

Coroner's Inquests into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005  
Hearing transcripts - 18 January 2011 - Afternoon session

1 (2.05 pm)

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr O'Connor?

3 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, we are going to interpose the  
4 evidence of Mr Cody at this point. He is to give  
5 evidence by videolink on a prebooked link and so  
6 Mr Perry understands that we are simply going to take  
7 Mr Cody briefly and then return to his evidence.

8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

9 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Mr Cody, can you hear me?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can, sir.

11 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My name is Andrew O'Connor, I'm one of  
12 the Counsel to the Inquests and I'm going to be asking  
13 you questions first. The court is in session and the  
14 coroner, Lady Justice Hallett is here, although I think  
15 you probably can't see her on the screens in front of  
16 you.

17 THE WITNESS: No, not at the moment.

18 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could I ask, please, that you either  
19 take the oath or make an affirmation?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 MR PAUL FRANCIS CODY (sworn)

22 (Evidence given by videolink)

23 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

24 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you, could you give your full  
25 name, please?

1 A. Yes, it's Paul Francis Cody.

2 Q. Thank you. Mr Cody, in 2005, it's right to say that you  
3 were living and working in Birmingham, is that right?

4 A. That is correct, yes, that is correct.

5 Q. On 7 July 2005, you were visiting London on business?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. I believe you travelled to London by train. You came  
8 into Euston station and you then had to travel on to an  
9 appointment in Pall Mall?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Again, on the basis of the statement you provided to the  
12 police shortly after these events, it was within a few  
13 minutes of your arrival at Euston station that there was  
14 an announcement to the effect that the statement was  
15 being evacuated?

16 A. Yes, sir. Basically, having arrived at Euston station  
17 I was travelling down the escalators to the Underground.  
18 I'd got some distance down into the Underground. As you  
19 can imagine, at that time of day, it was extremely busy,  
20 and just as I was approaching the platform for where  
21 I needed to get my Tube, there was this announcement, an  
22 announcement for all persons on the Tube to evacuate  
23 immediately.

24 Q. So at that point, you left the station, did you?

25 A. Yes, together with many hundreds of other people, we

1 started making our way out slowly. It's my recollection  
2 that they had switched off the escalators, and so we  
3 started making our way up to the escalators, and every  
4 30 seconds or so there was this continuous announcement.  
5 I clearly recall the chap making the announcements.  
6 Like myself, he had an Irish accent.

7 Q. I think it's right to say that you decided, perhaps  
8 shortly after leaving the station, that you would try to  
9 make your way to your meeting on foot?

10 A. Yes, that's correct. Upon the exit to Euston station,  
11 there was just so, so many people I knew that it was  
12 highly unlikely I could get a taxi from there. So  
13 I decided to make my way away from the crowd of people,  
14 if you like.

15 Q. So you walked essentially south from Euston making your  
16 way down towards the Westminster area?

17 A. That is correct, yes.

18 Q. You describe in your statement reaching Tavistock Square  
19 and deciding that you would stop at a cash machine to  
20 try to get some money out. Is that right?

21 A. Yes, I did have some money with me, but I didn't know  
22 whether it would be enough for the taxi over to  
23 Pall Mall, so I decided to get some extra cash from  
24 a cash machine, and I noticed a NatWest on the opposite  
25 side of the road, I crossed over the road, and I believe

1 that NatWest building is beside the British Medical  
2 Association and, when I got there, I was rummaging for  
3 my wallet when there was a massive explosion.

4 Q. Mr Cody, could I ask you to look at a photograph,  
5 please? We're going to call it up on our screens in  
6 court. It's INQ10345-1 [not for publication], but I think that you should  
7 have a copy of it there in front of you. It's a photo  
8 of the road with the bus shortly after the explosion.  
9 Do you see it there?

10 A. I do indeed, yes.

11 Q. You may see, Mr Cody, in the bottom left-hand corner  
12 there's a sign sticking out of the wall which I think  
13 I'm right in saying is a NatWest sign. Do you see that?

14 A. Yes, I do see it, I don't know whether it's a NatWest  
15 sign, but I do see what you're talking about, yes.

16 Q. The blue sign with the red mark on it?

17 A. Oh, yes, I do indeed, yes.

18 Q. Just sort of next to the level crossing -- sorry, the  
19 zebra crossing.

20 A. Yes, I can see that, yes.

21 Q. Is that more or less where you were at your cash  
22 machine?

23 A. Yes, yes, that's where I was.

24 Q. As you've said, that's where you were when the bus  
25 exploded. Is that right?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. What did you see? What did you see when the bus  
3 exploded, Mr Cody?

4 A. Well, I was initially thrown to the ground and it was  
5 only moments later -- I mean, there was debris and  
6 everything, I was hit with pieces of debris and grit,  
7 and I was that stunned, I didn't see anything. It was  
8 only moments later, when I got back to my feet, that  
9 I heard a woman nearby me scream, "It's the bus, it's  
10 the bus", and it was then I have seen the bus and, to be  
11 quite frank, when I first seen the bus, I thought I was  
12 looking at one of those open-top sightseeing buses in  
13 London, but I could see that there was vast damage to  
14 the rear, particularly the top of the bus and the side.  
15 But -- and there was debris literally everywhere,  
16 all around me, on the road. So that's what I've  
17 initially seen.

18 Q. What did you decide to do at that point, Mr Cody?

19 A. Well, clearly there was tremendous panic, and I ran to  
20 the offside, I believe it was the offside of the bus.  
21 My initial reaction was to try to help, but what I've  
22 seen was sheer devastation and, you know, bodies on the  
23 road.

24 Q. I'd like to ask you to look at a different plan, if I  
25 may. For our purposes, it's [INQ10285-8]. It's a plan

1 that shows the bus and the vehicles and the position of  
2 those people who were thrown off the bus after the  
3 explosion.

4 Do you have that there, Mr Cody?

5 A. Yes, I'm looking at that. I have it in front of me now.

6 Q. You describe running towards the offside of the bus, so  
7 in other words, across the road towards the park in the  
8 middle of the square, yes?

9 A. Yes, that's my recollection, yes.

10 Q. In your statement, you describe going to and attending  
11 to a black African lady who was lying in the road.

12 A. Yes, that is correct.

13 Q. If you look on the plan, Mr Cody, you'll see one of the  
14 people who is marked there with a red circle is a lady  
15 whose name was Gladys Wundowa. Do you see that there?

16 A. I do indeed, yes.

17 Q. Is that mark, roughly speaking, where the person whom  
18 you went to see was?

19 A. I couldn't say for certain, but I hope the court  
20 understands I don't know who Gladys Wundowa is. I take  
21 it that you are referring to a black lady there?

22 Q. Yes, I'm sorry, Mr Cody, let me explain. We think that  
23 the lady who you've described going to see was  
24 Gladys Wundowa, and I just wanted to understand from you  
25 whether that map shows more or less where it was that

1 you went. Gladys Wundowa was, indeed, an African lady.

2 A. Yes, sir, it may well have been that area.

3 Q. Can you tell us something about what condition she was  
4 in when you went over to her?

5 A. Yes, she was lying on her back and she was staring  
6 directly ahead of her, so up at the sky. Her breathing  
7 was very, very rapid but shallow. I took hold of her  
8 hand. Her skirt, or her denim skirt, had clearly ridden  
9 up on her body in some way, and I could see her torso,  
10 but I couldn't see any other marks or blood or anything  
11 like that, so I was holding her hand and I was speaking  
12 down close to her ear, and -- but she didn't react to  
13 anything I said whatsoever, and I was squeezing her  
14 hand. I said, "I will stay with you, I'm here, I'll  
15 stay with you", but I got no reaction whatsoever. She  
16 didn't look at me or make a sound other than this very  
17 laboured breathing.

18 Q. How long, Mr Cody, were you with her for?

19 A. Again, I would find that difficult to say exactly, but  
20 maybe for no more than a minute or so, during which time  
21 I was also clearly looking around me, there was other  
22 people in grave difficulties that I could see in front  
23 of me, to my right and to my left, and very, very  
24 shortly after that then, a uniformed police sergeant  
25 arrived and he was screaming at people to get away, to

1 get away from the bus, including myself, he was actually  
2 screaming at me to get back, get back, at which point  
3 then I left, I left there, but I had -- you know, in the  
4 meantime, I'd been trying to scream at people on the  
5 bus, that were stood up on the bus, I was screaming at  
6 them. Whether they could hear me or not, I simply don't  
7 know, but to get off the bus, get off the bus.

8 It is difficult --

9 Q. In the time that -- I'm sorry to interrupt. Sorry,  
10 please go on and finish what you're saying.

11 A. Sorry, it is difficult for me to say how long I was  
12 actually knelt there beside that lady.

13 Q. We do understand that, Mr Cody.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In the time that you were with her, did anyone else come  
16 up to you both?

17 A. No. Sorry, other than this uniformed police sergeant  
18 that I mentioned.

19 Q. Yes, I meant did anyone come up and help you attend to  
20 the lady who was lying on the ground, and I think you  
21 said that no one did that.

22 A. No, nobody else.

23 Q. I take it, during that short time that you were with  
24 her -- a minute or so -- her condition, the condition  
25 that you've described, didn't change?

1 A. No, it certainly didn't.

2 Q. You've described being asked to leave and move away.

3 Was she alive when you left her?

4 A. Yes, she was indeed. She was still breathing, but

5 heavy, laboured breathing, as I left her.

6 Q. I want to ask you a few questions about another casualty

7 that you saw, Mr Cody. You describe another body

8 without any legs that was quite close to the lady who we

9 think was Gladys Wundowa. Do you remember that casualty

10 as well?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. If you still have the plan there that I showed you a few

13 minutes ago, we think that that casualty may have been

14 a gentleman called Giles Hart. Do you see the red

15 circle with his name linked to it?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Again, it's a long time ago, but doing the best you can,

18 was the body that you saw in roughly the position where

19 that red mark is?

20 A. Yes, roughly, yes.

21 Q. Could you see, Mr Cody, whether that body was the body

22 of a man or a lady?

23 A. I simply couldn't tell at that point. The lower half of

24 the body, as far as I could see, was so badly damaged

25 I couldn't tell whether it was a male or female.

1 Q. Was it lying face up or face down?

2 A. My recollection is it was lying -- the body was on its  
3 back, but what I could -- nearest to me was the damaged  
4 legs and torso of the body.

5 Q. You say nearest to you. Do you mean nearest to you from  
6 where you were with the lady on the ground?

7 A. Yes, yes. If it was Gladys Wundowa I was with, my  
8 recollection was that the body I referred to with the  
9 damage to the legs was to my left, was certainly to my  
10 left.

11 Q. Do you mean by that in the direction of the bus?

12 A. Yes, yes, yes.

13 Q. Do I understand from what you're saying that you didn't  
14 actually go over to that other body; you simply saw it  
15 from where you were with the lady on the ground?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Did you see any signs of life from that body?

18 A. No, no, no.

19 Q. You've described how the police sergeant asked you to  
20 move away, I think because they were setting up cordons  
21 at that time.

22 A. Yes, yes, indeed.

23 Q. Where did you go then?

24 A. Right, well, I moved back down the road back towards, as  
25 I say, Euston station and Euston Road. Not a very --

1 I mean, I managed to catch up with the uniformed  
2 sergeant and there was a number of uniformed officers  
3 trying to set up a cordon, a taped cordon, and I clearly  
4 made my way to this sergeant [redacted] and introduced  
5 myself and said, "Can I help in any way?".

6 Q. I think it's right to say that you stayed at the scene  
7 for a while after that and spoke to some of the  
8 survivors, including the bus driver?

9 A. Yes, I did, yes, I did. The uniformed sergeant asked me  
10 if I would set up a victim point at the County Hotel.

11 So I went to the hotel, I introduced myself, [redacted],  
12 spoke to some management there and asked them could they  
13 provide us with a room, bedding, sheeting, anything they  
14 could, towels, to assist us with some of the injured,  
15 and I then spent some considerable time there as the  
16 injured came in. I was asking the injured to come in  
17 and so on, and it's my understanding now that other  
18 Metropolitan Police colleagues outside were ushering the  
19 injured in as well into the County Hotel.

20 Q. A little later in the day, Mr Cody, is it right that  
21 you, yourself, began to feel unwell and in the end you  
22 were taken to hospital?

23 A. Yes, that is correct.

24 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Mr Cody. That's  
25 all the questions I have for you. It may be that some

1 of the other barristers here want to have some questions  
2 to ask you themselves. Thank you.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

4 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

5 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Cody, simply this: when was the first time  
6 you were aware of any ambulance technicians or  
7 paramedics?

8 A. Sir, that was some time after we had set up this  
9 casualty triage, call it what you will, in the  
10 County Hotel. That obviously was a concern to me  
11 because it seemed a long time before the ambulance --  
12 although I fully understood they must have been  
13 stretched, it was some time before they came in to the  
14 hotel.

15 Q. So at the time that you were at or behind the cordon,  
16 you didn't see anybody at that stage?

17 A. No, no, I didn't.

18 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much, Mr Cody.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff?

20 Questions by MS SHEFF

21 MS SHEFF: Can we have the last plan back up, please? Thank  
22 you.

23 Can I ask you questions, a couple of questions, on  
24 behalf of the family of Giles Hart? You've been asked  
25 about where you saw his body and you said it was pretty

1 much as it has been placed on the plan with the red  
2 mark, the red circle. Do you see that?

3 A. Yes, yes, I do.

4 Q. It looks like it's between two vehicles, both facing in  
5 the same direction. Was one of those vehicles a taxi,  
6 the one behind?

7 A. I simply have no idea.

8 Q. When you saw the body, was it under a vehicle or was it  
9 in the open?

10 A. No, the body I referred to was in the open. I could  
11 clearly see the body. There was no obstruction between  
12 me and the body I referred to.

13 Q. All of it was out in the open, there was no part of it  
14 that was obstructed by any vehicle?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Are you sure the body was on its back, on his back, or  
17 could he have been face down?

18 A. I couldn't be sure. I simply couldn't be sure. My  
19 attention was just taken to the sheer devastating  
20 injuries to the body, and I was looking out from ground  
21 level because I knelt down close to -- is it this lady,  
22 Gladys Wundowa? So I didn't stand over the body.

23 Q. How far away were you from the body?

24 A. My recollection was no more than about 15 to 20 feet  
25 maximum away from it.

1 Q. Could you tell from that distance that the body appeared  
2 lifeless?  
3 A. Yes, the body appeared lifeless to me at that time.  
4 MS SHEFF: Thank you very much, Mr Cody. No further ...  
5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for Mr Cody?  
6 Mr Cody, can you hear me? I'm Lady Justice Hallett,  
7 the coroner conducting these inquests. There are no  
8 other questions for you. I expect the last thing you  
9 wanted was to be asked to go over the horrific events of  
10 that day. Thank you for being prepared to do so and  
11 thank you for doing your best to assist the injured that  
12 day in the hotel and of course on the ground. Thank you  
13 very much.  
14 A. Thank you, your Ladyship.  
15 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Perhaps Mr Perry could resume his  
16 evidence?  
17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Certainly.  
18 INSPECTOR MARK PERRY (continued)  
19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Sorry we kept you waiting, Mr Perry.  
20 A. Not a problem.  
21 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR (continued)  
22 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Mr Perry, before lunch, I was asking  
23 you questions about the microwave oven.  
24 A. Mm-hmm.  
25 Q. You were describing your concerns about it, and you had

1 said that you had made a radio call asking for some  
2 assistance in dealing with it. Perhaps we could look at  
3 document [INQ10121-1].

4 Mr Perry, this is the CAD that we were looking at  
5 earlier. If we look at the entry for it, it would seem  
6 exactly 10.00. There again we see your call sign. It's  
7 another one of those messages of which only part seems  
8 to have been recorded, but again, the message is fairly  
9 clear. Is that the call that you made about the  
10 microwave oven and asking for EXPO, that is explosives  
11 officers, to attend?

12 A. Explosives officers, yes, ma'am.

13 Q. On your understanding, was it as a result of that  
14 call -- you're not sure of the mechanics of it, but  
15 probably as a result of that call that the two officers  
16 with sniffer dogs attended?

17 A. I couldn't honestly tell you why they attended. I was  
18 very grateful that they did.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. But they work on a different working channel to me. So  
21 I can only assume that they picked up that there had  
22 been this incident on their working channel on the  
23 radio. It wouldn't have been directly as to what I was  
24 saying, so it would either be assigned through a control  
25 room because of this CAD or they would have picked up on

1 it on another channel.

2 Q. But it was shortly after you sent that message that they  
3 arrived?

4 A. A very few minutes, yes.

5 Q. We've heard from Inspector Dermody that they did a pass  
6 through, as it were, of the bus, including the box with  
7 the microwave oven in it --

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. -- and declared it, as far as they could, not to be  
10 a risk.

11 You heard what Mr Dermody said to the effect that,  
12 although it provided some level of comfort that the  
13 sniffer dogs hadn't picked anything up, you couldn't  
14 assume that there was no problem at all.

15 A. Exactly so. There are some explosives, I believe, that  
16 have very limited odours and some that the dogs just  
17 aren't trained in, and I believe home-made explosives  
18 are one of the ones that dogs aren't trained in. But  
19 that's -- I couldn't -- you'd have to ask someone from  
20 the explosives side about that.

21 Q. Yes. Inspector, I'd like to ask you now about some of  
22 the casualties that you recall seeing and that you  
23 described in your statement. You refer to one -- first  
24 of all, you refer to what you describe as a torso being  
25 on the payment on the nearside of the bus.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In a few words, describe what you recall of that body.

3 A. A partially eviscerated torso with a big gash across the  
4 front. I think that the liver had got a footprint in  
5 it, someone had obviously stepped in it at some stage.

6 Q. I see. In your statement you go on to describe another  
7 body, or I should say a casualty at any rate. You say  
8 this:

9 "I saw another person, apparently dead, lying to the  
10 rear of the bus with one foot almost amputated."

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you have an independent memory of that now, or is it  
13 simply --

14 A. It's probably easier to explain that I was deliberately  
15 focusing on the scene as a bigger picture and doing my  
16 level best not to become involved with individual  
17 casualties. So I have very little recollection of  
18 descriptions of casualties or individual casualties  
19 other than, obviously, there were casualties that  
20 required attention, and my focus at the time was getting  
21 appropriate resources in to deal with it.

22 Q. Can you help us at least as far as to say that, when you  
23 describe the rear of the bus, do you mean that this  
24 casualty was on board the bus or, as it were, behind the  
25 bus?

1 A. No, on the roadway behind it, so north of the back of  
2 the bus.

3 Q. I have other questions I might ask you; for example, can  
4 you remember whether the casualty was male or female,  
5 what they were wearing? But from your earlier answer  
6 perhaps you can't say.

7 A. I was deliberately focusing -- I was deliberately  
8 focusing on trying to get a grip of the whole scene  
9 rather than on individuals and I think, if I had started  
10 working on one individual, then everything else I would  
11 have lost control of, so ...

12 Q. That casualty was, as you've said, on the road behind  
13 the bus. Am I right that you did, in fact, board the  
14 bus at some point?

15 A. I didn't do a full search of the whole bus. Most of my  
16 search of the bus was from walking round the outside.  
17 It was actually very visible throughout. I cannot  
18 remember which bits of the bus I went on and which bits  
19 I didn't.

20 Q. The reason I'm asking you is that there is another  
21 casualty whom you do actually give a little bit more  
22 detail about, a bearded gentleman --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- whom you describe sitting towards the rear of the  
25 bus, and I think by that you do mean inside the bus.

1 A. Yes, I recall the incident to which you refer.

2 Q. Can you tell us what happened there?

3 A. He was one of a number of casualties that was still on  
4 the bus at that time. He was -- or he appeared, if not  
5 already dead, then mortally wounded. I've seen people  
6 with a similar appearance as this man had before and  
7 it's always ended badly, and he sort of surprised me  
8 really by lifting his head up and asking for help and  
9 then collapsing backwards again.

10 Q. To be clear, when this happened, were you on board the  
11 bus or were you on the road?

12 A. No, I was not.

13 Q. You were on the road?

14 A. I was on the footway to the nearside of the bus looking  
15 across the back of the bus.

16 Q. Could I ask you to have a look at the screen? Could we  
17 look at [INQ10285-7], please? Another plan of the bus.  
18 The nearside of the bus is along the bottom of the page.  
19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So from what you were saying, you were standing on the  
22 pavement on the nearside there?

23 A. Towards the rear of it. I had -- the casualty that you  
24 indicate as Sam Ly to my left.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. So I was roughly in line with the space you see in front  
2 of the back row of seats.

3 Q. Yes. One of the telling descriptions that you make of  
4 this particular casualty is that he had a beard.

5 A. Yes, he did.

6 Q. The only casualty of whom we are aware who did have  
7 a beard was a gentleman called William Wise, and we see  
8 that he is marked sitting on the far offside of the bus  
9 on that rear bench of seats.

10 A. That would be about right, yes.

11 Q. He's the man whom you describe as having that -- what  
12 you described as a look about him of being someone who  
13 was either dead or almost dead?

14 A. Absolutely moribund, it was horrible.

15 Q. Can you give us a little bit more information about what  
16 you mean by that?

17 A. He was kind of a yellowy-grey pallor. It really is  
18 difficult to describe, but it's almost looking like  
19 a corpse already. Clearly very badly injured.

20 Q. Was your immediate impression that perhaps he was, in  
21 fact, already dead?

22 A. Before he moved, yes, absolutely.

23 Q. But then he did move and he spoke to you?

24 A. Just those words.

25 Q. Did you speak to him?

1 A. I think I said something like, "I'll get someone to you  
2 as soon as I can", and at that point I was already  
3 calling more units in and directing more people on to  
4 the bus to collect people, so I don't think it was very  
5 long at all before someone got to him.

6 Q. Did you see him again during the time that you were at  
7 the scene?

8 A. No.

9 Q. I'd like to ask you now, Inspector, about one other  
10 matter that you mention in your statement and that  
11 concerns the taxi that you may have seen in some of the  
12 photographs we've been using in evidence and your  
13 recollection of seeing it move.

14 A. Most certainly.

15 Q. Can I ask that we get a photograph up on screen, please,  
16 at INQ10345-1 [not for publication]? This is the photo we've seen before.

17 A. Yes, I must correct myself earlier. I thought that was  
18 when I was leaving, because the DPG motorcycles that you  
19 see stationary turned up at where I am at the same time,  
20 but because the taxi had lurched forward into the car in  
21 front, it's clearly not in contact there, I would say  
22 that has got to be the very moment that I arrived and  
23 the DPG motorbikes parked nearer to the bus than I did,  
24 which would probably fit it to around 2 or 3 minutes  
25 before 10.

1 Q. Thank you for that. As you say, the taxi, if we can  
2 focus on that for a moment, at that moment in time, the  
3 image is obscured, but what you see there is a casualty,  
4 a female casualty, who had been blown off the top of the  
5 bus literally under the taxi, just in front of the  
6 offside rear wheel of the taxi, and she's being attended  
7 to by some people.

8 We know that what happened shortly after that was  
9 that she was moved from that position and taken away to  
10 be treated. We may hear some evidence that, in order to  
11 do that, the taxi may have itself been moved a little  
12 backwards to enable her to be moved from underneath the  
13 wheel where she was, but we'll hear more evidence about  
14 that in due course.

15 As you said, what you saw must have been after  
16 this --

17 A. Absolutely.

18 Q. -- because she wasn't still there at that point.

19 A. It was well after I'd been relieved by Mr Summers, so  
20 I would say definitely after 10.15, probably after 10.20  
21 that I saw it move.

22 Q. I see. Can you tell us what you saw?

23 A. Basically, the taxi just lurched forward, not very fast,  
24 and came to a halt and in contact with the car in front.

25 Q. Where were you when you saw this?

1 A. I was walking back to the bike. I think I was on the  
2 footway that you can see to the right of the picture.  
3 Q. By the park in the middle of the square?  
4 A. Yes, I think so. I was very close to it because, if I'd  
5 have walked past it I obviously wouldn't have noticed,  
6 but ...  
7 Q. Yes. Could we perhaps just have a look at a different  
8 photograph, [INQ10341-1]?  
9 You see this is a different aspect.  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. The pavement you've described is over to the right of  
12 this picture. We think that the -- this is rather later  
13 in the day, and so the movement in the taxi that you've  
14 described has probably now taken place.  
15 A. The taxi is, I think, in contact with the Honda.  
16 Q. You describe in your statement the taxi moving forward  
17 and coming into contact with the silver car. There are,  
18 of course, two silver cars. There's the Honda, the 4x4  
19 Honda that was moving out of this road, and another  
20 smaller silver vehicle?  
21 A. I think I referred to it as a people carrier, which  
22 would make it the Honda.  
23 Q. You did.  
24 A. The other one I think is a Golf. I don't think I'd  
25 mistake that for a people carrier.

1 Q. So perhaps using this photograph, can you describe to us  
2 what you saw as you were walking close to the taxi?

3 A. It basically lurched forward about a metre, maybe two,  
4 slow speed, no engine revolutions involved and then was  
5 stopped by the car that it hit.

6 Q. What did you do?

7 A. I initially thought to turn the ignition off on the taxi  
8 from the nearside of the vehicle because it was on the  
9 side away from the explosion debris and potential  
10 forensics, so I tried to get in the nearside but  
11 couldn't, and I ended up having to reach in through the  
12 driver's window to turn the ignition off.

13 Q. So it's obvious from what you're saying here that the  
14 engine was running.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Were you able to speculate at the time or did you think  
17 about what had caused the taxi to move forward? I'm  
18 inferring from what you say that there was no one inside  
19 the taxi at the time.

20 A. There was no one inside it. I assumed that it had been  
21 left with the engine running in gear as an automatic,  
22 perhaps with the handbrake on and, either over the  
23 course of time, or maybe there was something under one  
24 of the wheels that had wedged it for a while, but  
25 automatic transmissions have transmission creep, they

1 kind of creep forwards slowly when your foot's not on  
2 the brake, so there's always that little bit of drive  
3 and something had obviously been holding it and at some  
4 stage the transmission creep had overcome it and --

5 Q. It moved forward?

6 A. Accelerated slowly forward.

7 Q. It would have carried on, but it was stopped by the car  
8 that it hit?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. You describe then approaching it from the nearside, the  
11 side we're looking at, being unable to get in that way,  
12 and then going round to the other side.

13 Did you see anything at the bottom of the taxi or  
14 underneath the taxi when you did that?

15 A. No, I would be very surprised if there was anything  
16 under it. Certainly, when it went forward, it appeared  
17 to go forward flatly, as if it hadn't run over anything.

18 Obviously, I'd tried to get in all four doors and  
19 I couldn't go round the front of the vehicle because of  
20 the way the Honda is positioned, so I went round the  
21 back.

22 The only thing that struck me was there were  
23 a number of small pieces of flesh adhering to the  
24 offside of the cab that had clearly come from the  
25 explosion, but I don't recall anything human sized.

1 Q. We do have evidence, Inspector, that at least at a later  
2 time, and quite possibly at the time you were there,  
3 there was, in fact, a body underneath the taxi, the body  
4 of Giles Hart.

5 Do you think it's possible that it was there but,  
6 because your mind was focused on trying to switch the  
7 engine off, you missed it?

8 A. It's always possible. I certainly don't recall stepping  
9 on or over anything that would have drawn my attention  
10 to it. At the stage when I left, I'd handed over and  
11 I was satisfied that each living casualty was being  
12 attended to, so I would be very surprised if that was  
13 the case, but I certainly could not by any means rule it  
14 out either.

15 Q. Looking at this photo, doing the best you can five years  
16 later, does this photograph show where you think the  
17 taxi was at the time you turned the ignition off?

18 A. Yes, it does.

19 Q. From what you say, both because you'd turned the  
20 ignition off and because, by that stage, the taxi was  
21 resting against the silver car, it wouldn't have moved  
22 any more after you left?

23 A. I would not have thought so. I did leave the ignition  
24 keys in it. I don't know if anyone felt it necessary to  
25 move it, but certainly I don't think it would have done

1 so under its own steam.

2 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Inspector. Those  
3 are all the questions that I have for you.

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Gallagher?

5 Questions by MS GALLAGHER

6 MS GALLAGHER: Inspector, you were asked about two  
7 casualties you saw outside the bus before you described  
8 going on to the bus. Now, I appreciate at that stage  
9 you were concentrating on the bigger picture, so you're  
10 not going to be able to give us any further information  
11 about the appearance or gender and so on, but I'm hoping  
12 you can assist us a little more with location.

13 Could we have INQ10345 [not for publication] on the screen, please?

14 Could we start with what you've described as  
15 a partially eviscerated torso, Inspector? Do you recall  
16 where that torso was?

17 A. I recall it being up against railings and on the  
18 left-hand footway as we look.

19 Q. Can you help us with reference -- it's on the left. We  
20 can see two sets of railings down towards the bottom  
21 left corner of the picture, and then a little further  
22 up.

23 A. I'm at a loss to say where.

24 Q. Would this assist you, Inspector? You did make  
25 reference to the location in your statement. I can

1 certainly tell that you and see if this assists.

2 What you said in your statement was that it was  
3 a body on the east footway of Upper Woburn Place outside  
4 the BMA courtyard entrance, and the BMA courtyard  
5 entrance is underneath the NatWest sign.

6 A. There is a very blurred, brown artefact on this  
7 photograph on the left-hand border just under the  
8 middle. That would be the closest I can put it.

9 Q. That relates to what I was next going to ask you because  
10 you haven't said it in evidence today, but in your  
11 statement you did refer to it being partially covered up  
12 and you can see there that there is a blue blanket  
13 underneath the NatWest sign?

14 A. I believe that would be it, yes.

15 Q. With the blue blanket, thank you.

16 Now, the other body which you referred to in the  
17 area -- the apparently dead body with one foot almost  
18 amputated -- you've told us you thought that was on the  
19 roadway behind the bus, north of the back of the bus.

20 Can you assist us any further with location?

21 A. Very difficult to say, but it would be one of the two  
22 that I think you see, there's a Jaguar motor vehicle  
23 facing south, immediately in front of that is someone in  
24 a high-vis crouching down.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I think it most likely to be there, but if not, it could  
2 be one either side.

3 Q. Certainly on the roadway rather than the pavement?

4 A. That's my recollection, yes.

5 Q. So in accordance with your statement, that particular  
6 person, you could see them, they weren't covered up,  
7 unlike the torso which you describe in your statement as  
8 being covered?

9 A. That's my recollection, yes.

10 Q. That would be in keeping --

11 A. I must stress that I was merely counting bodies, I was  
12 not trying to get involved in individuals at all.

13 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you very much, Inspector, I've nothing  
14 further.

15 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

16 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

17 MR SAUNDERS: Inspector, can I, following on from that, ask  
18 you about this passage in your statement? My Lady, it's  
19 page 2 of Inspector Perry's statement, the bottom  
20 paragraph.

21 You observed, I think, Inspector, a number of people  
22 who were on the bus and were aware of three that were on  
23 the lower floor, the lower deck of the bus. Two of the  
24 three, to you, appeared dead. The third, mortally  
25 wounded. We have already heard evidence -- I think you

1 may have heard it this morning yourself, Inspector -- as  
2 to the number of bodies in that area. It's on the  
3 nearside of the bus.

4 A. I can probably help out. The one that I refer to as  
5 mortally wounded I believe to be Sam Ly.

6 Q. Thank you very much, because in the body of this  
7 paragraph you go on to say that there's a gentleman and  
8 a lady who were cradling that head, and from that  
9 photograph we've just seen, and her Ladyship heard  
10 evidence earlier, there was a gentleman who was there,  
11 but it's clearly Sam Ly rather than the other two?

12 A. Yes, he was Oriental in appearance and I did see his  
13 face for a while while I was speaking to the two people  
14 cradling his head and making sure they were happy to  
15 stay there, which they were, and I recognised him from  
16 a BBC article on the deceased.

17 Q. Thank you. That fits, doesn't it, with the evidence  
18 you've just given her Ladyship: namely, as far as you  
19 were concerned, you weren't treating or attending to  
20 anyone, but you had satisfied yourself there was  
21 somebody with those who appeared to be alive?

22 A. By the time I'd left, I was satisfied that every living  
23 casualty had had attention, yes.

24 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much, Inspector.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff?

1 Questions by MS SHEFF

2 MS SHEFF: Inspector, inside that bus at the rear there was  
3 a woman of around 39 years of age dressed completely in  
4 black. She was in the centre of the rear of that bus.  
5 That was where she was found. Was there anybody that  
6 you saw fitting that description showing any signs of  
7 life?

8 A. Not that I recall, ma'am.

9 Q. Turning to the issue concerning the taxi, can we have  
10 a look, first of all, at the photograph INQ10345-1 [not for publication]?  
11 That shows the scene when you arrived?

12 A. I believe so, yes.

13 Q. As Mr O'Connor has already asked you, you can see at  
14 that time there was a space between the taxi and the car  
15 in front, the car in front being the smaller, silver  
16 car, it looks like a Volkswagen Golf or some vehicle of  
17 that description.

18 A. Yes, and there was, afterwards, a space there as well,  
19 because obviously it was the Honda, I think, between the  
20 two of them that stopped it when it moved forwards, so  
21 I do not believe the taxi ended up in contact with the  
22 Golf.

23 Q. Yes. Now at that time, as we can see, there is somebody  
24 being treated underneath the vehicle, the taxi. That is  
25 Emma Plunkett. She's been pixelated out, but you can

1 see there's somebody who's being bent over and given  
2 some medical assistance. Were you aware of her presence  
3 there when you arrived?

4 A. Specifically or individually, no. Obviously you can see  
5 at the point when she's there my motorbike is in the  
6 background of the picture and, as I said, I didn't  
7 concentrate on individual casualties. I basically tried  
8 to take the Silver role at that time.

9 Q. When the taxi moved, she'd been moved by that stage as  
10 well, hadn't she, or at least there wasn't any body  
11 under the taxi when you went to try to remove the keys,  
12 was there?

13 A. I don't believe there's any way I could have walked past  
14 a person in that position at that time, no.

15 Q. That's what I wanted to ask you, because we know that  
16 Giles Hart was recovered from underneath the two  
17 nearside wheels -- sorry, the two offside wheels of the  
18 taxi; in other words, on the driver's side of the  
19 vehicle, and when he was found, his head was underneath  
20 the taxi and his body was coming out from the taxi into  
21 the main road.

22 Did you not see the body there at that time when you  
23 went to the driver's side to try to remove the keys?

24 A. No, and I'm surprised, given the circumstances you  
25 state, I can't see any of it there either.

1 Q. No, it wouldn't have been on this picture, because this  
2 is before the taxi moved. If we have a look at  
3 [INQ10341-1], this is the opposite side of the vehicle to  
4 where you say you reached in to try and stop the vehicle  
5 from moving any further, and also the opposite side from  
6 where the body was found. But you say that the taxi  
7 wouldn't have been in a position to move any further  
8 after you had tried to disable it and after it had  
9 effectively lost its momentum by hitting the silver  
10 people carrier.

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. So that was its final resting position, then, was it?

13 A. As far as I'm aware, yes.

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. But from the previous picture there you can see the  
16 front of the cab, behind the Golf, with very little  
17 room. I'm not sure if Mr Hart was a slight man, but  
18 you'd expect to perhaps see something. I'm surprised.

19 Q. Yes, because if we have a look at the plan showing where  
20 the bodies were found, you can see this shows the  
21 position before the taxi moved. Now, can you see  
22 Giles Hart's position marked on that plan there?

23 A. I presume the taxi is the light green vehicle?

24 Q. That's right. Your description of its momentum is that  
25 it moved forward and then contact was made with the

1 vehicle which is at an angle going into Tavistock Square  
2 northwards.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Which part of the taxi made contact with that vehicle?

5 A. I really don't remember for sure, but I'm fairly certain  
6 it was a minor contact. I think it was corner to  
7 corner.

8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Front nearside of the taxi; front  
9 offside of the Honda?

10 A. Yes, my Lady.

11 MS SHEFF: Yes, thank you. So it looks as if that taxi must  
12 have, in its momentum, moved forwards and either over or  
13 around the body of Mr Hart?

14 A. I really have no idea how --

15 Q. But you weren't aware of that?

16 A. No. I cannot -- obviously, it's a fairly overwhelming  
17 scene, but I cannot believe that I would have missed  
18 a body under it when I was leaning through the window  
19 and turning the ignition off.

20 Q. You're certain that you approached from the driver's  
21 side of the vehicle, not on the opposite side reaching  
22 through where you might have missed the body?

23 A. Absolutely, because I wanted to go in through the  
24 nearside, as there weren't bits of flesh and other  
25 debris on it, and I couldn't get in through the nearside

1 so I had to go in through the offside.

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff, I'm sorry to interrupt you.

3 Can you remind me where the evidence comes from that

4 says Mr Hart's body was under the taxi?

5 MS SHEFF: There are photographs which indicate that.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It's photographs?

7 MS SHEFF: Yes, my Lady, there are.

8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It's just that, looking at this plan,

9 that doesn't show it.

10 MS SHEFF: It doesn't, my Lady, but I have been shown

11 photographs on more than one occasion which indicate

12 that that was the final resting position.

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It's strange, but I don't think we

14 can find the answer.

15 MS SHEFF: I don't think we can take that any further, no.

16 I want to turn to another topic, please,

17 Inspector Perry. That's the order that you gave

18 concerning the buses.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. We've seen the CAD message that shows that, at 09.51,

21 you came over the radio wave saying, "This explosion is

22 on the bus, speak to LTB and tell them to stop all buses

23 from into Central London."

24 A. That would be "from and to".

25 Q. I'm sorry?

1 A. That would be "from and to Central London".

2 Q. Oh, it says actually "from into", but it's -- it should

3 be "from and to". Thank you. It's 09.51. There we can

4 see it says "from into", but you actually said "from and

5 to", did you, or you meant to say that?

6 A. I'm talking into a boom mic inside my helmet, and it's

7 being interpreted by someone in a control room miles

8 away, so there's always some slight discrepancies

9 between what you say and what's written.

10 Q. Of course. To whom was that order directed?

11 A. The controller on my radio channel which is in a shared

12 control room with LTB.

13 Q. It's a shared control room with LTB. Who were you

14 expecting would go carry out that order?

15 A. The chap I gave it to.

16 Q. Being the --

17 A. The controller.

18 Q. The person taking the message?

19 A. Centrecom is a big control room, a big control facility,

20 and it's more or less split down the middle. Half of it

21 is Metropolitan Police, the other half is

22 London Transport, buses and overground. It would have

23 been a very simple thing for me to pass that message to

24 Metrocom and then to directly speak to Centrecom and ask

25 them to carry that out.

1 Q. So that was your purpose in passing through the message  
2 through your control system that, because it was  
3 a shared system, it would get directly through to the  
4 London buses and the controller there?

5 A. It was merely a fortuitous circumstance that we share  
6 the same control room. I would have given the same  
7 direction, given the circumstances, anyway, it's just  
8 the lines of communication are easier because they're in  
9 the same room.

10 Q. Yes. Was that a unilateral decision that you took on  
11 surveying the scene?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you --

14 A. It was actually before I surveyed the scene. It was as  
15 soon as I found out that a bus had been involved in the  
16 explosion.

17 Q. In what circumstances would a Met police officer be  
18 expected to take this action?

19 A. I merely made a decision on the spur of the moment.  
20 I felt it was justified under the circumstances.  
21 I couldn't possibly answer for whether there's any  
22 protocol for it.

23 Q. That's what I was going to ask. Is there any training  
24 or any circumstances in which you're told to take such  
25 an action to cancel a public transport service?

1 A. I've done the standard training packages for  
2 Metropolitan Police inspectors, all of whom are trained  
3 in major incidents and terrorist incidents, and I've  
4 done -- I was lucky enough to go on a seminar that was  
5 opened by Sir David Veness on coordinating simultaneous  
6 terrorist attacks, and it just seemed to me the right  
7 thing to do to suspend buses until we'd established that  
8 there weren't any more bombs on any more buses, rather  
9 than have another explosion on a bus full of people.  
10 I appreciate some people would agree with that  
11 decision and some wouldn't, but it's a decision I made  
12 at the time.

13 Q. Arising out of training that you'd been given?

14 A. It just seemed to be logical to me. We'd had a number  
15 of incidents on Tube trains. The focus then obviously  
16 shifted to buses and I was not to know whether there  
17 were to be any more explosions on buses. I had no  
18 specific grounds to believe that there would be another  
19 explosion on a bus, but it just seemed a logical  
20 precaution to take.

21 Q. Did it occur to you to take this action once you'd heard  
22 about the three explosions on the Tube on the basis that  
23 there might be a danger to the public transport system  
24 as a whole?

25 A. To be honest, I think that would have been a leap too

1 far. Certainly I would have expected the Tube system to  
2 be closed down at that point, and I believe it was, but  
3 in terms of predicting what was going to happen next,  
4 there was nothing to suggest that there were going to be  
5 any more explosions at all, because the whole point of  
6 a coordinated simultaneous attack is that it's  
7 simultaneous, it's designed to overwhelm the emergency  
8 services and we had, if you like, suffered the  
9 coordinated simultaneous attack already and I was  
10 working at that time on that principle.

11 As soon as there was another explosion, nearly an  
12 hour after the first attack, I then worked on the  
13 assumption that there could be more. In the first  
14 instance, we'd had a coordinated simultaneous terrorist  
15 attack on the Tube network, and there was no suggestion  
16 that there would be any further explosions.

17 Q. So there was no specific intelligence or information as  
18 such that there might be any further danger to the  
19 buses, but I think, as you said earlier, you were acting  
20 out of an abundance of caution and, in order to protect  
21 the danger of other casualties, you were prepared to  
22 inconvenience, say, 10,000 bus passengers?

23 A. At the point when there had been the first explosion on  
24 the bus, yes, absolutely.

25 Q. That was the sort of balancing act that you were having

1 to do in your mind and that was the decision that you  
2 took?

3 A. Yes. It had not occurred to me that the bus network  
4 would be under threat until the first bus explosion, or  
5 the only bus explosion, as we know now, simply because,  
6 if you look at the pattern of coordinated simultaneous  
7 attacks, they're all at the same time, and we'd had  
8 that.

9 My understanding is that the bus bombing should have  
10 been at the same time as the other ones on another Tube  
11 line and, for whatever reason, it wasn't, but we had  
12 certainly no suggestion of that. Up until the point of  
13 the bus going up, I'd expected the attacks had already  
14 happened and for us to be responding to that multiseated  
15 attack, and it would be fair to say that the bus  
16 explosion came as a surprise. As soon as that happened,  
17 I reacted to it, but there was certainly nothing to  
18 suggest that I should have shut the bus network down  
19 before the bus explosion happened and, frankly, given  
20 the discussions necessary to get it shut down after the  
21 first explosion, I don't think I would have been  
22 successful, even if I had tried to.

23 Q. You say it was a coordinated attack. Is that just  
24 something you know now in hindsight, just as you've said  
25 now that you know that the other bombs should have gone

1 off on the Tube at the time?

2 A. We knew nothing. We knew nothing. I had my suspicions,  
3 and I believe my suspicions were logical and  
4 justifiable, and that's why, at 9.38, I started  
5 brigading our resources and, as soon as the second  
6 explosion happened, I switched to evacuating other  
7 buses. But I was trying to make decisions in the public  
8 interest based on the information that I had, but there  
9 was very little concrete evidence at that -- or  
10 information at that time, because it was an  
11 unprecedented incident, it was still very much a dynamic  
12 incident, it was still changing every minute, and you  
13 couldn't be sure of anything.

14 Q. So it was your hunch that led you to believe it was  
15 a coordinated attack. There was no information you were  
16 being given that there was any connection between this  
17 bomb and the Tubes' bomb?

18 A. It was a hunch coupled with a moderate disbelief that  
19 a power surge could cause so many problems in so many  
20 locations. It just seemed entirely logical to me.

21 Q. Did you share your hunch with any other senior officers  
22 that this was part of a whole coordinated terrorist  
23 attack?

24 A. That's exactly what I put up on the radio when I was  
25 brigading resources. My radio channel works to

1 a control room. Obviously, as we've discussed, I was  
2 sat on a motorcycle in Russell Square at the time, so  
3 I did ask for our senior management team to be made  
4 aware, but even then, there aren't sort of -- I'm not  
5 entirely sure what you're getting at. I was, to all  
6 intents and purposes, the senior officer on that radio  
7 channel at the time. Obviously, the decisions I was  
8 making needed to be flagged further up the food chain,  
9 but I would be very surprised if anyone more senior than  
10 me was on the radio at that time, 9.00 in the morning,  
11 on our open channel. I'm not entirely sure where you  
12 are getting at. I would be much happier if someone  
13 higher up the food chain was making the decisions, but  
14 at the time it was me.

15 Q. There's certainly no criticism at all of you, Inspector,  
16 only we're trying to discover whether your hunches were  
17 passed on more widely so that other officers could act  
18 upon it in their own areas of -- in their own roles.

19 A. They were transmitted on an open radio channel to my  
20 control room. I'm not sure what else I could have done.

21 Q. Because, as you said, you might not have otherwise taken  
22 those decisions that you took, had there been other  
23 senior officers available, but you were the one there  
24 and, therefore, you took the decisions?

25 A. Such is the nature of a discipline service.

1 Q. Who would normally be expected to take the decision, for  
2 example, to close down the buses?

3 A. I have no idea if there's even a protocol on it.

4 Q. So you weren't aware of any policy guidelines on that  
5 procedure?

6 A. No, not at all.

7 Q. Did you close them down for a set period of time?

8 A. My instructions were basically that I wanted all buses  
9 to just stop where they were, all passengers to get out,  
10 and then for the driver to make sure there's no parcels  
11 left behind, and then return to their garages.

12 Q. So they were to drop the passengers off first and then  
13 go back to their garages once they'd checked for any  
14 suspicious packages?

15 A. Yes. Obviously leaving them on the bus would defeat the  
16 object.

17 Q. Yes. What area were you covering? You say Central  
18 London.

19 A. I said Central London, yes.

20 Q. Is there a set map of Central London that is known to  
21 the bus service?

22 A. To us at the time, bearing in mind I was talking to the  
23 control room, the Central London area for traffic was  
24 Islington, Camden, Westminster and basically bordering  
25 the City of London.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Did it equate to the congestion  
2 charge zone roughly?  
3 A. And then just a little bit, ma'am, yes.  
4 MS SHEFF: Did you get any feedback on your direction to  
5 close down the buses? Do you know whether it was acted  
6 upon?  
7 A. Yes, it was.  
8 Q. Do you know by whom?  
9 A. Well, all of them. It was passed from my control room  
10 to Centrecom, which is in the same room, and they did  
11 what I asked.  
12 Q. Did anybody speak to you about it, anybody come back to  
13 you and ask for any further directions?  
14 A. We had a debriefing -- at 10.15, I'd handed the scene  
15 over and it was no longer my decision to make. We had  
16 a debriefing afterwards and there was someone from LTB  
17 who was critical of the decision and he's welcome to his  
18 opinion.  
19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I won't ask you to have a discussion  
20 with him, Mr Perry.  
21 A. Thank you, ma'am.  
22 MS SHEFF: But presumably, it had already been put into  
23 effect by that time in any event, had it?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. You said you were punching above your weight, but

1 nobody, at the time that you put the order out, told you  
2 you had no authority to do so, did they?

3 A. The level of required authority was questioned, and  
4 rightly so, in my opinion, by the control room. Again,  
5 you know, it was a totally unprecedented incident, there  
6 weren't protocols to deal with that specific set of  
7 circumstances, we have generic plans that we work to,  
8 and it is my job to adapt them to the specific  
9 circumstances we have.

10 Q. Yes, thank you.

11 A. They did ask whether or not I had sufficient authority.  
12 I'm not totally sure what I said, but I think I invited  
13 them to find someone to overrule me.

14 Q. Effectively, you were acting on your initiative in the  
15 interests of saving lives and in accordance with your  
16 training and your experience?

17 A. That's what I felt I was doing, yes.

18 MS SHEFF: Thank you very much, Inspector.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions to Mr Perry?  
20 Mr Hill?

21 Questions by MR HILL

22 MR HILL: Just to place that last run of questions into  
23 context, Inspector, doing the best, as you did, it was  
24 never the case, was it, that you were able to relay any  
25 factual information in relation to any of the three

1 Underground explosions to your control room or any else?

2 A. Throughout, I had no knowledge or no confirmation that  
3 it was Underground explosions. Clearly I felt that it  
4 was, and obviously, when the bus exploded, it became  
5 apparent to most people that it was a sequence of  
6 explosions.

7 Q. Yes. The scope of response and the requirements of  
8 response to the Underground explosions were not at any  
9 stage your remit, were they?

10 A. Nothing whatsoever to do with me at all, sir.

11 Q. What was your remit, to use my own word, was your  
12 physical difficulty that you had in getting from A to B  
13 as you travelled from the Euston garage heading south,  
14 trying to respond to the earlier incidents and before  
15 the bus explosion?

16 A. Up until the bus explosion, ma'am, I was working in my  
17 Bronze traffic role. If I had been able to get to  
18 Aldgate, I would have been Bronze traffic there and  
19 dealt with the traffic cordon and traffic management  
20 matters around that particular major incident. It was  
21 merely circumstances that put me in the other role.

22 Q. All right. Apart from circumstances, the first occasion  
23 when you were able to relay factual information as to  
24 what was going on at the scene was after the explosion  
25 on the bus when, for example -- and we saw it earlier

1 today -- you relayed messages concerning what was  
2 suspected to be a secondary device, the microwave oven?

3 A. That's correct. From about 10.00 am onwards, ma'am.

4 Q. Given that you were thwarted in an effort to make it to  
5 Aldgate, your command role, is this right, was limited  
6 to a 20-minute period perhaps from 9.55 to 10.15, taking  
7 over from Inspector Dermody, and then handing over to  
8 Superintendent Summers respectively?

9 A. That is absolutely correct, ma'am.

10 Q. I've no questions to ask you about Mr Giles Hart,  
11 deceased. Can I just, while you're there, take the  
12 opportunity to refresh our memory from, for my Lady's  
13 note, a document, which I'm not going to ask is called  
14 up on to screen, but it's INQ02944. It's the statement  
15 of DC Michael Smith, a Metropolitan police officer, who  
16 indicates that he recovered and took the first step in  
17 the recovery of the lifeless body of a victim, who must  
18 be Mr Hart, and his description for you to hear,  
19 Inspector, was that Mr Hart's body was laying next to  
20 and slightly underneath the offside of the vehicle on  
21 the ground.

22 By "the vehicle", that is taken to mean the taxi.

23 It's not suggested, in fact, that the body of Mr Hart  
24 was lying, as it were, fully underneath the vehicle, but  
25 was beside and perhaps very partially underneath the

1 vehicle.

2 A. That would be much more likely to fit with the facts,  
3 ma'am. There were a number of bodies still there at  
4 that time and, as I've said, I was merely concentrating  
5 on there being a body there or not. I was not getting  
6 involved in individual people.

7 Q. The movement of the taxi that you observed due to  
8 transmission creep, or whatever it was, was a movement  
9 of a very few feet, would that be accurate?

10 A. Absolutely. One, maybe two metres at most.

11 Q. Which you observed, and there's no suggestion, is there,  
12 that the vehicle moved in such a way that it appeared to  
13 you that it had gone over anything in the road?

14 A. That's correct, no.

15 MR HILL: Thank you.

16 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for  
17 Inspector Perry?

18 Thank you very much, Inspector Perry. Those who  
19 survived the explosion on the bus to my mind were very  
20 fortunate to have your colleague in the British  
21 Transport Police and then you come along, immediately  
22 realising how serious the incidents were, whether you're  
23 using hunch, judgment, whatever it was, you obviously  
24 responded immediately and you swung into action,  
25 whatever the risk to yourself. So thank you for what

1 you did.

2 A. Thank you, ma'am.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr O'Connor?

4 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: That may be a convenient moment for

5 a short break.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, how much more do we have this

7 afternoon?

8 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: We have two more witnesses, my Lady.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It's just that I need to finish at

10 4.15, so should we take a shorter break?

11 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, in a sense, if the

12 transcribers need a short break, then --

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: A shorter break.

14 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Yes. Perhaps only five minutes?

15 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

16 (3.17 pm)

17 (A short break)

18 (3.25 pm)

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr O'Connor?

20 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, may I invite you to call

21 Constable Ashley Walker.

22 PC ASHLEY MATTHEW WALKER (sworn)

23 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

24 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please?

25 A. My name's Ashley Matthew Walker.

1 Q. Constable, in July 2005, you were, I think,  
2 a probationary constable with the Metropolitan Police  
3 Service?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. You were based at Holborn police station?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 Q. In July 2005, how long had you been on operational  
8 duties for?

9 A. Under two years. On the borough of Camden, sort of less  
10 than six months.

11 Q. I see. On that morning, I think it's right to say that  
12 you found yourself ultimately on traffic duty on the  
13 Euston Road, manning the cordons around the King's Cross  
14 incident. Is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. At the time that the bomb exploded in Tavistock Square,  
17 you had actually left Euston Road and you were walking  
18 down Upper Woburn Place towards Tavistock Square itself,  
19 is that right?

20 A. That's correct as well, yes.

21 Q. Why were you doing that, Constable?

22 A. Initially, I was helping out on the cordons on  
23 Euston Road, but that was well-manned by other police  
24 officers, and traffic had come to a standstill, there  
25 was heavy pedestrian traffic in the road, not moving, so

1 we started to walk towards Upper Woburn Place to  
2 redirect pedestrians and other traffic.  
3 Q. You say "we". Were you in company with another -- or  
4 more than one police officer?  
5 A. By my team and my colleague.  
6 Q. I see. Who was that?  
7 A. PC Chris Mitchell.  
8 Q. I see. Well, we'll hear from him, we hope, later this  
9 afternoon.  
10 Did you actually see the bus explode?  
11 A. I did, yes.  
12 Q. Can you describe what you saw for us?  
13 A. Initially, I heard the sound of the sort of large,  
14 echoing, metallic thud, the explosion in the air. Then  
15 obviously, looking up to where the sound came from,  
16 I saw this sort of metal sheet roof detached from the  
17 bus some distance in the air already, and then obviously  
18 the aftermath of people injured.  
19 Q. Yes, yes. Roughly speaking, how far from the bus were  
20 you when the explosion took place?  
21 A. About just over -- about 150 metres behind the bus.  
22 Q. How did you react when the explosion happened?  
23 A. Shocked.  
24 Q. Did you move towards the bus at that point?  
25 A. I did, yes.

1 Q. Walking or running?

2 A. Initially, on seeing the roof in the air, I initially  
3 started walking, then I've obviously seen people towards  
4 me, members of the public, running away from the bus,  
5 I started seeing their sort of faces, the shock, the  
6 horror from their faces, running away, I then, from  
7 walking, started jogging, then running towards the bus.

8 Q. You were, I assume, in uniform.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Were you wearing a sort of black uniform or did you have  
11 a high visibility jacket on?

12 A. I had a bright yellow high visibility jacket on.

13 Q. You were running towards the bus from the rear of the  
14 bus.

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 Q. You must have been running there at around the same time  
17 as we've heard Inspector Dermody and the constables who  
18 were with him were approaching from the other side. Did  
19 you see them at any point?

20 A. No, I didn't, no. My whole involvement dealt with the  
21 rear of the bus, the rear casualties and to the side of  
22 the bus near to the pavement.

23 Q. They, of course, were not in uniform, so that may be  
24 another reason why they didn't come on to your radar, as  
25 it were.

1 You've described running towards the bus, then. Is  
2 it right that you actually boarded the bus when you got  
3 there?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. Did you also use those middle doors rather than the  
6 driver's door?

7 A. Yes, I entered via the back, middle, double doors.

8 Q. When you got on, were there still passengers on the  
9 lower deck?

10 A. There were still passengers on the lower deck. I sort  
11 of got on and squeezed on to the left-hand side of the  
12 doors and sort of indicated for passengers to evacuate  
13 the lower deck of the bus.

14 Q. Had the passengers already started getting off by the  
15 time you got there?

16 A. Yes, while I was entering the bus, there were still  
17 passengers coming out, so I was sort of pushed to one  
18 side. As I entered on to the bus, I was sort of pushed  
19 to the left-hand side in the bus while casualties and  
20 people who were on the bus found their way out.

21 Q. You have described being pushed to the left side, would  
22 that be towards where the driver would have been  
23 sitting?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. Was he still there in fact or had he got off?

1 A. I don't recall seeing him at the time I got there.

2 Q. We've heard that the driver's door, or -- sorry, I mean  
3 the door on the nearside of the bus opposite the  
4 driver's compartment, we've heard from other witnesses  
5 that that door was damaged or couldn't open. Do you  
6 have any memory about that?

7 A. I don't, no.

8 Q. Was anyone using it to get off the bus or was it closed?

9 A. People were making their way off the bus.

10 Q. Do you remember whether they were all using those two  
11 double doors or whether some of them were using the  
12 single door towards the front as well?

13 A. My memory is mainly the two double doors at our end,  
14 because I was trying to make room for the passengers to  
15 get off the bus.

16 Q. We can imagine you then standing there while the  
17 passengers were leaving.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were passengers also coming down the stairs from the top  
20 deck, did you notice?

21 A. Yes, that's correct, passengers and sort of injured  
22 people were still making their way off the top deck of  
23 the bus.

24 Q. Did there come a time when the flow of people slowed  
25 down and you were able to get a sense of what was around

1 you on the lower deck?

2 A. Once I saw the sort of walking injured had exited the  
3 lower deck, there was a trickle flow of obviously still  
4 injured people off the top deck being helped out from  
5 people that were assisting upstairs or people that had  
6 gone up the staircase to help members of the public,  
7 still coming down the staircase. So just assisting the  
8 sort of walking injured off the bus.

9 I then sort of, by going sort of off the bus with  
10 the injured people, going back on to the bus, that's  
11 when I had a look round on the bottom deck and saw  
12 possibly a secondary device.

13 Q. The famous box with the microwave oven in?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. I'm going to ask you about that in a minute. Before  
16 I do, was this now at a time when the lower deck was  
17 essentially clear of the walking wounded, as it were?

18 A. Yes, from the bottom deck, yes, it was -- was near  
19 enough clear.

20 Q. Were you able to see, in fact, anyone left on the bottom  
21 deck, anyone alive or dead?

22 A. No one alive on the bottom deck.

23 Q. Were you able to see any casualties, anyone who you  
24 thought was dead?

25 A. I'll be honest, I sort of scanned the area and I was

1 looking for alive casualties to help, because there was  
2 still a flow of injured making their way slowly down the  
3 staircase. So I wasn't drawn to --

4 Q. We know, of course, that there was a jumble of wreckage  
5 towards the rear of the bus.

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. We know now that there were people, quite probably, both  
8 alive and dead, somewhere in that wreckage. But is your  
9 evidence that you can't help us really with that, at  
10 least as far as what you could see from inside the bus?

11 A. From inside the bus, I don't recall any -- anyone sort  
12 of alive on the bottom deck sort of making noises or --

13 Q. I'm sorry to press you on this, but did you see anyone  
14 whom you thought was dead from your position inside the  
15 lower deck of the bus?

16 A. I can't recall a person. There were bodies, but I can't  
17 sort of picture a specific person.

18 Q. You can't really go any further than that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Let's go back to the box. You saw the box and you were  
21 concerned about it?

22 A. That's correct, yes.

23 Q. Did you do anything about it?

24 A. Yes. Obviously, upon seeing the explosion coming on to  
25 the bus and trying to evacuate the bus, and trying to

1 help the injured, I just found it very peculiar seeing  
2 a microwave box near the front end, left side of the bus  
3 where buggies normally sit, a large box, you know,  
4 electrical, I assumed it could be a secondary device.

5 I was then turning my radio down and trying to  
6 evacuate other members of the public off the bus. It  
7 was then obviously passing on the message to say that  
8 there was a secondary device to my colleagues.

9 Q. You mentioned turning your radio down, we've heard  
10 already this morning the protocol that radios, such as  
11 police radios, there's a risk that they could actually  
12 set off a secondary device of that nature. That's why  
13 you turned it -- did you turn it off, in fact, or simply  
14 down?

15 A. I can't remember, but I think it was near enough all the  
16 way down, yes.

17 Q. I see. Did you go upstairs on the bus, Constable?

18 A. I did, yes.

19 Q. What did you see when you got up there?

20 A. When I was sort of basically by the staircase going up,  
21 I was told there was no one else on the top deck by  
22 walking injured coming down. I sort of knew that there  
23 was one male still aboard the deck because, on going off  
24 the bus and on the bus, helping the walking injured off,  
25 I saw an Oriental male with his head protruding from the

1 bus in some pain and groaning.

2 On the top deck of the bus, I could see the wreckage  
3 of a bus, twisted metal seats, body parts, trunks of  
4 body, flesh, other organs strewn across the deck.

5 Q. Just pausing there, you've mentioned the man whom you  
6 saw whose head was leaning out of the side of the bus.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That was someone you saw from the pavement, was it?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. That's the gentleman who we've heard his name was  
11 Sam Ly. You've been in court today. We've heard a fair  
12 amount of evidence about him. Is that right?

13 A. I don't know his name, but yes I described him as the  
14 Oriental male with his head protruding out, making  
15 noises that he was still alive, in pain, wasn't speaking  
16 in words, but sort of groaning, alive.

17 I just saw his head protruding out. On looking  
18 around the deck upstairs, I could see body parts twisted  
19 and I believe another male as well.

20 Q. I want to ask you about that. In your statement,  
21 I think that you refer to this other male. You describe  
22 some legs and a pinstriped suit. Is that the person  
23 you're thinking of?

24 A. That's correct, yes. I just recall seeing -- other than  
25 the wreckage, there was a lot of seats, metal twisted

1 and fused together. There was -- I take it there was  
2 a body of a male because he was wearing a blue  
3 pinstriped suit and I could see his leg and the rest --  
4 I couldn't see the rest of his body or head.

5 Q. Just simply the legs?

6 A. Just the legs.

7 Q. A single leg or both legs?

8 A. I could only see one leg.

9 Q. I see. But you assumed it was a male because of the  
10 clothes --

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. -- the pair of trousers that you saw on the leg?

13 A. The pair of trousers, yes.

14 Q. Were you able to form a view as to whether that person  
15 was alive or dead?

16 A. I believe he was alive, as I heard a noise coming from  
17 one side of the bus. I could still hear the Oriental  
18 chap still groaning with pain and I heard a noise that  
19 drew me to the leg --

20 Q. I see.

21 A. -- and I presumed that there was only two people on that  
22 deck of the bus.

23 Q. We know now -- and we've heard evidence -- that there  
24 were at that point, let's say a minute or two after the  
25 explosion, a number of casualties, living casualties,

1 who had been trapped underneath some of the wreckage and  
2 who made their way out over the course of the next few  
3 minutes. The sound that you heard could have been one  
4 of them?

5 A. It could have been, yes. I don't recall what the  
6 sounds -- it just drew me to that area of the bus.

7 Q. The reason I'm asking you particularly about the blue  
8 pinstriped leg is that we know that one of the men who  
9 died on the bus -- a man called  
10 Anthony Fatayi-Williams -- was, in fact, wearing a blue  
11 pinstriped suit. He may not have been the only person  
12 wearing a blue pinstriped suit, but he at least we know  
13 was wearing one.

14 In a statement you prepared quite recently, you say  
15 that you think that you saw this person who was wearing  
16 the blue pinstriped suit, who you were talking about,  
17 actually being removed from the bus alive later in the  
18 day.

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. How sure are you of that memory?

21 A. Quite sure of that. He was taken from the wreckage of  
22 the bus after EXPO, LFB have been on board and  
23 I remember, even though he was being taken off the bus  
24 using makeshift foldaway tables as stretchers, bandages  
25 and sellotape to assist, you know.

1 Q. You saw this man being taken off the bus?  
2 A. That's correct.  
3 Q. He was a coloured gentleman, was he?  
4 A. He was a white male.  
5 Q. A white male?  
6 A. A white male being taken off the bus.  
7 Q. Wearing a suit?  
8 A. Wearing a blue pinstriped suit.  
9 Q. Was it that that made you think that that was the leg  
10 that you'd seen before?  
11 A. That's correct, yes.  
12 Q. So it wasn't as though you saw the person being moved,  
13 as it were, from the very spot where you'd seen the leg,  
14 you simply saw the person wearing that clothing and you  
15 assumed that it was the same person who owned, as it  
16 were, the leg that you'd seen a few minutes or so  
17 earlier?  
18 A. That's correct, yes.  
19 Q. At the time that this person was removed from the bus,  
20 I think it's right that you were actually down on the  
21 pavement holding the makeshift stretcher receiving this  
22 person as he was moved by the London Fire Brigade down  
23 and away?  
24 A. That's correct.  
25 Q. So it's possible, is it, that in fact they were two

1 different people, but if they were, then they were  
2 wearing very similar clothes?  
3 A. Yes, they could be, yes.  
4 Q. Did you -- when you saw simply the leg at the earlier  
5 stage, did you see the leg move at all?  
6 A. Because my -- I was drawn to the noise and then I saw  
7 the leg, I can't be 100 per cent sure, but I believe  
8 that person, yes, he was -- it was the male that was  
9 brought out, because he was still alive. I can't be --  
10 Q. You can't be sure?  
11 A. I can't be sure because there was still noise.  
12 Q. Please don't think we're asking you to be sure, we all  
13 understand that is five years later, and it's very  
14 difficult to remember that sort of detail.  
15 I think one last question on this subject. You've  
16 described the man who was ultimately removed from the  
17 bus, and who you remember wearing the suit when you  
18 helped to carry him away, as being a white gentleman.  
19 A. That's correct, yes.  
20 Q. When you simply saw the leg sticking out, did you know  
21 one way or the other whether that person was white or  
22 black or --  
23 A. I'm not sure if I'm assuming because, obviously, seeing  
24 him come out the bus --  
25 Q. Yes, indeed.

1 A. So it's hard to say. But the suit, the sort of shoe and  
2 sock sort of tallies up being the same gentleman coming  
3 off from the top deck near that area being a white male.

4 Q. I think your evidence, Constable, is that you're  
5 confident in your own mind that they were the same  
6 person?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. I want to ask you about another casualty now, a lady who  
9 you saw in the road behind the bus. You describe in  
10 your statements remembering that you went up to her and  
11 she was saying that she wanted to get home to her baby.  
12 Do you refer in your statement to her name? Do you  
13 recall that, or perhaps --

14 A. I think that might be my colleague.

15 Q. You think it's your colleague. In any event, it appears  
16 that that casualty was a lady named Camille Scott. Does  
17 that name mean anything to you?

18 A. No, it doesn't, no.

19 Q. She was one of the people whom you helped carry into the  
20 British Medical Association courtyard. Is that right?

21 A. Yes, I carried two similar women into the courtyard, so  
22 I'm not sure which.

23 Q. Both ladies about 30 years' old?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. With blond hair, I think?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. You say -- you said in your statement that you thought  
3 that that lady may have died. In fact she didn't, she  
4 gave evidence to this inquest yesterday. The other lady  
5 who you described, who was, I think, lying quite close  
6 to her, what do you remember about that lady?

7 A. Trying to distinguish the two, one female was talking to  
8 my colleague, Chris Mitchell. Another female directly  
9 behind the bus was lying down, severely injured and  
10 wounded as she'd been blown off the bus. I could see  
11 blood from her legs, stomach, I believe there was a --  
12 an injury across her stomach, head injuries and,  
13 eventually, I remember just sort of blood from her  
14 mouth. So I knew she was still alive, as she was trying  
15 to sort of cough up and bubbling blood from her mouth.

16 Q. We think that was probably Camille Scott's friend,  
17 Marie Hartley, who you're describing there. As you say,  
18 you formed the view that she was still alive, at least  
19 at that point.

20 A. She was, yes.

21 Q. Did you also help to carry her into the British Medical  
22 Association?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 Q. Roughly how long after the explosion would that have  
25 been, do you think?

1 A. I don't know timeframes. It could be anything from  
2 15 minutes to half an hour.

3 Q. I see. That's helpful. Somewhere between --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- 15 minutes plus?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was she still alive when you helped to carry her into  
8 the BMA?

9 A. She was, yes.

10 Q. Did you stay with her after that or not?

11 A. Initially, on the scene, she was still breathing, still  
12 sort of bubbling blood. I remember being approached by  
13 a female who said she was a doctor. I looked at the  
14 injured female, wondering, "Where do I start with first  
15 aid?", as she was bleeding from top to bottom; head,  
16 mouth, stomach, legs, and probably the only bit of blood  
17 that she didn't have on her was her hands, where  
18 I remember grabbing her hands and the doctor approaching  
19 and saying, "Can I help?", and holding her head up so  
20 she could breathe and sort of -- not completely putting  
21 her into the recovery position, but so the blood could  
22 trickle from her mouth, and yes, she was still alive up  
23 until the point she was brought into the courtyard of  
24 the BMA where there was sort of a triage system where  
25 we -- I remember seeing sort of HEMS and other doctors

1 around.

2 Q. Just staying with the doctor who came over and helped  
3 you with the lady we think was Marie Hartley, the more  
4 seriously injured of those two ladies, can you describe  
5 that doctor to us at all? You said she was a lady.

6 Was she in plainclothes, as it were, or was she, for  
7 example, dressed as paramedic or a HEMS doctor?

8 A. No, plainclothes, smartly dressed, female. Still at  
9 this time I didn't know it was the BMA, British Medical  
10 Association, so for someone to say that they were  
11 a doctor and offer first aid, I sort of just grabbed the  
12 opportunity and took the help, and, yes, there was still  
13 other people injured around as well, so I can't really  
14 describe the doctor.

15 Q. That's a great help, the description you have given,  
16 thank you.

17 You described helping moving those two ladies into  
18 the British Medical Association. Do you remember, did  
19 you move anyone else or was it really just those two  
20 that you helped with?

21 A. There was still a few other casualties that were sort of  
22 walking wounded.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. There was another -- I believe there was a young couple,  
25 you know, 25 to 30 years' old, where a female had a head

1 injury and I believe her sort of boyfriend was collapsed  
2 near the pavement. He was lying face down towards the  
3 kerb and he had a head injury, and so I'm putting him  
4 into the recovery position and talking to the male. It  
5 transpired he had a head injury, but he was able --  
6 he -- with his girlfriend, we were able to get him up  
7 and move him to the BMA.

8 There were a few other walking wounded where -- who  
9 had injuries with their legs, head, et cetera, where  
10 I sort of helped get them medical aid or get them to  
11 a hospital, UCH.

12 Q. I want to move on and ask you a little bit about what  
13 you did to help people go to hospital and generally  
14 procure further medical help.

15 Could I ask you to look at a document, please, which  
16 should come up on the screen? It's [INQ10129-1].

17 This is a CAD. I'm sure you're familiar with these  
18 documents, Constable. Could we try to focus in on an  
19 entry at 09.55.23, please? You see that entry? We  
20 believe that that call sign 700EK, is that you?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. With Inspector Perry we found that some of his messages  
23 hadn't been either accurately or fully transcribed on to  
24 this document. Is that the case here? Is that  
25 a summary of the message you sent, or is that simply

1 a complete record of the message you sent, do you think?

2 A. No, I think that's just a part summary, because a lot of  
3 my sort of -- my sort of communications were to my  
4 sergeant, who was sort of liaising with the control  
5 room. So it would have been through him and through  
6 other colleagues as well.

7 Q. I wanted to ask you, was this a message that you sent on  
8 your own initiative or was it a message that you were  
9 asked to send by, for example, your sergeant or one of  
10 your superiors at the scene?

11 A. On looking at the message, it looks like I've sent the  
12 message saying "We need another three ambulances", but  
13 that would have been with a -- more a message saying,  
14 obviously, initially, the other more seriously wounded  
15 people. I think at that time that would have referred  
16 to the walking wounded, injured people I had on -- by  
17 Woburn House, where I've placed three other casualties  
18 into civilian vehicles to get them to drive to the UCH  
19 hospital.

20 Q. But sticking with this message for a minute, was it you  
21 who formed the view that there was a need for three more  
22 ambulances and then you relayed the message, or -- was  
23 that the case? It wasn't a question of someone else  
24 saying "Send a message", you formed that view?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. It's quite a particular message. One of the things that  
2 one reads into it -- you say "We need another three  
3 ambulances" -- is that there were already ambulances on  
4 the scene or at least one ambulance on the scene, by  
5 about 9.55.

6 Do you have a memory of there being an ambulance or  
7 more than one ambulance there at that time?

8 A. No, there wasn't any ambulances on scene at that time.

9 I was just trying to say, if my sergeant or other  
10 colleagues had called up for ambulances to deal with  
11 their injured members of the public, that we need to  
12 send more.

13 Q. I see. So you were thinking that there might already be  
14 some on the way?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In fact, the evidence we have is that the first  
17 ambulance to arrive arrived perhaps a couple of minutes  
18 after the call that you made.

19 But the request for three ambulances, was that your  
20 estimate of how many ambulances were needed for the  
21 scene as a whole, or was it a case that you had  
22 casualties there who would fill up three ambulances and  
23 so you were simply asking for enough ambulances to meet  
24 their needs?

25 A. At that time, that was to deal with just the three

1 walking injured that I would have dealt with at that  
2 time.

3 Q. So you weren't trying to make any sort of Command  
4 decision as to how many ambulances were required in  
5 total?

6 A. No.

7 Q. It's simply that you needed three ambulances and you  
8 were calling for them there?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. What was it, then? Tell us about what you were doing.  
11 Your statement describes how, in a number of cases, you  
12 actually sent people off to hospital in civilian cars.  
13 Give us a summary of what you did there, please.

14 A. Obviously, at that time, when I sent the message, on  
15 looking around, I couldn't see any sort of ambulance  
16 crews, first aid, you know, ambulances, paramedics, to  
17 help. The members of the public I had then were sort of  
18 walking injured where they were sort of bleeding from  
19 the head and cuts to the leg, et cetera. I was able to  
20 sort of carry or sort of, you know, walk with them,  
21 hopping across the road to another sort of makeshift  
22 first aid triage centre at Woburn House.

23 The UCH had nearly been built directly alongside of  
24 the road, I could see the glass building, I couldn't see  
25 any ambulances, and I knew there was still more severe

1 casualties behind me and that, if these injured people  
2 needed help, they could go to A&E, while, if ambulances  
3 did turn up, they would be dealing with the more severe  
4 people.

5 Q. So it was really just on your own initiative you  
6 thought, "These less wounded people, we can get them  
7 there without taking up ambulance space that might be  
8 needed in due course by the more severely wounded  
9 casualties"?

10 A. That's correct, that's correct.

11 Q. Were you surprised that there didn't seem to be more  
12 ambulances coming to the scene more quickly?

13 A. I was, yes. Being our location, Central London, near  
14 a hospital, and obviously knowing a bus had exploded,  
15 you know, some sort of 15 minutes to half an hour not  
16 seeing any ambulances ...

17 Q. We've seen the message that you sent about ten minutes  
18 after the blast asking for three more ambulances. Is  
19 there anything else that you did to try to get more  
20 ambulances to the scene?

21 A. No, basically it was just relaying to my sergeant. He'd  
22 already organised a sort of -- organising the cordons,  
23 the makeshift County Hotel first aid point and in  
24 calling up for EXPO, directly after coming off the bus  
25 I remember telling him, you know, there's potentially

1 two casualties still on the bus and we'd need EXPO, and,  
2 you know -- I can't remember saying a number, but  
3 I remember sort of telling him "We need a lot of  
4 ambulances".

5 Q. Yes. Sorry, just -- you said there were casualties on  
6 the bus and you would need EXPO.

7 A. Yes. Sorry. Yes.

8 Q. Did -- in other words, the explosives officers?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. Was that going back to the microwave oven and wanting to  
11 check the safety of the bus before you could remove  
12 those casualties from it, that was your meaning there?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. We have evidence, as I say, that the first ambulance to  
15 arrive at the scene arrived at about 9.57, so a couple  
16 of minutes after you sent that message. Was your  
17 impression that, once the first ambulance arrived,  
18 a number of other ambulances arrived quickly and met the  
19 demand or was there a continuing problem with lack of  
20 ambulances at the scene? If you don't remember --

21 A. Throughout the time, I remember seeing a limited amount  
22 of ambulances, possibly about three ambulances.

23 I remember dealing more with HEMS, dealing with the  
24 severely injured, you know, members of the public, in  
25 the courtyard of the BMA, yes.

1 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: I see. Thank you very much, Constable.

2 Those are all the questions I have for you.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Gallagher? Mr Saunders?

4 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

5 MR SAUNDERS: Can I just go back, please, Mr Walker? When

6 you left to go and assist initially, I think it's right,

7 not only did you take your high visibility jacket, but

8 you took the first aid kit as well?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Why?

11 A. Initially, at the time I took the first aid kit, I was

12 at Albany Street police station. My understanding was

13 there was a power surge at Liverpool Street and at

14 King's Cross station. Moments later, on hearing over my

15 personal radio police officers -- I don't know who --

16 there was some sort of -- there was talk over the radio

17 about smoke emanating from King's Cross. On hearing

18 that, smoke coming out from a, you know, large

19 London Underground station, I presumed obviously there

20 could be casualties and every vehicle has got one first

21 aid kit on board. We had a custody, so it was -- it was

22 accessible for me to grab more first aid kits and

23 bandages.

24 Q. Help her Ladyship with this, if you can: what time was

25 this?

1 A. This would have been directly after -- I don't know the  
2 time. It would have been some time after 8.30, on  
3 coming into the police station, and reading the initial  
4 comments from the CAD re the first -- I take it the  
5 first bomb that went off at King's Cross.

6 Q. Right. All right, so you take the first aid box from  
7 the custody suite and additional bandages?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. So you have that and then you make eventually your way,  
10 as you've told her Ladyship, into Tavistock Square. You  
11 have explained your dealings with the Chinese gentleman,  
12 Mr Ly, and Mr O'Connor's now asked you about the two  
13 ladies who were together, one who passed away and one  
14 who survived. But then I'd like, please, to ask you  
15 about the ambulances, all right?

16 You've been asked -- in fact, there were four  
17 different people, as I understand your statement -- and  
18 I've just been shown another statement now, but I'm  
19 looking at your statement of 8 July.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. There are four individuals that you organised through  
22 private drivers to go to University College Hospital.  
23 Is that right? I'm looking at page 4 of your statement?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. This, as I understand it, comes after the 9.55 call, "We

1 need three ambulances, another three ambulances".

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. The first one is a result of you enquiring again, "Where  
4 are the ambulances?" Then you speak to a driver of  
5 a car outside Woburn House and simply ask them, "Would  
6 you mind taking a casualty to the hospital?"

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. Then there's another white male who's injured, with leg  
9 and head injuries, who's carried to a silver car and  
10 again transported.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. The third is, I think, a black lady who's in pain, has  
13 a first aider, no ambulance, so you invite the first  
14 aider to go and get her own car that's parked nearby?

15 A. That's correct, she said her vehicle was round the  
16 corner, we could clearly see UCH hospital down the road.  
17 I couldn't see any ambulances at the time, and the  
18 decision was made --

19 Q. So whether or not -- and her Ladyship will hear evidence  
20 soon about an ambulance turning up before 9.00 -- before  
21 10.00. You haven't seen any and you've therefore  
22 commandeered three different motorists to take three  
23 injured people to hospital.

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Then there's a fourth, isn't there?

1 A. The fourth one is some time later on on Euston Road.

2 Q. But at the stage that you're asking these various  
3 motorists and first aiders to drive casualties to the  
4 hospital, have you seen anybody in an ambulance or car  
5 at all?

6 A. No, I haven't seen any ambulances on scene. That was  
7 the reason why I placed them into --

8 Q. Exactly the point I was going to come on to, Mr Walker.  
9 If there had been ambulances, would you have, as far as  
10 you could instruct, suggested those casualties go to the  
11 ambulance?

12 A. Yes, that would have been sort of protocol and my -- you  
13 know, I would have placed them into an ambulance or, you  
14 know, shown them medical help.

15 Q. Did I understand from what Mr O'Connor asked that you  
16 were a probationer at this time?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. Then may I commend you for the action you took on behalf  
19 of those that you dealt with?

20 A. Thank you.

21 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you, my Lady.

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff?

23 MS SHEFF: No, thank you.

24 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Yes,

25 Ms Simcock?

1 Questions by MS SIMCOCK

2 MS SIMCOCK: Thank you, my Lady. Officer, were you  
3 predominantly, during the time that you were at this  
4 scene, either initially at Tavistock Square itself  
5 around the scene of the bus dealing with people, and  
6 then in the BMA courtyard?

7 A. Yes, that's correct. Simply just behind the bus, on the  
8 side of the bus, and in the courtyard itself, under the  
9 arches and in the yard itself.

10 Q. So you weren't at the back of the BMA building at any  
11 point?

12 A. I don't know where the back is, sorry.

13 Q. Beyond the courtyard, over to the other side?

14 A. No, no. Just the arches and the actual courtyard.

15 Q. So you wouldn't have been aware of ambulances arriving  
16 there and taking casualties away?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You were aware, though, of the risk of secondary devices  
19 to do with the bus. Is that right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And cordons being put in place by the police to keep  
22 people away from the scene where the bus was. Is that  
23 right?

24 A. That's correct, I remember telling members of the public  
25 to stay away.

1 Q. Yes, and specifically that cordons were being  
2 established further away from the bus to restrict people  
3 coming in to Tavistock Square. Were you aware of that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Were you aware of police preventing people coming back  
6 out of the BMA courtyard into Tavistock Square  
7 specifically also because of the risk of secondary  
8 devices, so that, even once people had gone into the  
9 square, they weren't allowed back out again?

10 A. I wasn't aware of that, no.

11 Q. Okay. So you weren't aware of ambulances or fast  
12 response cars arriving in your immediate vicinity  
13 because you were restricted in where you were. Is that  
14 right?

15 A. I wasn't restricted --

16 Q. I don't mean by someone else, I mean you were confined  
17 to a particular, small geographic area.

18 A. Yes, that's correct, I was just -- there were quite  
19 a few injured people behind the bus. That took my --  
20 I couldn't leave or go any further than behind the bus  
21 and to the courtyard and back again in helping move or  
22 transport the injured.

23 Q. Yes, because we know that by, certainly, 10.27 or so,  
24 there were some four or five fast response cars and one  
25 ambulance already arrived towards the front of the

1 building, followed after that period by several  
2 ambulances at the back of the BMA building taking  
3 casualties away, and you weren't aware of any of those?

4 A. I was aware of, I believed, HEMS, so one of the Fast  
5 Response Units being there, because they were dressed  
6 differently to ambulance crews.

7 Q. Yes, but you weren't aware of the others that were  
8 specifically LAS crews?

9 A. No.

10 MS SIMCOCK: I'm very grateful, thank you.

11 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Mr Hill?

12 Questions by MR HILL

13 MR HILL: We've taken the liberty of checking that  
14 PC Mitchell, who's a Metropolitan officer, can return  
15 tomorrow, as may be inevitable now. Just a few  
16 questions.

17 In relation to secondary devices, you were aware,  
18 I think, during your time at the scene, in relation to  
19 secondary devices, of the attendance of  
20 a Metropolitan Police explosives unit, explosives  
21 officer. Is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. I think, to use the phrase that you did in your recent  
24 statement in which you went over your actions on the day  
25 itself, you noted that the box that you considered may

1 have contained a secondary device -- which would be the  
2 microwave oven, as it transpired to be -- was  
3 neutralised by the explosives officer.

4 There was a controlled explosion at one stage  
5 carried out by explosives officers that day. Was that  
6 subsequent -- put it another way, was that something  
7 that occurred or that didn't occur while you were there?

8 A. Sorry?

9 Q. The question is probably poorly phrased. Were you aware  
10 of a controlled explosion --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- or simply the attendance of explosives officers?

13 A. I heard the controlled explosion, yes.

14 Q. Right. I don't suppose you can provide a time for that,  
15 can you, or can you?

16 A. After 30 minutes. That's my guess, I can't know.

17 Q. All right. That's all I want to ask about that. In  
18 relation to those you saw and those whom you tried to  
19 help, in your recent statement, not knowing names in  
20 common with most other officers who attended for obvious  
21 reasons, you chose in your statement to apply  
22 alphabetical letters to those whom you observed, A, B,  
23 C, et cetera.

24 A. The reason for that was obviously, on the day  
25 afterwards, I remember seeing a lot of the injured, dead

1 people, in the actual newspapers, et cetera, and I knew,  
2 you know, I just didn't want to sort of -- I was seeing  
3 faces that I knew that were dead, and obviously they've  
4 left families still wondering what happened to their  
5 families, and felt it would probably be better, I sort  
6 of distanced myself, and in knowing -- and it was up  
7 until today I believed both females died, et cetera,  
8 so ... So I haven't known anything up until today.

9 Q. We'll come to that in a moment. Doing the best that you  
10 can, though, to indicate, for the reasons, perhaps, that  
11 you've just given, what you observed and what you did to  
12 help, two males, A and B, as you describe them in your  
13 statement recently, were injured, but alive, when you  
14 went on the bus, and I think in your statement it was  
15 your belief that they were both towards the middle or  
16 rear of the upper deck of the bus, and the Oriental  
17 male, for whom we now have a name -- Mr Sam Ly -- was,  
18 in your statement account, towards the middle of the  
19 upper deck of the bus. But in fairness, and to point  
20 out the sad fact of it, beyond a certain point, as you  
21 moved back from front to back on the upper deck, the  
22 upper deck had disappeared and effectively had collapsed  
23 below and on to the lower deck, hadn't it?

24 A. That's correct. A middle deck or -- yes, exactly how  
25 you put it.

1 Q. It makes it difficult, perhaps, to identify what's the  
2 upper deck and what's the lower deck --

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. -- given the condition the bus was in when you got  
5 there. Nothing more about man A.

6 As to man B, the man who had a pinstriped suit on,  
7 you noticed at least one of his legs and under questions  
8 asked earlier it was your belief that that person was  
9 taken out of the bus after a period of time and, as far  
10 as you are aware, survived. That person had serious  
11 injuries to his right leg. Did you see that?

12 A. A leg -- I can't remember which leg it was, but  
13 I remember obviously taking him from the bus, he had  
14 injuries, but he was intact. I mean, he wasn't missing  
15 any body limbs or --

16 Q. You may or may not have seen that your colleague  
17 PC Mitchell was involved in helping that man off the  
18 bus. Did you see that?

19 A. That's correct, yes, there was quite a few colleagues.

20 Q. In his note, we suggest it might be useful to look at --  
21 not on screen now -- INQ02017, the statement of  
22 Mr Mark Beck, who was a survivor on the bus, and if we  
23 could just have on screen [INQ10285-6], the seating plan,  
24 in seat 22, at the very back row at the rear of the  
25 lower deck, that shows Mr Beck's position at the time of

1 the explosion. So he would have been in some way pinned  
2 in the wreckage created by the collapsed upper deck and  
3 to the rear.

4 I'm not suggesting it's for you to answer whether  
5 that was, in fact, Mr Beck, but certainly that was a man  
6 from the rear of -- although, as you thought it, the  
7 upper deck -- who was helped off that bus by PC Mitchell  
8 and others.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Then on to the two lady casualties whom you've described  
11 as person C and person D and whom, as you've just told  
12 us, you had thought neither of them may have survived.

13 In respect of person C, this was a lady who, in  
14 particular, stays in your mind because she referred to  
15 having a young child, in fact, a 15-month-old baby.

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. It was PC Mitchell, your colleague, who stayed with her,  
18 I think --

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. -- in particular, and for whom the name we suggest is  
21 Camille Scott, who did survive the events of that day.

22 The other lady, whom you describe as person D, was  
23 in a very serious physical condition indeed when you  
24 came across her. Is that right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. You did what you could, which in this case was to hold  
2 her hand, try your best to reassure and comfort her and  
3 you were joined by a lady who claimed to be a doctor,  
4 who appeared to have come from the BMA building, who  
5 took over the care of that person?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. In fact, it was the lady doctor, as you thought, who  
8 held person D's head. You continued to hold her hand.  
9 Is that right?

10 A. Yes, that's what happened, yes.

11 Q. That, we suggest, was Marie Hartley, who, sadly, did not  
12 survive.

13 If I may just pick up finally on Mr Saunders' final  
14 comment to you, you are a probationer officer who  
15 received the Commissioner's High Commendation for your  
16 actions that day. Is that right?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for Mr Walker?  
19 PC Walker, for a young and inexperienced officer,  
20 you showed great maturity and good sense and, if I may  
21 say so, adding to the Commissioner's Commendation, you  
22 displayed great courage and initiative. So thank you  
23 for everything you did.

24 A. Thank you, my Lady.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Are we sure it's all right for

1 PC Mitchell to return tomorrow? I'm sorry. We try to  
2 avoid it, but I'm afraid I do have other commitments  
3 which I have to attend to.

4 Is it 10.00 tomorrow?

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: It is, my Lady.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much.

7 (4.15 pm)

8 (The inquests adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

9

10