 8.00. We saw the 8.00 train out. I then briefed  
4 all the officers back at King's Cross at about 8.10 and  
5 gave them directions to have a break, as we would be  
6 monitoring the next train out, which I think was about  
7 9.00.

8 "I then went out on foot patrol on the station just  
9 walking around the station making sure everyone was in  
10 place. I spoke to the intelligence teams that were  
11 monitoring the train. I suppose about 20 to or quarter  
12 to 9, I then went down to the Underground and spoke to  
13 all the staff. I had a little walk around the general  
14 circulating area. One of the things I highlighted some  
15 time before was the fact there were no radio comms and  
16 I had reported this to BX [which is the control for  
17 British Transport Police] some days earlier.

18 "I think Thursday was either my tenth or eleventh  
19 day on duty for G8-related duties. I went in and spoke  
20 to the staff in the control room and we just generally  
21 chatted, passing the time of day. I was finding out how  
22 things were when, around 8.50, what I could only  
23 describe as a very loud bump. The floor shook and all  
24 the escalators went off. One of the staff shouted  
25 'Power surge'. I think they then turned the station

1 evacuation alarms on. I was with PC Gerard Collins at  
2 the time."  
3 May we have please on the screen [BTP167-8]?  
4 My Lady, although Inspector Mingay doesn't refer to  
5 this transcript, it is plain that's the caller,  
6 BTP167-8: at 08.50.23:  
7 "Good morning, British Transport Police.  
8 "Yes, this is serial 101 at King's Cross."  
9 That is acting Inspector Mingay:  
10 "I've got no radio comms on the Underground ...  
11 I need serial 103 to the Underground station, they've  
12 had a massive power failure down here and they're  
13 evacuating the station.  
14 "Okay, and where are you?  
15 "I am in the control room on the Underground. All  
16 right? I want serial 103.  
17 "And what station?  
18 "King's Cross. [BTP167-9]  
19 "King's Cross, okay."  
20 Then the inspector continues:  
21 "All right, so King's Cross station is being  
22 evacuated so there will be knock-on effects right across  
23 the area, I would imagine."  
24 He continues:  
25 "Right, I have no radio comms, so you can't contact

1 me. I reported that channel 2's been out days ago, but  
2 nothing's being done.

3 "All right ...

4 "Thank you."

5 The statement continues:

6 "One of the staff shouted 'Power surge'. I think  
7 they then turned the station evacuation alarms on.

8 I was with PC Gerard Collins. The escalators had  
9 stopped and at that time I did not know what was going  
10 on. I started assisting with helping people out through  
11 the barriers. Somewhere around about that point,  
12 I noticed a couple of people that came off the  
13 escalators with heavy soot-stained faces, black lips and  
14 there was a smell of burning rubber about them.

15 "These two I would describe as a female followed by  
16 a male. The male was dressed in a dark suit, IC1,  
17 I think he had a briefcase. I put him in his late 30s.  
18 I cannot remember the female's description. I could see  
19 from their faces that they had been somewhere very  
20 contaminated with heavy smoke, their lips were black.  
21 At first, I thought they were suffering carbon dioxide  
22 poisoning. My first thought was that there had been  
23 a fire. I took PC Collins and started down the  
24 escalators, which were all off at this stage. A few  
25 police community support officers and I think maybe

1 another uniformed officer turned up.  
2 "I could see these people coming up the stairs, and  
3 I said to PC Collins that he was now my loggist, and  
4 that he was to stick with me at all times."  
5 The log my Lady, if we could have it on the screen,  
6 commences for the purposes of these events at [BTP93-3].  
7 My Lady, you'll see at the bottom of that page, 9.00,  
8 three males exited the Piccadilly from Manor House.  
9 A male heard a bang between here and Russell Square, and  
10 then there's a reference at 9.01 to a major incident  
11 being declared, to which I'll make reference in  
12 a moment:  
13 "As these people were coming off the top of the  
14 escalators, I shouted to the PCSOs and the other  
15 officers there to get the people's details. I went down  
16 to the bottom of the first flight of stairs and a member  
17 of staff directed me down towards the Piccadilly Line.  
18 Staff were in the process of getting people off the  
19 station, and I heard the announcement 'Due to a reported  
20 emergency, please leave the station'. I went on to the  
21 Piccadilly line platform, I believe it was the left-hand  
22 one, and looked up one of the tunnels and I could see  
23 smoke broiling down the tunnel, thick black smoke. It  
24 was filling up the platform, which instantly made me  
25 think of fire.

1 "At that point, I shouted to everyone to get off the  
2 platforms because I did not know what was coming out of  
3 those tunnels. I got back on to the lower circulating  
4 area and there were other people with soot stains.  
5 I went back to the top of the escalators and I believed  
6 at that time that we were dealing with a fire on a train  
7 or something. Loads of people had started to come up.  
8 I directed officers to make the area the other side of  
9 the ticket barriers into a casualty holding area pending  
10 arrival of Fire Brigade and ambulance."  
11 Then, my Lady, there is a trilogy of phone calls, of  
12 radio messages. Could we please have [BTP167-16],  
13 08.55.14:  
14 "Good morning, British Transport Police.  
15 "Yes, it's LT26 [that's his call sign] S101 at  
16 King's Cross ... we have what appears to be smoke coming  
17 out of one of the Piccadilly Line tunnels.  
18 "... you're at King's Cross?  
19 "No, I've gotta go ... bye."  
20 08.55.  
21 08.56.30, [BTP167-35]:  
22 "... police emergency.  
23 "Hello, can you hear me?  
24 "Yeah.  
25 "Right, this is Lima Tango 26 [Inspector Mingay] ...

1 We've got smoke coming out of the Piccadilly Line  
2 tunnels.  
3 "Yeah, we're aware of this. We've got loads of  
4 other instances. It's the same, something's happened in  
5 a lot of stations, erm, let me just put this down, hang  
6 on."  
7 There's then a discussion about Aldgate and  
8 Liverpool Street, and then over the page [BTP167-36],  
9 Inspector Mingay says:  
10 "Right, I'm gonna have to go outside and use my  
11 mobile because I can't hear anything that you're saying,  
12 I'm gonna come through on the direct number for the  
13 Control Centre."  
14 Then 167-41 [BTP167-41], please, 08.58.12, a couple of minutes  
15 later, Mr Mingay phones in again, and while he's on the  
16 phone or on the radio, I'm sorry, he says:  
17 "Matt, nobody goes down! Nobody goes down because  
18 we don't know what we're going into. We've got people  
19 coming off the train. As they come out, get them out.  
20 I want -- I've got someone doing the log. I want  
21 details of every casualty that's brought off. Names,  
22 yes, because we've got people coming off with smoke  
23 inhalation."  
24 Then he turns to the controller:  
25 "Right, sorry about that."

1 He reports he's got people coming off, smoke  
2 inhalation, he gives his name, and then he says:  
3 "LAS have they been called? Confirm. Yes, they  
4 have been called."  
5 And the controller says:  
6 "Okay, then, no worries."  
7 Inspector Mingay:  
8 "Just recall them again."  
9 And the controller:  
10 "I'll just make sure they are attending."  
11 He says:  
12 "Right, it's important you recognise we have no  
13 radio comms underground, so any communication will have  
14 to come through this control room."  
15 Then over the page [BTP167-42], please, he says he's going to  
16 put an officer in the control room, and then he ends the  
17 call:  
18 "I went into the office, the London Underground  
19 control office, and dialled 999 and informed them I was  
20 declaring a major incident. It was one minute past 9 by  
21 my watch. I directed PC Collins to make a note."  
22 My Lady, PC Collins did indeed make a note, as you  
23 saw a moment or two ago, on that police pocketbook.  
24 "I then informed the control room over the radio and  
25 channel 2, as I had been told by someone, possibly

1 PC Martin Chapman, that the control room could receive  
2 channel 2 sometimes but I could not hear them.  
3 "At that point, I made a decision to go back  
4 downstairs to assess what we were dealing with because,  
5 although I had initiated the emergency incident  
6 protocols, I was unable to do a complete CHALET  
7 assessment.  
8 "I went back down on to the Piccadilly Line. This  
9 time I went on the right-hand platform, which I think is  
10 the westbound, and there was a member of staff there.  
11 There were people walking out of the tunnel and  
12 I stopped one of them and asked them what had happened.  
13 They told me words to the effect of there had been  
14 a loud bang and all the lights in the train had gone  
15 out, and they had basically fled.  
16 "I went to the head wall telephone, lifted the  
17 handset and pressed the plunger. Nobody came on to the  
18 line to confirm the power was off, and I said to  
19 a member of staff, 'Is the power off?' he said, 'Yes'  
20 I then said to him, 'Stay here and assist us with the  
21 evacuation. I am going down the tunnel with PC Collins  
22 to see what is actually happening. Don't let anybody  
23 else down here until we come back'. I also gave him  
24 a time period along with our details, should we not come  
25 back, instructing him to go and get further help should

1 that occur.

2 "I got down onto the track and started making my way  
3 along the track between the return rail and the running  
4 rail. Very shortly, I could see the back end of  
5 a train. I presumed it was the back of a train due to  
6 the way I approached the tunnel, but cannot be sure.  
7 I believe it to be the back also because I entered via  
8 the head wall into the tunnel where the emergency  
9 plunger was situated. I went up to the back end of the  
10 train and there were one or two people that were walking  
11 towards us. I explained to them that the power was off,  
12 not to touch any rail, to keep walking, and that there  
13 was a member of staff on the platform ready to assist  
14 them.

15 "I got to the back of the train and the door was  
16 open. I took up a position on the return rail side of  
17 the train and I explained to the people that we were  
18 going to evacuate the train.

19 "PC Collins and myself evacuated the train through  
20 the rear door. I would estimate that we evacuated  
21 approximately 100 people. All were capable of walking,  
22 everyone acted in a very British fashion, nobody  
23 screamed and they remained calm. It was just a case of  
24 helping people off the train onto the track bed, giving  
25 them explicit instructions.

1 "They got off the train using the handrails and the  
2 buck eye coupling. I knew they had a clear walk all the  
3 way back to King's Cross between the running rail and  
4 the return rail. That was the route we had got them  
5 walking down. I would say the distance down the tunnel  
6 and back to the platform was less than a minute walk.  
7 I would say it's about 20 to 30 feet into the tunnel  
8 before I could see the back of the train through the  
9 smoke. I gave the same instructions to those leaving  
10 the train as I had to those already on the track adding  
11 not to run, scream or shout.

12 "A number of people I had to lift off the train, as  
13 they were either too shocked or too scared to get down.  
14 A number of people would not leave their suitcases or  
15 baggage behind. I wanted to just stockpile the luggage  
16 out of the way, but they insisted on taking it with  
17 them. While all this was going on, there was smoke  
18 swirling around the top of the carriage and I could  
19 smell burning. I continually told people to stay calm,  
20 don't run, walk down the track, everything was fine,  
21 emergency procedures were in place to help them.

22 "When there were no other people coming from the  
23 back of my train, I checked my watch, it was about  
24 20 past 9, 9.20."

25 My Lady, PC Collins makes an entry in the log at

1 that time, 9.20, PNB78-3:  
2 "I said to PC Collins that I was going to work my  
3 way through the train to assess what sort of incident we  
4 were dealing with and that, if I was not out in ten  
5 minutes at 9.30, that he was to leave the scene and tell  
6 everyone that I was on the train and that I was to be  
7 considered a casualty. I also informed him to evacuate  
8 the station. At that stage, I had no idea of what I was  
9 walking into. In the back of my mind I was considering  
10 that I was going into something really serious and that  
11 I may be overcome from smoke inhalation. I stood on the  
12 buck eye coupling and pulled myself on to the handrails.  
13 My intention was to make my way to the driver's cab in  
14 order to preserve any perishable evidence. This was not  
15 possible because of what I encountered on my way.  
16 "I started to make my way through the train and  
17 there were newspapers and commuter-type debris all over  
18 the inside of the train. On my passage through the  
19 train, I encountered one or two people that I directed  
20 to the rear of the train. These carriages had smoke in  
21 the upper third. As I worked my way forward, I could  
22 hear shouting and screaming and moaning.  
23 "I came to a carriage, I think it was possibly in  
24 the fourth or fifth carriage, where there was half of  
25 a double door that was open, and there was a member of

1 staff on the track. These doors were on my right-hand  
2 side as I was walking through the train from the rear.  
3 It was, I believe, at a crossover point, because  
4 a member of staff was evacuating the rest of the people  
5 from the train down another tunnel.

6 "There were still a few seriously injured people  
7 being helped through the train by myself, the member of  
8 staff and other passengers. I jumped down and took his  
9 torch from him, as he said he did not need it. I used  
10 the torch to shine quickly alongside the track, as  
11 I could hear people screaming. The first thing I saw  
12 was a dismembered body. It was all black. From where  
13 I was stood to the body was about 10 feet. I walked up  
14 to what I saw in order to confirm to myself that it was  
15 a body. It did not appear to have any arms or legs  
16 attached, just stumps. There may have been remains of  
17 a head.

18 "From the position I was looking at the body,  
19 I would say that it was lying face down and I think that  
20 what I was looking at was the back side that was  
21 pointing up towards me."

22 My Lady, our assessment of the evidence is that the  
23 location of the body there means that that person was  
24 probably Mihaela Otto.

25 "There were a couple of large pieces of metallic

1 debris like sheets of metal that appeared to be train  
2 parts, but I could not tell you which part of the train  
3 there were. There were also some very large pieces of  
4 fresh concrete lying there as well, each size was about  
5 the size of a rugby ball.

6 "I could hear screaming from under the train which  
7 was quite bizarre, but I could not see them with the  
8 torch."

9 My Lady, our assessment is that would probably have  
10 been Lee Harris and Sam Badham.

11 "I shone the torch on to the train and I could not  
12 see any damage, but the top half of the train was still  
13 shrouded in smoke. I got back on to the train and  
14 I suppose maybe the top third of the carriage was filled  
15 with smoke. I carried on forward and I came to a door  
16 that appeared to be bowing inwards toward me. There was  
17 glass everywhere, all over the floor. I managed to get  
18 that door open. The next door was jammed, and it was  
19 very difficult to open. I pushed very hard and managed  
20 to open it.

21 "There was very little light in the carriage and  
22 lots of people screaming and moaning.

23 "In front of me, there was a man lying on the floor  
24 as I was looking at him, with his head to my left. He  
25 had a leg on the seat to my right and there was lots of

1 blood. Behind him and supporting him I believe was  
2 a black woman. In those conditions, I could not tell  
3 you who was white or black. She was saying something  
4 like, 'I'm okay, Officer, these people need help'.  
5 Looking around the train, I could see body parts  
6 everywhere. I tried very quickly to assess what I was  
7 looking at. In the vestibule area by the double doors  
8 there was just a lot of charred mess and what appeared  
9 to be body bits and pieces. Above this mess was  
10 a punched-in hole in the roof of the train. It was  
11 smoky, it was steamy, I suppose, and the smell sort of  
12 like burning rubber, like a car that has had to brake  
13 very hard.

14 "There were a number of broken windows in the  
15 carriage and, when I looked out, there appeared to be  
16 something on the tunnel wall. I don't know if it was  
17 human remains or not. I could still hear people moaning  
18 and crying. There was the remains of a leg or a foot or  
19 something on the left-hand side of the floor as I walked  
20 through the door and I think there was a body there with  
21 intestines hanging out.

22 "There was a lot of other people on the other side  
23 of the vestibule area. I could not get to them due to  
24 there being a seriously injured male propped up,  
25 obscurely, in front of me. He was approximately 6 to

1 8 feet into the carriage, having entered via the  
2 internal door. I made a quick count, using the torch,  
3 of how many faces I could see. I counted 14 faces.  
4 I couldn't tell you from those how many were actually  
5 moving. I asked for silence and I said something to the  
6 effect of, 'I have to go and get professional help and  
7 paramedics down here for me to try to help you, I may do  
8 more harm or injuries than anything else'.  
9 "The hardest thing that I've ever had to do was to  
10 turn around and walk away, knowing that some of those  
11 people were never going to get out of there. I made my  
12 way back to where a member of staff was evacuating  
13 people and I handed him the torch. At some point  
14 I dumped my police helmet, I don't know where.  
15 "I went back to the rear of the train where  
16 PC Collins was. I told him we had to get topside to  
17 report everything that we'd seen. We got back into the  
18 booking hall, the one where the Underground control room  
19 is, the upper circulating area, and saw all these  
20 casualties, people whose faces were split open. I had  
21 helped them off the train with PC Collins. How they  
22 managed to make it, I don't know. It was at this point  
23 that I grabbed hold of a paramedic and told them that  
24 I had to speak to Silver control urgently in order to  
25 explain what I had seen down in the tunnel.

1 "I then went back to ground level and where a person  
2 identified themselves as being one of the senior medical  
3 support paramedics. I don't know what he was, but  
4 I believed him to be senior because of his insignia on  
5 his shoulders. I briefed him and a senior fire officer,  
6 who I had asked for as soon as possible, from what I had  
7 seen, and that I had not seen any fresh fire, just the  
8 smell of burning flesh."

9 My Lady, the police notebook records the debrief  
10 sessions at 9.40 and 9.45:

11 "I told a number of police officers, including  
12 Ray Shields, who was an inspector in north London, of  
13 what I had seen. I then had to go up and have a walk  
14 around. I got up from the ambulance step I was sitting  
15 on and had a bit of a walk. I was hot and I start to  
16 feel a little bit woozy and a couple of officers pushed  
17 me back down on to the floor to make me rest, but I got  
18 up again.

19 "I went down to assist with people getting off the  
20 train. When I went back down, Inspector Shields was  
21 there. There was a Met Police team that turned up and  
22 asked what they could do. I told them to stay at the  
23 bottom of the stairs, the first set of escalators, and  
24 to assist casualties as they were coming out.

25 "I went back down onto the platform, this time in

1 company with a paramedic wearing an orange suit.  
2 I believed he was HEMS. Also in my possession were two  
3 emergency lanterns, in order that I could illuminate the  
4 crossover point in the scene. We boarded the train via  
5 the back centre door. We made our way through the  
6 carriage to the double doors where I pointed out the  
7 dismembered body I had seen. We disembarked and the  
8 paramedic certified the body as dead.  
9 "Someone else placed a dead sticker on to it.  
10 I remember seeing lots of Fire Brigade in the carriage,  
11 too, and a senior member of London Transport staff who  
12 stated that the Fire Brigade must not cut any of the  
13 poles out as they were holding the train together. This  
14 was in the carriage directly before the carriage with  
15 the hole in the roof.  
16 "I helped a few people off. Then Inspector Shields  
17 came through and he basically said there was nothing  
18 more that I could do. I went back to the King's Cross  
19 mainline concourse where I spoke with senior GNER staff  
20 instructing them to stockpile all equipment, first aid,  
21 et cetera, at the top of the concourse access."  
22 He then details, my Lady, how he provides further  
23 assistance with bits and pieces and then he entered an  
24 office and the remainder of his statement is irrelevant  
25 for our purposes.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: He obviously did a very great deal to  
2 try to help people.

3 MR KEITH: He did, and I'm afraid, in the course of that,  
4 suffered considerable injuries himself psychologically.

5 May I invite you to call Gerard Collins, please?

6 My Lady, I should have said that I believe Acting  
7 Inspector Mingay was also honoured for the acts that he  
8 carried out on the morning of 7 July.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much.

10 PC GERARD COLLINS (sworn)

11 Questions by MR KEITH

12 MR KEITH: Good afternoon, Mr Collins. Could I ask you to  
13 give your full name to the court, please?

14 A. Yes, I'm PC Gerard Collins and I work for British  
15 Transport Police.

16 Q. Mr Collins, you may have been in court earlier when  
17 Mr Chaudhury gave evidence. It's of great help if you  
18 could keep your voice as loud as you can. The  
19 microphone won't amplify your voice.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You commenced duty on the morning of 7 July at 7.00, did  
22 you not?

23 A. Yes, that is right.

24 Q. I think, as we've heard from Mr Mingay's statement, it  
25 started with a briefing from Acting Inspector Mingay?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were you detailed to cover King's Cross station in  
3 connection with supervision of the station arising out  
4 of the trains that were leaving London for the G8 Summit  
5 in Gleneagles?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Do you recall at about 8.50 noticing that an evacuation  
8 signal had been triggered at King's Cross?

9 A. Yes, I did. Myself and PC Buttery, who I was on patrol  
10 with.

11 Q. Do you recall there being any sort of thump or bang, as  
12 you heard being described by Acting Inspector Mingay in  
13 his statement?

14 A. I don't recall it, no.

15 Q. He also records how there had been some difficulties in  
16 the previous days with radio communications. Had you  
17 had similar difficulties?

18 A. To my knowledge, no, I didn't have any problems with  
19 that.

20 Q. As a result of the evacuation alarm being sounded, as  
21 you heard me read out, was a phone call made to the  
22 British Transport Police control room to say that  
23 King's Cross had been evacuated?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. Were you present when Acting Inspector Mingay made that

1 call, or made that radio call, I should say?  
2 A. I don't recall him actually saying it in my presence,  
3 no. But what I was recalling at that point was  
4 PC Buttery, she just put a call in to my control room  
5 and I'm not sure whether the message went through or  
6 not.  
7 Q. One of the other officers there also made a radio call?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. That's PC ...?  
10 A. Buttery.  
11 Q. Did you then become aware of people coming up from the  
12 escalators pursuant to this evacuation?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. I think they were all very calm?  
15 A. Yes, it just seemed like a regular evacuation of the  
16 Underground.  
17 Q. You went to help those people coming up the escalator.  
18 Were you told that there had been some sort of  
19 electrical problem downstairs, that is to say in the  
20 bottom of the Underground station?  
21 A. Yes, that's correct.  
22 Q. Who told you that?  
23 A. It was a member of staff told me.  
24 Q. A member of the London Underground staff?  
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you get any other information as to what this might  
2 have been?

3 A. No, the only thing I can recall was he said there was an  
4 electrical surge down on the Underground, and I walked  
5 across to the control room and that's where another  
6 member of staff reaffirmed the same message.

7 Q. That there was some sort of problem?

8 A. Some sort of electrical problem.

9 Q. No further details then available?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Then on Inspector Mingay's command, did you then go down  
12 the escalators to the bottom, to the platforms, in order  
13 to see what was going on?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. On the eastbound platform, so platform 6, did you see  
16 smoke coming out of the tunnel?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Tell us what you can recall of that.

19 A. I recall, when we got onto the platform, we looked to  
20 our right and we had to make sure that all the people  
21 had been evacuated from the platform, which they had  
22 done at that point. I looked on, and there was smoke  
23 starting to make its way up through the tunnel. It was  
24 quite thick at the top, as opposed to the bottom part,  
25 of the tunnel.

1 Q. We know from records provided by British Transport  
2 Police that a radio call was made at 08.55.14 of  
3 reporting smoke coming out of the Piccadilly Line  
4 tunnel.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you make that call, or were you aware of whomsoever  
7 made it?

8 A. I did not make a call. I can recall slightly that  
9 Inspector Mingay was making some calls at the time.

10 Q. So he would have been the one who made all the calls  
11 around that time?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. Could you see something inside the tunnel, through the  
14 smoke?

15 A. Yes, I saw a red light shining further down in the  
16 tunnel.

17 Q. What did you think it was?

18 A. I thought it possibly could have been a fire.

19 Q. What did it turn out to be?

20 A. It turned out to be an explosion.

21 Q. The light --

22 A. Sorry, the light, yes, that was -- it was just a light,  
23 I think it was a tunnel light.

24 Q. It was a tunnel light?

25 A. Sorry.

1 Q. It wasn't somebody with a torch?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Right. Where did you go after that?

4 A. After that, we made our way to the other platform, the  
5 westbound, I believe, and that's where we saw more smoke  
6 coming from that tunnel.

7 At that point, we were looking for a phone down on  
8 the platform walls.

9 Q. A platform phone?

10 A. Yes, which we didn't find, so whereupon we went upstairs  
11 to the booking hall.

12 Q. Did you all go back up then to the booking hall  
13 together?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. We know that there was a further call about smoke and  
16 about the difficulty of making communications.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was there some debate between you how difficult it was  
19 to get a message through to the control room as opposed  
20 to having to go upstairs and --

21 A. Yes. It was just difficult because the radios --  
22 I don't think the radios worked down there at that point  
23 because, with the channel 2 radios, there was different  
24 areas in the Underground where they may work and may not  
25 work. It just depended where you were standing and ...

1 Q. On this rather crucial occasion, they didn't work?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So you had to go up to the booking hall?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Inspector Mingay uses his radio in order to pass  
6 a message about smoke. Was that when you saw people  
7 coming up the escalators with blackened faces and  
8 soot-stained lips?

9 A. Yes, I saw three individuals making their way up the  
10 escalator.

11 Q. Did you go over and speak to them?

12 A. Yes, I spoke to one gentleman, I tried to get some  
13 details off him, I believe his name was David Jeffrey  
14 from my pocket notebook.

15 Q. What did he tell you?

16 A. He had said that there was three males exited the  
17 Piccadilly from Manor House and then he said that he  
18 heard a banging between here and Russell Square.

19 Q. Is that the entry that you put into your notebook --

20 A. Yes, it is, yes.

21 Q. -- as occurring just before 9.00?

22 A. Yes, that's correct, at 09.00 for that entry when  
23 I spoke to David Jeffrey.

24 Q. Inspector Mingay, who had been on the radio to the  
25 control room, then very shortly afterwards declared

1 a major incident, didn't he?

2 A. Yes, that's correct. He gave me the time of 09.01 to  
3 put down.

4 Q. If we could just have on the screen [BTP78-2], please, did  
5 you write down the declaration of the major incident  
6 right at the bottom of the page there?

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 Q. Did you then go back down towards the platforms?

9 A. Yes, I went down, as Inspector Mingay told me to assist  
10 him. We made our way down and turned right on to the  
11 westbound, I believe it is, platform.

12 Q. Then where did you go?

13 A. At that point, we went on the tracks. Well, first, we  
14 spoke to members of staff. We had to verify if the  
15 power had been turned off, and then we made our way down  
16 the tunnel to the train, the back end of the train.

17 Q. Did you have any sort of equipment, medical equipment or  
18 torches and the like, with you?

19 A. I had a torch, I believe, on me, but I'm not sure if  
20 I even used it, if I needed to use it at that point in  
21 time.

22 Q. Was there some light from the tunnel wall?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. As you entered the tunnel, were you able to see the rear  
25 end of a train further down the track?

1 A. Yes, I can just see just a light from it.

2 Q. Were the passengers coming along the track towards you?

3 A. Yes, we came across two or three people coming across

4 the track, coming out the track.

5 Q. What state were they in?

6 A. They seemed -- they weren't like walking wounded or

7 anything like that, but they were quite upset after what

8 they'd gone through, I guess, but we directed them to

9 continue onwards and they'll meet a member of staff at

10 the platform level.

11 Q. You carried on towards the driver's cab, did you?

12 A. It was the back end, yes, of the driver's cab.

13 Q. The driver's rear cab?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were there people there on the outside of the train

16 standing at the end of the train?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What were they doing?

19 A. They were trying to make their way off the train on to

20 the tracks and exit.

21 Q. Did you and the inspector help them get down from the

22 rear of the train?

23 A. Yes, we did, yes.

24 Q. What state were they in?

25 A. Some people were quite -- well, everyone was -- kept

1 together as suchlike and, you know, they just wanted to  
2 get out of there, and a lot of people were asking us  
3 could they take their bags with them, which we did, we  
4 couldn't actually stop them at the time. There was  
5 a few people, particularly a lady, that was quite upset  
6 and she had to kind of be carried by other fellow  
7 passengers up the tracks, but we just directed them, as  
8 I said, gave them as much assurance as possible and told  
9 them to make their way up to the end and that there will  
10 be -- "Emergency services will provide assistance once  
11 you get up to platform level".

12 Q. Can you give us some idea as to how many passengers  
13 detained, to use the technical expression, from the  
14 rear of that train whilst you and the inspector were  
15 there?

16 A. There could be at least around 100 or so passengers.

17 Q. In your statement, you make reference to a specific  
18 time, 9.13, by which those passengers had detained.  
19 Was that because you looked at your watch at the time?

20 A. I believe so, I did, yes.

21 Q. Was the last person off the train a train driver?

22 A. Thinking back now, I couldn't say if it was a train  
23 driver or a member of London Underground staff.

24 Q. All right. What state was he in?

25 A. I think he spoke with Inspector Mingay and I just -- he

1 didn't seem to be -- well, he just seemed like he was in  
2 his normal gear, there was nothing different. I don't  
3 know, he just seemed like normal LU staff.

4 Q. He wasn't in any state of distress or --

5 A. Not from what I can remember, no.

6 Q. All right. Your notebook records how, at 9.20, the  
7 inspector told you to wait at the back of the train and  
8 he told you, in fact, to stay there for 10 minutes and,  
9 if he wasn't back by 9.30, you should then go back to  
10 the platform and the station and report him as  
11 a casualty?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. What did you understand him to be going to do?

14 A. I believed he was just going to go down and assess the  
15 situation, and it wouldn't be wise, maybe, if the two of  
16 us go down there, because if maybe something else  
17 happened while down there, the two of us would actually  
18 not be there, and we needed to get the information  
19 upstairs out to our control room.

20 Q. So that's why he had to limit, was it, the amount of  
21 time that you were there?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. Your statement records how you did venture on to the  
24 train once or twice perhaps whilst he went to the front.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. But you returned to the track and, after almost the  
2 whole of the ten minutes, did the inspector return to  
3 you?

4 A. Yes, he did return.

5 Q. What did he tell you?

6 A. He told me "We have to get out of here", and I believe  
7 that's what I said in my pocket notebook, and we made  
8 our way from there up to the booking hall of the  
9 Underground.

10 Q. In what state was the inspector when he returned to you  
11 at the end of the train, having been forward?

12 A. He seemed very shaken, yes, very kind of taken aback,  
13 I guess.

14 Q. What was the purpose of returning back to the platform  
15 area?

16 A. The purpose was to get that information that -- what he  
17 had seen further down the train, so that he could relay  
18 that information to the appropriate people.

19 Q. Did he make any radio calls when you returned to the  
20 platform at that point?

21 A. I don't recall any radio calls.

22 Q. Having returned to the platform, did you then go up to  
23 the control room, to the booking hall area?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. Did he brief, firstly, the rail staff, in particular the

1 duty station manager, Mr Leach, and then, when they  
2 arrived, the London Fire Brigade?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. Are those the briefings that you recorded in your  
5 notebook at [BTP78-3]?

6 At the top of the page, it's the conversation with  
7 Mr Leach, 9.40:

8 "[He] explained that he was the first officer to  
9 make his way down the tracks and enter the train to  
10 analyse the situation. [He] explained that there were  
11 a number of casualties on the train that needed  
12 professional assistance. He stated that he believed it  
13 was a fatality on the tracks and that there were body  
14 parts all over the first carriage. Man be - person  
15 under train fatality. Also stated other on the  
16 carriage", and makes a reference to:

17 "Wound - may not survive. Also told station manager  
18 told to contact senior BTP officers."

19 Then did he give more or less the same sort of  
20 briefing to the London Fire Brigade at 9.45?

21 A. Yes, that is correct.

22 Q. Was it your impression that the London Fire Brigade had  
23 arrived at that time of the briefing, that is to say at  
24 09.45?

25 A. I couldn't say if they had already been there or if they

1 were waiting for someone to give them the information,  
2 so I don't know what time they arrived there, but they  
3 were there for Inspector Mingay to give them.

4 Q. Did you see any members of the Fire Brigade on the  
5 platform or on the track before yourself and Mr Mingay  
6 briefed them at 9.45?

7 A. No.

8 Q. What happened after the briefing?

9 A. At that point, we made our way up to the surface level  
10 and Inspector Mingay was very shaken up, so we got him  
11 to sit down on the ground and eventually we got him into  
12 the back of the ambulance, got him some water. He just  
13 seemed like he had seen something really bad and he just  
14 needed to get his head around it.

15 Q. Was he visibly concerned as to whom he should contact  
16 and identify people that you might be able to radio in  
17 order to get help?

18 A. Well, yes, he mentioned that I should contact the  
19 Tutor Unit, which is the probationary officers' -- new  
20 officers on -- but in the building that we were in, to  
21 bring down a lot of those officers to assist at the  
22 scene. I tried contacting the number, but there was no  
23 answer.

24 Q. We may hear evidence in due course, Mr Collins, of  
25 a HEMS doctor Dr McKenzie, arriving, and seeing

1 a British Transport Police officer who was in a state of  
2 distress. Do you recall the arrival of a HEMS team at  
3 King's Cross?

4 A. I'm afraid not. There was so much going on at that  
5 point, it just was -- as I explain, it was like a movie  
6 and there's just parts that I don't remember, he  
7 probably was there, obviously, but I don't remember him  
8 in my knowledge.

9 Q. All right. In his own statement, Inspector Mingay says  
10 how he sat down, as you've just heard me read out.

11 I think he sat down in the back of an ambulance, but he  
12 got up again, did he, and decided to go back down  
13 towards the track?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. When you reached the platform, did he again tell you to  
16 stay there while he went forward to the train?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. What state was he in at that point?

19 A. He still seemed a bit, you know, troubled as such, but  
20 I think he was just kind of getting up and, you know, he  
21 had to get up and go and, "I have to get done", more or  
22 less.

23 Q. While you were on the platform, a time that you record  
24 as being at 10.10, were passengers still coming off the  
25 Piccadilly Line train?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In what state were they? Were they more severely  
3 injured by this time?

4 A. Yes, some of these people were more injured.

5 Q. While you were there, do you recall the seriously  
6 injured being brought out on stretchers?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who was bringing them out on stretchers?

9 A. There was so many emergency services, I believe there  
10 was some firefighters and some LU staff possibly, and  
11 ambulance services would have been -- and police  
12 officers, of course, as well.

13 Q. Which platform were you on when you went back down with  
14 Inspector Mingay?

15 A. It was on the -- when you turn left, which was the  
16 eastbound platform.

17 Q. So these people were coming off the train via the  
18 crossover --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and emerging on the eastbound platform?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. Do you recall there being difficulties or conversation  
23 about the need for more stretchers being required?

24 A. I don't recall anyone saying that.

25 Q. Were the people brought out on stretchers taken to

1 ground level on the stretchers or were they taken off  
2 the stretchers at platform level and the stretchers then  
3 go back into the tunnel?

4 A. I can remember some being taken up on stretchers, yes,  
5 they were taken up to the ground level, from my  
6 knowledge.

7 Q. Do you recall a particular person, a lady, being brought  
8 up on a stretcher, in fact, as you were going down the  
9 escalator, who had suffered very severe injuries to her  
10 legs?

11 A. Yes, I do recall.

12 Q. Was she conscious or unconscious?

13 A. She was unconscious.

14 Q. Did you see that lady again outside King's Cross  
15 station?

16 A. Yes, she was upstairs. I believe there were some  
17 paramedics or LU staff trying to revive her, I believe.

18 Q. When you say "upstairs", do you mean inside the booking  
19 hall or outside on the street?

20 A. No, it was outside on street level.

21 Q. Do you know whether or not she lived?

22 A. Because I did see again there was a blanket placed over  
23 the lady, so I believe she did not live.

24 Q. So after you saw the paramedics attending to her on the  
25 street, you saw her again at a point at which a blanket

1 had been placed over her?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. On account of the inspector's condition, did there come  
4 a point when he was invited to leave the train area and  
5 you made your way back up, both of you, to ground level?

6 A. I don't have that information on me, because I didn't  
7 know that actually happened, because I lost track of  
8 where Inspector Mingay was, once he went down the  
9 tunnel.

10 Q. All right. You continued to keep a log of the events  
11 that you observed and you kept times of when you went  
12 back to the platform. I think you went back up to  
13 ground level and then back down again. Did you keep  
14 a note of any time by which all the casualties had been  
15 removed from the train?

16 A. The only point where that would have occurred was that  
17 my sergeant had gathered two or three of us officers at  
18 the overground outside at street level, and he asked for  
19 some officers to attend a cordon down on the tunnel  
20 level, and to become a loggist down there for people  
21 coming in and out of the scene because it was now a --

22 Q. A crime scene?

23 A. A crime scene.

24 Q. The commencement of that cordon you noted as being at  
25 11.15, did you not?

1 A. Yes, if I just can check this. Yes.

2 Q. Do we take it, therefore, by 11.15, there were no more  
3 casualties being brought out of the train?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. While you were there on cordon duty, did you see a body  
6 lying near the cordon on the track?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Alongside carriage 4 of the train, near the crossover  
9 point?

10 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

11 Q. Were you able to see anything of that person?

12 A. Not a whole pile. I think the person was upside down,  
13 I couldn't see their face or anything.

14 Q. The person was plainly dead, was she not?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did anybody examine her or certify her as being life  
17 extinct that you can recall or not?

18 A. I can't recall that.

19 Q. You can't recall. Do you recall any other bodies lying  
20 anywhere near the train or on the train?

21 A. Yes, I believe there was two other bodies I had noted  
22 somewhere, because someone had pointed them out to me,  
23 I think, or someone maybe another police officer that  
24 was on the cordons at the time.

25 Q. Do you remember where they were, Mr Collins?

1 A. I don't know, was it the other side of the -- the other  
2 side of the carriage possibly? Off the top of my head,  
3 no, I'm not thinking.

4 Q. If you could just look at [INQ10283-12], you will see  
5 there the crossover point.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. The junction coming up to the top of the page is the  
8 crossover towards the eastbound tunnel, and the train is  
9 obviously facing from right to left.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The body whom you saw lying on the track who had passed  
12 away is, according to other evidence, probably located  
13 around the point of that red spot with the name  
14 Mihaela Otto. Can you tell us where you think the other  
15 two bodies that you saw were?

16 A. I thought I noticed -- because I did have my torch and  
17 I think I shone my light, but I thought I noticed  
18 possibly those two other people at the other side of the  
19 carriage.

20 Q. Were they being attended to?

21 A. No.

22 Q. There were of course -- we know and her Ladyship has  
23 heard that there were other people, two people in  
24 particular, on the other side of the carriage,  
25 Lee Harris and Samantha Badham, who had been moved, and

1 one of them was the lady who you saw coming up the  
2 escalator and brought out on to the station concourse.  
3 There were two other bodies alongside, we can see from  
4 this, Arthur Frederick and Karolina Gluck. They were  
5 towards the rear of the fourth carriage, on the other  
6 side of the track. May that have been where you saw two  
7 bodies?

8 A. Possibly. It's so difficult to set your mind back into  
9 that place, but it's possible.

10 Q. How long did you stay down there for, Mr Collins?

11 A. I was down there until I was relieved at -- I don't  
12 know, was it 2 -- 13.05, I believe, from looking at my  
13 pocket notebook.

14 MR KEITH: Thank you very much. Will you stay there? There  
15 may be some further questions for you.

16 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Coltart?

17 Questions by MR COLTART

18 MR COLTART: I only have one short topic to cover, please,  
19 Mr Collins. Could we have [BTP93-4] up on the screen,  
20 please? Could we enlarge the bottom half of that page,  
21 please?

22 I just want to have a quick look at the note of the  
23 briefing that you had with the London Fire Brigade at  
24 9.45.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is this your handwriting? This is your note.

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. "Inspector Mingay explained to the Fire Brigade that he  
4 had entered the train as the first officer and walked to  
5 the first carriage and saw lots of body parts in the  
6 carriage. Some smoke in the air. It is westbound  
7 Piccadilly."

8 So in other words do we take it that he explained to  
9 them, as one would expect him to, where the train was,  
10 in which tunnel it was situated?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. Westbound Piccadilly Line between King's Cross and  
13 Russell Square?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did any member of the Fire Brigade indicate at that  
16 point that they thought that the train was in a tunnel  
17 between King's Cross and Euston Square? Do you recall  
18 anything like that?

19 A. I don't recall anything like that, no.

20 Q. In any event, by the end of that short meeting at 9.45  
21 it was obvious to those members of the Fire Brigade who  
22 were present that the train was between King's Cross and  
23 Russell Square?

24 A. Yes, I would believe so.

25 MR COLTART: Thank you.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr Gibbs?  
2 Questions by MR GIBBS  
3 MR GIBBS: Officer, could we just, please, put in one little  
4 extra page? If we could go to [BTP167-40], this is the  
5 beginning of the telephone call that Mr Mingay made at  
6 08.58 which you recorded in your notebook as being 09.01  
7 because we know that these telephone times are two  
8 minutes out.  
9 The beginning of the call goes like this:  
10 "You should not go anywhere without my say so. Get  
11 those details off those people."  
12 Was Mr Mingay making a telephone call from the  
13 control room, the London Underground control room, but  
14 also shouting to people out in the circulating area?  
15 A. Yes, yes, he was.  
16 Q. Then he says:  
17 "Hi, this is Inspector Mingay here. We're getting  
18 reports that there is a train in the tunnel on the  
19 westbound Piccadilly with smoke coming out. We've got  
20 people coming off. I am declaring major incident."  
21 That's what you recorded in your notebook, wasn't  
22 it?  
23 A. Yes, I did.  
24 Q. "Which station?  
25 "King's Cross.

1 "Westbound Piccadilly, yes.  
2 "Yes, I'm declaring major incident, casualties  
3 unknown at this stage."  
4 He's asked:  
5 "Have you called LAS?"  
6 He says:  
7 "I have people coming from off which have got smoke  
8 inhalation.  
9 "Okay, do you know what the cause of this was? Do  
10 we at all?  
11 "I don't know what we've got.  
12 "Okay, no worries. What's the telephone number  
13 there, please?"  
14 Now he's shouting again to somebody outside, isn't  
15 he:  
16 "Matt, nobody goes down! Nobody goes down because  
17 we don't know what we're going into. We've got people  
18 coming off the train. As they come out get them out.  
19 I want -- I've got someone doing the log. I want  
20 details of every casualty that's brought off. Names,  
21 yes, because we've got people coming off with smoke  
22 inhalation."  
23 Now he's back on the telephone:  
24 "Right, sorry about that."  
25 Can I pause you? He's saying to someone, we can

1 hear him saying it: no one is to go down. We heard from  
2 another witness some evidence that later on there might  
3 have been people still going down the escalators. After  
4 the evacuation was in progress, did you ever see anyone  
5 going down towards the platforms who weren't members of  
6 staff, members of the emergency services, but who were  
7 commuters?

8 A. No, I did not, no.

9 Q. In fact he's specifically saying, isn't he, that no one  
10 should do that because the process that's in train at  
11 that time was the process of evacuation?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. Then he continues with his telephone number and again  
14 there's a question, I'm going to go to the second half  
15 of this page, from the controller:

16 "Have you called LAS already?"

17 And he's saying -- is he saying this into the room  
18 behind him:

19 "LAS have they been called? Confirm. Yes, they  
20 have been called."

21 The controller are says:

22 "Okay, then, no worries."

23 Mr Mingay says:

24 "Just recall them again."

25 The controller says:

1 "I'll just make sure they are attending. Our  
2 reference is 140, okay."  
3 Mr Mingay says:  
4 "Right, it's important [they] should recognise  
5 [there are] no radio communications underground ..."  
6 Yes?  
7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
8 Q. We know, then, that having made that call, that  
9 telephone call from the control room, you and he went  
10 down and you went into the tunnel that led to the very  
11 back of the train, didn't you?  
12 A. Yes, that's correct.  
13 Q. You evacuated, you helped down, a number of people,  
14 about 100 you think, from the back of the train. Was  
15 there a ladder there?  
16 A. No, there was no ladder.  
17 Q. So you had to physically help them down onto the track  
18 and send them to the member of staff who was on the  
19 platform behind you?  
20 A. Yes, that's correct.  
21 Q. Then at 09.20, as you recorded in your notebook,  
22 Mr Mingay left you behind because he didn't want you  
23 both being lost and he went forward to see what was  
24 happening in the darkness further forward?  
25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. It wasn't for about ten minutes that he returned.

2 You've told us that. Then he says, "We've got to get  
3 out of here and make the report", which was the report  
4 that you went upstairs to make, is that right?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. You've recorded the report to Mr Leach at 09.40 and to  
7 the Fire Brigade at 09.45, and then you then went up to  
8 the outside and the ground level, the street level.  
9 Have I got that right?

10 A. Yes, you have.

11 MR GIBBS: Thank you very much.

12 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you, Mr Gibbs. Any other  
13 questions?

14 Thank you very much, Mr Collins. I appreciate how  
15 extraordinarily difficult it must have been for all of  
16 you who went to that train, even if your senior officer  
17 prevented you from going too far down it. I'm sorry  
18 I have had to ask you to relive the events of that day,  
19 but it's been very helpful to hear from you, and your  
20 log in particular has been helpful to me. So thank you.

21 A. Okay, thank you.

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr Keith?

23 MR KEITH: Thank you, my Lady. I simply don't have the  
24 courage to invite my Lady to stay for another seven  
25 statements, so could we put those over for another day?

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I am of course prepared to sit a bit  
2 later if necessary. I am concerned. I look at  
3 tomorrow's list, we do have an awful lot of call  
4 witnesses. Do you want to get a couple of statements  
5 out of the way this evening?

6 MR KEITH: The remainder, I should say, are all very much  
7 shorter than Mr Barnes' or Inspector Mingay's, so  
8 I think I will be able to make up time tomorrow.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Certainly. If you wish me to sit  
10 a bit later, I will, but if you feel as confident as you  
11 can be ...

12 MR KEITH: Hopefully we'll make them up tomorrow.

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Okay, very well, thank you.

14 (4.37 pm)

15 (The inquests adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

16