

Coroner's Inquests into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005
Hearing transcripts - 1 November 2010 - Afternoon session

1 (2.00 pm)
2 MR KEITH: My Lady, the next witness is Neil Walker who will
3 be giving evidence via videolink from Liverpool.
4 I understand that he is there and the link is running.
5 I speak too soon.
6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Hello, Mr Walker.
7 THE WITNESS: Hello.
8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Can you hear us?
9 THE WITNESS: Yes, loud and clear.
10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Jolly good, thank you very much.
11 MR KEITH: Mr Walker, could you perhaps be sworn? Somebody
12 will give you an oath card, and if you could perhaps
13 read it out, please.
14 MR NEIL STUART WALKER (affirmed)
15 Questions by MR KEITH
16 MR KEITH: Could you give the court your full name, please?
17 A. Neil Stuart Walker.
18 Q. Mr Walker, I'm going to ask you some questions on behalf
19 of her Ladyship as Counsel to the Inquest, and then you
20 will be asked some questions by other counsel on behalf
21 of some of the interested persons in this case. Do you
22 understand?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Can you hear clearly?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. On Thursday, 7 July, were you on duty attached to
2 a London Fire Brigade appliance Foxtrot 261?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I don't know, Mr Walker, whether you have in front of
5 you a document which is an extract from a Fire Brigade
6 incident report. It may be marked at the top right-hand
7 corner [LFB17-1].

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you see "Foxtrot 261" on the page that is the first
10 page of that document?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you see that, at the bottom of the page, there is
13 a reference at 09.02 to your appliance being committed
14 to that incident?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then, over the page, at the top of the second page, to
17 you being mobilised to proceed to Liverpool Street
18 station?

19 A. Yes, I see that.

20 Q. Did you go straight to Aldgate or did you go to
21 Liverpool Street and then get diverted, do you recall?

22 A. Straight to Aldgate.

23 Q. When you arrived, did you see walking wounded coming out
24 of the station?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What did you do?

2 A. I immediately got equipment, the first aid equipment.

3 You could see there were people distressed, and I opened

4 the appliance and proceeded to treat the wounded.

5 Q. Can you recall how long you spent treating the wounded

6 before going down to the tunnel?

7 A. Roughly ten minutes.

8 Q. Who did you go down to the tunnel with?

9 A. On my own, I think.

10 Q. Why did you go? Did an officer tell you to go?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Why did you go down?

13 A. Well, we'd run out of first aid equipment on the

14 concourse. The ambulance had started to take over from

15 us. It was clear that there were people in greater

16 distress inside the tunnel. So I decided to enter into

17 the station.

18 Q. Did you have your BA, your breathing apparatus, on, or

19 not?

20 A. I can't remember, but I think I did. But I wouldn't be

21 certain.

22 Q. When you got down to the platform, was it obvious that

23 the power was off?

24 A. It wasn't obvious it was off, no. But, to me, I mean,

25 protocol is we normally wait to be told, but I could see

1 numerous people walking along the tracks, so I thought
2 that was a pretty good sign that the power was off.
3 Q. You carried on into the tunnel and we understand that
4 you climbed up into the side of the carriage.
5 A. That's correct, yes.
6 Q. You should have a document that's called A19, a coloured
7 plan in front of you. It's our [INQ10280-9] .
8 Do you have a small clip of papers which include
9 pictures of carriage 2 or diagrams of carriage 2?
10 A. Yes, I've got this here.
11 Q. I think you may have three or four pages in that clip.
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. Do they have numbers on the bottom?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Could you find A19, please? It could be the one
16 furthest to your right. It shows seats on the carriage
17 with numbers.
18 A. Yes, okay.
19 Q. Can you tell us, please, which door you entered through?
20 A. I can't be certain. I think I entered through door D6.
21 Q. In your statement, you describe how you saw a lady who
22 turned out to be an off-duty police officer -- we know
23 her to be Elizabeth Kenworthy -- standing up leaning
24 against one of the vertical handrails. Can you tell
25 us --

1 A. Yes, correct.

2 Q. -- but describe for us, rather than pointing, where you
3 think she was in the carriage?

4 A. The passenger number 21, that's where I thought she was.
5 So that is double door D6.

6 Q. You describe how there was an injured lady whom the
7 off-duty police officer was caring for. The injured
8 lady, was she lying on the floor or on a seat?

9 A. Neither. She was sort of half semi-standing and the
10 policewoman, it looked like she was sort of holding her
11 up.

12 Q. Is it possible, Mr Walker -- we appreciate it's very
13 difficult to recollect exactly -- that you may have gone
14 in through the first set of doors and the off-duty
15 police officer was somewhere near seats 16, 15, 17 and
16 18, that is to say right at the rear of the carriage?

17 A. It's possible.

18 Q. Do you recollect --

19 A. It's possible.

20 Q. Do you recollect there being any discussion of a doctor,
21 a lady doctor, who was a passenger on the train?

22 A. No, none whatsoever.

23 Q. You're sure that the lady whom you saw was the lady who
24 turned out to be an off-duty police officer?

25 A. Pretty sure, yes. I remember -- I thought I remembered

1 having a conversation with her and I'm sure she
2 described that she was.

3 Q. Right. Tell us something about the visibility and what
4 you could see, please, Mr Walker.

5 A. As you can imagine, it was very sooty, smoky. I mean,
6 you're in a tunnel for a start, so the visibility is not
7 great at the best of times. Also, after a loud
8 explosion, the communication wasn't the best, because
9 a lot of people were obviously suffering some sort of
10 hearing loss. But visually, no, it wasn't great.

11 Q. Did you try to talk to the people, or shout to the
12 people, inside the carriage to see whether they would
13 respond?

14 A. Yes, quite a few people.

15 Q. In your statement, you describe how you spoke to one man
16 and you actually had a conversation with him. Where was
17 that man?

18 A. This was double door D8.

19 Q. Was the man in a seat or was he on the floor in the door
20 area?

21 A. No, he was lying on the floor.

22 Q. Can you say anything about what you recollect of his age
23 or his appearance or his clothing?

24 A. Yes, he was young, he was in his 20s.

25 Q. Were his clothes intact or had they been shredded?

1 A. I couldn't remember, I couldn't remember.

2 Q. Do you recall anything about the colour or nature of his
3 clothing?

4 A. No. As I said, most things were pretty black and sooty.

5 Q. Tell us, please, what you said to him, if you can
6 recall, and how he replied or responded, if he responded
7 at all?

8 A. Well, I spoke to quite a few people, really, just to
9 gauge whether they had some sort of -- they could reply
10 or there was something there. I remember asking this
11 person's name. It's only afterwards, when it was -- the
12 story sort of unfolded, that Richard -- I'm pretty sure
13 now that that was the name he gave me. So I imagine it
14 was this number 11 on the map.

15 Q. Can we just look for a moment at what you recollect from
16 the events then and what you subsequently discovered?
17 You found out subsequently that there had been a man
18 who had tragically died who was called Richard Ellery.
19 Is that right?

20 A. Well, yes. Yes, the man that I spoke to gave me his
21 name, but I'd asked lots of people their names, and as
22 soon as he told me it, I'd probably forgotten it as I've
23 moved round the carriage. But afterwards -- maybe I was
24 wrong, but maybe -- that sort of rang a bell.

25 Q. When did the bell ring? Because in January 2006, when

1 you made your statement, you said that you couldn't
2 remember the name of the person who had given you his
3 name, but now you seem to recall that Richard rings
4 a bell, so when did you put two and two together?

5 A. Probably soon after I gave my statement. I remember
6 speaking to other firefighters there as well. I mean,
7 I might be wrong. That -- it sort of rang a bell with
8 me anyway.

9 Q. Was he moving at all?

10 A. No, not at all.

11 Q. Can you recollect anything about his expression or his
12 eyes, whether his eyes were open?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you do anything to him; for example, check for how
15 his breathing was or check what his pulse was like or
16 anything of that sort?

17 A. Yes, I mean, I sort of did a quick scan on most people.
18 When he answered, I realised that obviously he wasn't --
19 he didn't need my help as much as maybe some of the
20 others, so I probably moved on pretty quickly from him.

21 Q. Which way did you go when you moved on from him?

22 A. Further up to the end of the carriage.

23 Q. So around 16, 17?

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

25 Q. Did you come across a lady at the end of the carriage

1 whose name you subsequently discovered was Kira?

2 A. Yes, yes, I came across Kira and, as I started to treat
3 her, I could then -- there was more people coming on to
4 the train then, so I decided that I was virtually stuck
5 there because, as you can imagine, that was the end of
6 the carriage and space was limited. So we sort of --
7 that's where I sort of ended up.

8 Q. Could you see if the ambulance men were carrying
9 anything like, for example, triage cards?

10 A. Yes, I remember they were putting cards down on people,
11 yes.

12 Q. Did you see whether or not the man who had given you his
13 name had a triage card placed on him?

14 A. I can't remember.

15 Q. Do you recall where they placed the triage cards? Who
16 else, if anybody, received one?

17 A. It seemed that they were placing them on most of the
18 casualties. I didn't see exactly where they put them,
19 they just placed them.

20 Q. Where you were with Kira was fairly close to the place
21 where you had originally seen the man lying on the
22 floor, D8.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Casting your mind back, do you recollect the paramedics
25 coming down your end of the carriage?

1 A. Yes, yes, they seemed to come pretty close.

2 Q. Can you specifically recall them placing triage cards on
3 the casualties at your end, or is that something that
4 you've assumed they must have done because you knew they
5 were carrying such cards?

6 A. I'm not going to guess, I'm not going to guess, so I'll
7 say I can't remember.

8 Q. All right.

9 A. I seem to have a pretty clear picture in my mind of
10 a paramedic placing a card pretty close to me.

11 Q. There was a hole in the floor, we know.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was there a body near that hole?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you recollect anything more of that person and what
16 you can remember of where they were and of what state
17 they were?

18 A. They were -- well, they were in the vicinity of the --
19 right next to the hole, but they were in no state to
20 recollect anything about them, as you can imagine.

21 Q. Do you recollect whether you can remember seeing a whole
22 body or a body partially obscured and covered with
23 metal?

24 A. Yes, parts -- body parts, not one whole body, no.

25 Q. You described how medical technicians came in with

1 triage cards. Do you remember a HEMS doctor coming in,
2 a helicopter emergency doctor?

3 A. Once again, I say possibly, yes, but I couldn't --
4 I mean, I've worked on quite a few of these incidents
5 and HEMS are normally there, so as you can imagine, they
6 sort of mould into one, but, yes, I can recall sort of
7 HEMS being there, yes.

8 Q. You used some breathing apparatus on Kira, the lady whom
9 you were looking after at the end of the carriage. In
10 your statement, you describe that. Then you describe
11 how you realised that the man who had given you his name
12 had passed away. How did you realise that he had passed
13 away?

14 A. I think it was Firefighter Kevin Richards who was one of
15 my colleagues, and I looked across at him, some sort of
16 message passed between us, maybe a shake of the head or
17 something, but I remember thinking at the time I was
18 pretty shocked about that because I had recently spoken
19 to him. It was quite an awful moment, as you can
20 imagine.

21 Q. Do you know whether that moment, Mr Walker, was before
22 or after you recollect the paramedics, or paramedic,
23 coming in with priority cards?

24 A. I wouldn't know.

25 Q. All right. Finally, may I ask you this: do you recall

1 any visible specific injuries that the male whom you saw
2 on the floor of the carriage had?

3 A. No, not really -- I don't recollect many injuries,
4 really, no. That's probably what was most appalling.

5 He didn't -- there was an initial quick look at him, and
6 he didn't look that he was in serious danger. Obviously
7 he was seriously injured, but I wasn't that concerned
8 about him at the time.

9 MR KEITH: I understand. Mr Walker, thank you very much.
10 Will you stay there though, please, because there will
11 be some further questions for you from my learned
12 friends?

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Coltart?

14 Questions by MR COLTART

15 MR COLTART: Mr Walker, good afternoon. I represent the
16 interests of Richard Ellery, that young man that you've
17 just been describing.

18 Firstly, can I say this: thank you for your efforts
19 on his behalf and, secondly, I don't want to you infer
20 any criticism of your actions on that day from the
21 questions which I'm going to ask you.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Could we just have up on Trial Director, please,
24 document [LFB53-61] ? I'm hoping that you might have
25 a document in front of you, Mr Walker, which is a short

1 initial witness statement which you made, it was taken
2 by the Fire Brigade rather than by the police. Do you
3 have that? It's headed "Reports from operational staff
4 attending terrorist incidents ..."

5 A. Yes, I've got it.

6 Q. Thank you. I'd just like to read out the first sentence
7 and then go back through it with you, if I may, and ask
8 you a few questions about it.

9 Under the heading "A brief summary of what you did,
10 and when, at the incident", you've said as follows:

11 "Arrived at Aldgate Tube station. Got off. Started
12 to attend to casualties. Treated about six people.

13 Then went down onto platform. I was the first person on
14 the train. Tried to attend to the casualties who were
15 still and quiet with no first aid or resuscitators.

16 Watched a young man die before help arrived."

17 Then you go on to describe how other firefighters
18 arrived and dealt with Kira Mason and so on.

19 Just dealing first with timings, if we may, "Arrived
20 at Aldgate Tube station". Now, as we understand it, you
21 were on appliance F261. That's a Bethnal Green
22 appliance, isn't it?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. We understand that arrived or was clocked in as arriving
25 at 09.08 at Aldgate Tube station that morning. How long

1 do you think you were in treating the six casualties
2 that you attended to at the surface before you went down
3 to the carriage itself?

4 A. As previously stated -- I mean, I could be wrong, but
5 I thought it was about ten minutes. Maybe more. Maybe
6 ten to fifteen minutes, it seemed.

7 Q. You went down onto the platform and then you say:

8 "I was the first person on the train."

9 Do you mean by that the first member of the London
10 Fire Brigade or the first member of any of the emergency
11 services?

12 A. Well, of the London Fire Brigade, yes. I didn't -- then
13 again, apart from the -- now I know the policewoman,
14 I didn't see any LUL staff or any police or anything
15 like that. That --

16 Q. Just so we're clear -- sorry, I interrupted you.

17 A. No, that's fine, yes, go on, carry on.

18 Q. I was just going to say, does that mean paramedics as
19 well?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. "Tried to attend to the casualties who were still and
22 quiet with no first aid or resuscitators."

23 Did you carry laerdal resuscitators on your
24 appliance that you had arrived in?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you know where those resuscitators were at the time
2 that you, yourself, went down to the carriage?

3 A. They would have been left on the concourse. We only
4 carry one per appliance, and they don't last very long,
5 so that would have definitely been used on the
6 concourse.

7 Q. Did you, yourself, make any requests whilst you were
8 down there for a further resuscitator or other form of
9 oxygen?

10 A. Yes, there were lots of -- there was lots of shouting
11 going on between firefighters asking for more equipment.
12 But, no, as I said before, we were using a BA set, which
13 we use to enter fires, which is definitely not ideal,
14 and we were sort of passing that -- well, I used it on
15 Kira, so, no, we were very underequipped, should I say.

16 Q. Other than resuscitators, what other form of equipment
17 were you discussing between yourselves that you needed
18 whilst you were there?

19 A. Well, just general first aid equipment. We have a small
20 first aid kit that we carry on the appliance, and I said
21 that only carries a minimal amount of bandages and, as
22 you can imagine, the scale of an incident of that
23 magnitude, that was also used very, very quickly. So
24 that didn't even get passed to concourse. So we
25 required lots more equipment.

1 Q. What about stretchers, do you recall any sort of
2 discussion about stretchers being required?

3 My Lady, Mr Walker has gone very still. We can
4 still hear you, I think, Mr Walker, but our video seems
5 to have seized up. Can you hear me?

6 A. Yes, very clear.

7 Q. I'm in my Lady's hands as to whether --

8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Please keep going.

9 MR COLTART: Thank you. Do you recall any discussion about
10 stretchers and the need for further stretchers to be
11 brought down to the carriage?

12 A. No, I don't remember thinking of stretchers, no, but we
13 definitely would have needed them.

14 Q. Then just going back to your statement, the original one
15 that we were just looking at a minute ago, you say:

16 "I watched a young man die before help arrived."

17 When you say "help" there, do you mean by that the
18 London Ambulance Service and/or the HEMS service?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You may have dealt with this with Mr Keith, in which
21 case I apologise, but can you estimate how long after
22 you arrived on the carriage that help arrived in the
23 form of either the London Ambulance Service or the HEMS
24 doctors?

25 A. It's very difficult to say, but ten minutes.

1 Q. Did one arrive before the other or did they arrive at
2 about the same time?

3 A. I wouldn't know. I wouldn't know.

4 MR COLTART: All right. Well, thank you very much indeed.

5 MR SAUNDERS: No, thank you, my Lady.

6 MS SHEFF: No, thank you, my Lady.

7 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any more questions? Yes, Ms Boyd.

8 Questions by MS BOYD

9 MS BOYD: Mr Walker, can I just ask you a couple of
10 questions on behalf of the London Fire Brigade?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Mr Walker, according to Sub-Officer Curnick, who gave
13 evidence last week, his recollection is that you tagged
14 on to the end of his crew and went onto the tracks with
15 him. Is that right?

16 A. No. Not as far as I'm concerned. I remember speaking
17 to -- I now know his name -- the sub-officer. He said
18 that the power hadn't been confirmed off and I sort of
19 walked past him and walked along the track. I don't
20 remember being -- walking along with him at all.

21 Q. So you do remember being at the end of the platform with
22 him and his crew, but what you're saying is you went
23 ahead on the track, ahead of him?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. That's what you're saying, I understand. In terms,

1 Mr Walker, of not having enough first aid equipment, is
2 it right that your primary role, as a firefighter in
3 that situation, is to help evacuate and give immediate
4 first aid; is that right?

5 A. Could you repeat the question, please?

6 Q. Your primary role, as a firefighter in the situation
7 that you faced, was it to help evacuate anyone and also
8 to give first aid until paramedics arrived?

9 A. No, my job is to save lives.

10 Q. Quite right, Mr Walker. I think what I'm trying to ask
11 you in a very roundabout way is the kind of injuries
12 that you were confronted with, were you equipped to deal
13 with those injuries or did you really need specialist
14 help from paramedics?

15 A. Well, you need -- of course you need specialist help,
16 but I mean you could do a simple task of opening
17 someone's airway and saving their lives. I mean,
18 evacuating people, they can -- I'm sorry, the ones that
19 could walk can evacuate themselves. There was a lot
20 more people that needed serious attention. So, no. My
21 primary role wasn't to evacuate people.

22 MS BOYD: Thank you very much, Mr Walker.

23 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Does anybody else have some questions
24 for Mr Walker?

25 Mr Walker, that's all the questions we have for you.

1 Thank you very much for everything you did to try to do
2 your duty and save lives that day, and thank you for
3 coming on screen, as it were, to tell us about it.
4 A. Thank you.
5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much. Could you cut
6 the link now, please?
7 MR KEITH: My Lady, Mr Hay will call the next witness.
8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr Hay?
9 MR HAY: My Lady, may I invite you to call Stephen Foster?
10 MR STEPHEN MARTIN FOSTER (sworn)
11 Questions by MR HAY
12 MR HAY: Good afternoon. Can you give your full name to the
13 court, please?
14 A. Stephen Martin Foster.
15 Q. Mr Foster, in 2005, you'd been a firefighter for some
16 27 years?
17 A. Approximately, yes.
18 Q. You were based at Dockhead fire station?
19 A. Echo 34, Dockhead, that's correct.
20 Q. You were the crew commander for blue watch?
21 A. That's correct.
22 Q. On 7 July 2005, you were assigned to a pump ladder with
23 the call sign E341?
24 A. That's correct.
25 Q. Can we have up on the screen, please, [LFB17-2]? If we

1 could focus in on the section under "Resource status
2 changes", this is a section from a MOBIS report and
3 there we can see the call sign of your appliance on the
4 top line, E341, that was mobilised at 09.02.03, mobile
5 09.04.16 and arrived at Aldgate at 09.11.00. Does that
6 seem correct to you, from your recollection?

7 A. Yes, we'd have got there quicker, but there was a lot of
8 traffic that day. We're southern, south of the river,
9 and Aldgate is north of the river.

10 Q. So there was traffic getting over the river?

11 A. Yes, as per normal, around that one-way system there.
12 But we did get there in good time, I felt.

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Where exactly were you based?

14 A. Dockhead fire station, ma'am.

15 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Which is where, sorry?

16 A. It's just off Jamaica Road, south-east London.

17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

18 A. Underneath Tower Bridge, basically.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, I have it, thank you.

20 MR HAY: What did you understand to be the nature of the
21 incident on your way to Aldgate?

22 A. We were called to an explosion at an Underground
23 station. Having had some experience of Underground
24 stations working in the West End, I was explaining to
25 the crew on the back what would be expected of them if

1 it was something -- if it wasn't a mickey. We don't
2 know until we actually get there, if there is an
3 incident occurring.

4 So to Firefighters Deuchars and Austen on the back
5 with myself, I explained to them blankets, first aid
6 equipment, and expect the unexpected.

7 Q. Were you aware, before you arrived at Aldgate, that the
8 Fire Brigade had already declared it to be a major
9 incident?

10 A. No.

11 Q. If that was something you had been made aware of on your
12 way there, would that have altered your approach at all
13 on arrival as to what you would then do?

14 A. No, the major incident systems have been put in place
15 and been there for a long, long time. It would still
16 have been -- the crew would have got first aid
17 equipment, the coupler blankets which we carried,
18 laerdal, which is like an oxy admin equipment, and we
19 would have placed it in an equipment dump, basically,
20 awaited instruction from the senior officer, as to where
21 we would go next, how we would take on the job, the
22 incident.

23 Q. When you arrived, how many other fire appliances were
24 already there?

25 A. I believed there were two others there.

1 Q. Is it right there were no ambulances there yet?

2 A. Ambulances were arriving at the time. Indeed, my
3 officer in charge, Officer Murray, on the day he went
4 off to find the officer in charge, he came back to me
5 and said, "Steve, next ambulance, need it, got
6 a female", I didn't see this female, "We've got a female
7 abdominal wounds, she needs to get away quick".

8 Q. Did Sub-Officer Murray therefore seem very concerned
9 about this particular lady with the abdominal injury?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. He was concerned that you directed the next ambulance
12 which arrived to that woman?

13 A. I -- the next ambulance turned up, I asked them if
14 they'd go to the main entrance at the concourse and ask
15 for Sub-Officer Murray.

16 Q. Was that ambulance the first ambulance that arrived at
17 the scene?

18 A. I don't really know.

19 Q. When you spoke to that ambulance crew, did you speak to
20 both of them or just to one of them?

21 A. Driver.

22 Q. Was that a male or a female?

23 A. A male, approximately late 30s, early 40s, balding.

24 Q. Did that gentleman then immediately make his way over to
25 where --

1 A. No.

2 Q. What did he do?

3 A. "Yes, mate", I believe the conversation went, "Yes,
4 mate, we know what we've got, we'll get on with it".

5 I then sort of said, "Well, take your pick, you know
6 your job better than I do".

7 Q. I'm not sure from your response you weren't particularly
8 satisfied with the way in which he dealt with it?

9 A. Firefighters go into fires, firefighters go into places
10 that you people, members of the public, usually run away
11 from. Trying to -- or asking an ambulance person to do
12 their job and to get that reply, it doesn't work with
13 me. "Ambulance men, there's your casualties, please get
14 on with it and let me get to where I've got to get to,
15 to deal with things I've got to do".

16 Q. I know you are not sure whether or not this was the
17 first ambulance on the scene, but are you aware of what
18 the role of the first ambulance on the scene is at
19 a major incident?

20 A. If it's anything like the first appliance in
21 a Fire Service, it's to report back what's occurring.

22 Q. If this was the first ambulance on the scene, could you
23 then understand that --

24 A. Oh, most definitely, yes.

25 Q. -- this gentleman's priority was something different to

1 going straight to that casualty?

2 A. Yes, if he was the first ambulance on-site, then his
3 decisions that he makes in those first couple of seconds
4 of seeing decide what happens next and for the next
5 foreseeable. It would have been nicer, though, if he
6 was the first ambulance man, he could have told me, but
7 I don't think he was the first ambulance person at the
8 scene.

9 Q. I'm not sure if you're aware -- and you may have seen in
10 the press we heard evidence last week from Mr Cumner,
11 who was the first paramedic on the scene, and he
12 describes some tension between himself and the
13 firefighters on arrival because he was directed
14 automatically to a lady with abdominal injuries.
15 Were you aware of any altercation or tension between
16 himself and other firefighters or yourself?

17 A. No. Professional people don't swear at each other. We
18 don't slag each other off. We ask.

19 Q. Once you had spoken to him, what did you then do?

20 A. After speaking to the ambulance person, I was asked to
21 assist in setting up a dump at the top of the concourse,
22 equipment dump, and also to flake out some hose in case
23 of fire.

24 Q. What do you mean by "flake out"?

25 A. Assess how far you need to take a length of hose and

1 basically lay it out in a serpentine manner so that it's
2 ready to be taken to where it's got to go to.

3 Q. Is that standard practice if you're called to a Tube
4 station where there's been reports of smoke or an
5 explosion?

6 A. In most cases, yes.

7 Q. In which case is it not standard practice?

8 A. If you've got -- well, if it's a known -- when I say
9 a "known" -- if it's something like a person under
10 a train, there was no need then for a hose, you're not
11 going to wash them away.

12 Q. But in this particular instance, because of the smoke --

13 A. Because of smoke, and it was an incident where a device
14 had been set off, it may have been a secondary device
15 down there, yes. Our first defence, as a firefighter,
16 is water.

17 Q. At this point, you obviously went into the station
18 towards the platforms to do that -- perform that role?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you then aware of people coming from the tunnel
21 walking towards the platforms?

22 A. I was -- we talked about the dump at the top of the
23 station on the concourse. I was then asked to go down
24 to the end of the platform and assist with the
25 detraining of the casualties and passengers from the

1 train. I went down there with my crew, we didn't go on
2 to the rails, we hadn't been told at that point that the
3 current was off. LUL staff were leading passengers out.
4 I'm not someone who works for LUL, so -- and when we
5 asked if the current was off, the traction current was
6 off, we didn't really get a lot of answers from them.

7 Q. Can I just take it in stages?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. First of all, the rolling out of the hoses, the flaking
10 out of the hoses, how long, roughly, would that have
11 taken you?

12 A. By the time we got a decent crew together, about five
13 minutes.

14 Q. Once you had done that, you then went down to the
15 platform and there you were waiting for the signal for
16 someone to tell you the traction current was off?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you recall how long you had to wait for someone to
19 tell you that the traction current was off?

20 A. I would say from top side -- from being top side to
21 going to the start or ends of the platform, whichever
22 way you want to look at it, the start of the platform,
23 would have been approximately 20 minutes in total, in
24 total. I mean, you know, things were happening
25 extremely quickly, but I would give it a good

1 20 minutes.

2 Q. So from arrival to the point you got to the platform,
3 would have taken you 20 minutes?

4 A. It would have been about 20 minutes.

5 Q. If you arrived at 09.11 --

6 A. It would have been about half past.

7 Q. About half past. Can you just explain to me what you
8 were doing -- I know that you were getting the equipment
9 dump together and you were flaking out the hoses, and
10 you'd also spoken to the paramedic. What else were you
11 doing or your crew doing which took twenty minutes for
12 you to get down onto the platform?

13 A. Trying to get down to the platform. There were people
14 coming up off of that train. I'm not sure how many
15 carriages were in that train, but it was 9.00 in the
16 morning, it is rush hour, they do tend to pack them in
17 slightly like sardines. There was a hell of a lot of
18 people coming up along the platform up the staircase and
19 onto the concourse. Just trying to get down to assist
20 them was hard enough.

21 Q. Just from the sheer volume of people coming up against
22 you?

23 A. Just for sheer volume, yes. There's only a certain
24 amount of people you can get up the stairs to the amount
25 of people you can get down the stairs.

1 Q. Were you with your crew at that point?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall any of the passengers coming up the
4 stairs, saying, either to you or your crew, words to the
5 effect of -- not necessarily the precise words, but,
6 "There are people dying, you need to get down to the
7 train"?

8 A. I can recollect that there were some people coming up on
9 their mobile phones trying to get through and saying,
10 "Guess what? I've just been in an accident". I can
11 recollect perhaps one or two saying, "Thank God you're
12 here, there's still people down there". But no one
13 saying specifically there were people dying down there.
14 But these people may have come from the carriages which
15 were not affected directly by this --

16 Q. I understand that, they could have been further back on
17 the train.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did any of the Underground staff make you aware that
20 there were people who needed serious attention on the
21 train itself?

22 A. No.

23 Q. When you got down onto the platform, you said you had to
24 wait a time to be told that the traction current was
25 off. Having seen all these people, these hordes --

1 that's my word rather than yours -- walking up the
2 stairs and having come from the train, arguably some
3 would say it might have been obvious that the traction
4 current was off. Why did you need to wait for
5 confirmation?

6 A. We have been brought up -- the majority of firefighters
7 have been brought up in a health and safety environment.
8 If we go against that health and safety, we could
9 actually be cutting our own throats, we could be
10 charged. The powers that be that run the Fire Service
11 set down plans; we don't tend to bend from those plans.
12 There are others, mavericks, of which I would
13 classify myself as one, who just turned round at the end
14 of it and said "Oh, stuff this, let's get on and do the
15 job we get paid for". It wasn't long before I got the
16 hump and walked along the track with my crew.

17 Q. So did you actually ever receive confirmation from
18 anyone that the traction current was off?

19 A. Common sense tells me -- told me that with all the
20 people coming out, there was no electric on.

21 Q. What about another member of the Fire Brigade, did any
22 of them say anything to you that the traction current
23 was off?

24 A. Answer no.

25 Q. The reason why I ask that is because in your statement,

1 dated 24 September 2005, you mentioned that you were
2 waiting to find out that the power had turned off. Your
3 statement says this:

4 "Shortly after, I was told by another member of the
5 Fire Brigade that the power was off and it was safe to
6 go on to the tracks."

7 Does that jog your memory at all?

8 A. That was five years ago. I've spent five years trying
9 to forget about this incident, to be quite honest with
10 you.

11 Q. I can understand.

12 A. I can't -- you know, I've got very good recollection on
13 most things, but sometimes things do slip.

14 Q. Eventually, it sounds like you got bored of waiting for
15 confirmation that the power was off?

16 A. Oh, common sense took over.

17 Q. Common sense took over, sorry, my fault, wrong use of
18 the word. Can I just ask, how long, roughly, do you
19 think you waited before the common sense took over on
20 the platform?

21 A. I think we'd done three trips with people, two
22 firefighters per twelve people up through the platform
23 and up the stairs, two or three of them, and I said to
24 Firefighters Austen and Deuchars, "Come on, we're up
25 there. That's where we're needed", and that's where we

1 went.

2 Q. So you made your way along to the train.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. When you got to the train, what did you see on the
5 track?

6 A. There was a guy, I remember this really -- it was
7 surreal, there was quite a large gentleman and he looked
8 like he was sitting on a rail, but he didn't have any
9 shirt on. I'm not even sure if he had any trousers on,
10 to be quite honest with you, and he was very sooty and
11 he looked quite sweaty, but in the dim light I couldn't
12 say if it was sweat, blood, tears or what, but he was
13 obviously in distress, and I asked Firefighters Austen
14 and Deuchars to go and give them assistance, which they
15 did.

16 There was another guy up further underneath
17 a blanket, or a person underneath a blanket; I couldn't
18 tell you if it was male or female.

19 Q. The person under the blanket, were they lying on the
20 track or were they lying on a ladder or on a stretcher?

21 A. They weren't lying on a ladder, they were lying on -- it
22 looked like laying on the gravel of the track with
23 a blanket over them.

24 Q. Was the blanket a standard Fire Brigade blanket or an
25 emergency services blanket?

1 A. It was a blanket which you would see either on an
2 ambulance or which we sometimes carry -- carried.

3 Q. Can we have up on the screen, please, [INQ10280-9] ?

4 I think you then boarded the carriage, and this is
5 a plan of the carriage. The left-hand side is the rear
6 of the carriage, the right-hand side is the front.

7 A. Double door D8. There was two ladders, one was
8 a Fire Brigade short extension ladder, or part of, and
9 one was an LUL ladder. Climbed up there to where seats
10 18 and 17 were. Couldn't go any further across the gap
11 between the two doors, the doors were off, basically.
12 Between the gap was a young lad laying there, he had
13 a sign on his chest.

14 Q. The young lad, you say he was laying there. Was he
15 laying in the areas by double doors D8?

16 A. Yes, his head was at 18 and his feet were at 19. On his
17 back.

18 Q. At that point, was he exhibiting any signs of life?

19 A. We made eye contact, there was an ambulance man standing
20 over a gentleman at 18 and the ambulance man asked me to
21 look after or check the guy out, check the kiddy out.
22 I felt for a pulse and we made eye contact, and he still
23 had some -- there was still some life in there, it was
24 still there, it didn't last particularly long, but it
25 was still there. I gave him a cuddle.

1 Q. You mention in your statement that he died shortly
2 thereafter.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was there a paramedic with him at that point?

5 A. No. The ambulance -- I thought it was an ambulance man,
6 I couldn't say a paramedic, but there was an ambulance
7 man and a police -- I now know to be a policeman, didn't
8 see their faces because they had their backs to me, they
9 was leaning over a guy in seat 18. I know that man to
10 be a fellow called Andrew, he had his leg removed,
11 but -- I didn't see his leg, but they was there, yes,
12 and the paramedic or the ambulance man, I give him a tug
13 on his leg when I felt that life had been extinguished
14 and he put his hand down, he felt the young lad, and ...

15 Q. I just want to ask you about the area between the bank
16 of seats 14 to 11 and 19 to 22?

17 A. A bit of a mess in the middle there, my old love, a bit
18 of a mess.

19 Q. Do you recollect seeing a specific number of bodies in
20 that area?

21 A. I think there were three or four.

22 Q. Again, I'm sorry to ask you this, but do you recollect
23 whether any of those exhibited any signs of life?

24 A. Not in this world they didn't.

25 Q. Did you then remain in the area around double door D8?

1 A. Yes, I was asked if -- or we was asked, firefighters who
2 were there, if anyone had a lamp, a torch. I took my
3 handlamp off and tunic and gave it to the paramedic. He
4 then asked for a knife and, as I always carried a knife
5 at the time, I gave it to him. I don't actually
6 recollect getting it back either.

7 Q. From your statement, I understand that you remained in
8 that position, I think, in your words, acting as
9 a gofer --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- passing equipment which was needed to free the
12 casualties which were in the far left of the carriage?

13 A. Yes, there was a gentleman called Andrew, I'm sure that
14 was his name, he was in seat 18, and there was a lady,
15 she was very low down in the carriage, with
16 a firefighter at 16, and there was another lady at 17,
17 but because of the situation where the ambulance fellow
18 and a copper was stood, I couldn't see her. They were
19 the last three out of the carriage.

20 Q. I think you played an important role in actually passing
21 them on the stretchers out of the carriage, is that
22 correct?

23 A. I played a role in passing out. It's not an important
24 role, it's a role that had to be done.

25 Q. Do you recall, at any point, a doctor arriving?

1 A. Yes. Well, I don't know where he came from, but I can
2 only assume that he came from D6 or one of the back --
3 the further back from the train. He may even have
4 walked through the train. But he -- one moment he
5 weren't there, the next minute he's stood there at seat
6 sort of 19ish, and the ambulance -- the conversation
7 between him and an ambulance man, and he prioritised who
8 he wanted out first. The lady who was sat at 16 came
9 out first, I believe. Andrew came out second and then
10 the young girl who was sat next to Andrew or by Andrew
11 came out last. And the ambulance man had asked the
12 doctor, he said, "Give me a couple of moments, I need to
13 put a line into her" I take that to be a saline into
14 her, or whatever, and the doctor went, "No, not on this
15 occasion, she's out".

16 Q. How did you know he was a doctor?

17 A. I think he had "Doctor" written on the back of his
18 tunic, I think he had a green pair of overalls on and
19 "Doctor" was written all over it, and it was the way
20 that the ambulance man had spoken to him.

21 Q. I know you say they were green overalls. Is it possible
22 they may have been orange?

23 A. Do you know -- ambulance is green, isn't it? That's
24 medical, green. I don't think it was HEMS, let's put it
25 that way. I don't think it was HEMS. I think he was

1 a proper doctor from a proper hospital, not a flying
2 doctor from Australia, let's put it that way.

3 MR HAY: Thank you very much. I have no more questions for
4 you, but there may be some more.

5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Coltart?

6 Questions by MR COLTART

7 MR COLTART: Mr Foster, I represent the interests of the
8 young man who died in the doorway there at D8. I just
9 want to ask you a few questions, if I may, about that.
10 I think you told us that, when you arrived at the
11 carriage, Mr Ellery, that being his name, already had
12 a sign on his chest. Was that a priority sign?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you take it from that that he had already been
15 assessed then by a paramedic before you arrived?

16 A. In all honesty, I'd never seen signs like that before,
17 except on drills, so I didn't read how acute his
18 injuries were. To me, he looked like a young lad who
19 had just walked on to a train, there weren't a mark --
20 it didn't even look like there was a mark on that boy.

21 Q. For the avoidance of any doubt, I'm not suggesting for
22 a minute you should have done anything different. We're
23 just trying to get as much detail as we can about --

24 A. Yes, I'm just saying he had a sign on him, so he
25 obviously was a priority case.

1 Q. But you said not a sign that you were familiar with, so
2 it's not one that the London Fire Brigade would
3 routinely carry. It was one, presumably, which had been
4 put on him by another member of the emergency services?

5 A. As firefighters we're not allowed to pronounce anyone
6 right or wrong, are we?

7 Q. But it wasn't a sign -- we know that other signs were
8 placed on other people --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- which literally had --

11 A. I can't remember the wording on the sign. I know that
12 there was a laminated sign on the boy's chest.

13 Q. At some point thereafter, you asked the ambulance man to
14 conduct a check on this young boy. Was that once you
15 thought, in your own assessment, he had probably passed
16 away?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Roughly how long was that after you had first arrived
19 and seen him lying there with the sign on his chest?

20 A. Eight, ten minutes.

21 Q. You've described for us one of the members of the London
22 Ambulance Service who was at the top when you arrived.

23 I'm not suggesting for a minute that this is the same
24 ambulance man down in the carriage, but are you able to
25 describe the ambulance man in the carriage who

1 pronounced him dead or checked for his vital signs?

2 A. About the same age as me, I should think, well, at the
3 time, I suppose, about 40s. But I only ever saw his
4 back.

5 Q. Right. In that case, I'm not going to ask you to
6 speculate as far as that's concerned. As far as the
7 doctor that you've described in the green overalls with
8 the word "Doctor" on the back, again, roughly how long
9 after Mr Ellery had died and the paramedic had checked
10 him did the doctor arrive?

11 A. That was quite a way in. We'd had the lady who was
12 stuck down -- I said was low in the corner, she'd had
13 a positive pressure breathing apparatus set thrown on
14 her face, that really did help. We was quite a way into
15 it. I'd say 15, 20 -- I'd say 20 minutes afterwards.
16 It was nearer the end of that incident than it was at
17 the start of it, let's put it that way.

18 Q. Were you aware, yourself, of requests being made by your
19 colleagues on the carriage for further equipment needed
20 in there?

21 A. Yes, I asked myself. I'm a trained fire rescue unit
22 man. I knew, because I'd seen the crew, that there was
23 a fire rescue unit from Lewisham, Echo 216, upstairs,
24 ground level. They carry a larger first aid kit. They
25 carry oxygen, oxy admin equipment, at the time, I can't

1 remember -- we was on a changeover there -- whether it
2 was a mini, maxi man or what, and we asked for that,
3 said "For the lady, can we have this?"
4 Unfortunately, there are firefighters who stay on
5 their stations and learn their equipment and they learn
6 their kit and they learn what to do with it, and there
7 are firefighters who don't, and perhaps the blokes I was
8 talking to, the officers I was talking to, didn't know
9 their equipment, because I got a blank on asking for
10 equipment.
11 Q. Was this officers that you were talking to at the
12 carriage or was it --
13 A. At the carriage. They carry three stretchers on a fire
14 rescue unit: a basket stretcher, a split stretcher and
15 one that goes in a rucksack. There was no need to wait
16 the time that we waited for stretchers. We had three.
17 We had oxy admin equipment.
18 Q. Wait a minute, I want to be clear about this, when you
19 say the stretchers and oxy admin equipment, is that
20 equipment which, as far as you were aware, was available
21 from the fire rescue unit but which was not being
22 brought down to the carriage?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. If you had have had available to you that oxygen admin
25 equipment, would you have used it on the young man in

1 the doorway?

2 A. No. He, unfortunately -- when he demised, it wouldn't
3 have been no good to him. I don't know what injuries
4 that lad had, but I can only assume that they were all
5 internal, from bomb blast, whatever, concussion. It
6 wouldn't have helped him. It might have helped that
7 lady a bit more. She might not have cried out as much.
8 But ...

9 Q. As it happens, I think my Lady is going to receive some
10 further evidence in relation to bomb blast injuries and
11 so on in due course. I'm not going to ask you to
12 speculate any further about that.

13 But in relation to the stretchers, for example, you
14 asked your colleagues who had the fire rescue unit
15 available to them. Were any other requests made, that
16 you were aware of, for stretchers to be brought down to
17 the scene of the carriage?

18 A. Repeatedly. You don't -- firefighters, to save life, to
19 protect and save property, to carry out humanitarian
20 needs, that was how it was in 1979 when I joined. They
21 changed some of that. To save life where life is
22 saveable. To save property where it's saveable. Old
23 hands don't hold to that. Old hands still hold to what
24 they was taught in the first part.

25 Q. Just finally this, if I may: to what extent did you feel

1 that you were hampered in your actions on that day by
2 the lack of equipment available to you?

3 A. I won't say it would have saved some people, but having
4 the right equipment, or having the equipment which
5 was -- which should have been available and having it in
6 your hands to use may have saved some distress.

7 MR COLTART: Thank you very much.

8 A. My pleasure.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

10 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

11 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Foster, I only want to ask you about one
12 matter. You've described a number of bodies that were
13 at about the seats of 19 to 22.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you remember that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you responsible for moving any bodies in that part
18 of the carriage?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were you aware of any other, either firefighter or
21 medic, who may have moved any of the bodies?

22 A. Firefighters don't move dead bodies. We're not trained
23 to do that. We can only move things when we are told to
24 move things by a police officer or by a coroner.

25 Q. I just want to understand whether you saw anything, you

1 see, Mr Foster. Do I take it from that you didn't see
2 anybody moving any bodies?

3 A. If they're in the way, we might shove them, but we
4 wouldn't move anything. We don't go around -- you don't
5 go around --

6 Q. Mr Foster, I have reasons to ask these questions.

7 A. Quite right, yes.

8 Q. One of the witnesses has described somebody -- I'm not
9 suggesting for a moment it's you, sir -- has described
10 a body being moved. I'm just trying to work out who
11 that may have been.

12 A. No, we don't move -- you can't -- in an incident like
13 this, or any incident where there may -- where it might
14 have been underhand, you don't move bodies. Those will
15 be photographed for future evidence. We don't move
16 things.

17 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much, Mr Foster.

18 A. My pleasure.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff?

20 Questions by MS SHEFF

21 MS SHEFF: Mr Foster, I just have one question or one area
22 to ask you about as well, and it's also concerning those
23 bodies in the middle. You've told us that, when you
24 were with Mr Ellery, you saw that he had a priority sign
25 on him, which was something that the Fire Brigade didn't

1 use, and you presumed it had been put on him by
2 a paramedic.
3 A. He had a sign on him. I don't know if it was priority
4 or not. He had a sign on him.
5 Q. Yes. I think that sign had a number 1 on it, didn't it?
6 A. I couldn't tell you.
7 Q. You don't remember the number.
8 So before you arrived, someone, possibly the same
9 person who had assessed Richard Ellery and put that sign
10 on him, may also have assessed those bodies in the
11 middle as having no vital signs?
12 A. Probably.
13 Q. Did you see anyone doing that?
14 A. No.
15 Q. Did you see any signs on those bodies at all?
16 A. No.
17 MS SHEFF: Thank you very much, Mr Foster.
18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Boyd?
19 MS BOYD: My Lady, no questions.
20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Anybody else any questions?
21 Questions by MS ORMOND-WALSH
22 MS ORMOND-WALSH: I'm Ms Ormond-Walsh acting on behalf of
23 Barts and the London NHS Trust who employ the HEMS
24 doctors.
25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Sorry, is your microphone on?

1 MS ORMOND-WALSH: Thank you.

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: We all get used to it after a while.

3 MS ORMOND-WALSH: I'm Ms Ormond-Walsh, I'm representing the
4 HEMS doctors and we know that the HEMS doctors were down
5 on the scene. As far as we're aware, they were the only
6 doctors who were there. There was one there who had the
7 orange jumpsuit on with a green tabard. Could that have
8 been the doctor you thought?

9 A. It may well have been. I remembered green. I don't
10 remember --

11 Q. But you specifically remember it was somebody with
12 "Doctor" on the back of their suit?

13 A. Yes, doctors have a way, don't they? And this guy had
14 a way with him. He was obviously in charge.

15 MS ORMOND-WALSH: All right, many thanks, Mr Foster. Thank
16 you.

17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Yes, Mr Taylor?

18 Questions by MR TAYLOR

19 MR TAYLOR: Good afternoon, Mr Foster.

20 I think you said you arrived about 09.11, and there
21 were two other engines on-site at that time before
22 you --

23 A. I believe there were two other appliances, yes, on-site.

24 Q. Where were they parked?

25 A. We were parked on the left-hand side, they would have

1 been parked directly in front of but to either side of
2 the main entrance to the Underground station, as is laid
3 down by our procedures.

4 Q. Did you see any other officers from the fire engines
5 before you went in?

6 A. I couldn't tell -- as I said earlier on, we're
7 a southern area station, and this was in the eastern
8 command. Although it's only the River Thames and
9 a bridge, we didn't -- you know, you wouldn't get to
10 converse too much with your -- you wouldn't actually
11 know your other officers too much.

12 Q. You're from Dockhead, so you have to go across
13 Tower Bridge and around the one-way system to there?

14 A. Yes, and it was change of watch. Now, you might have
15 even got there, where we were blue watch, you might have
16 had the other watch hanging on or what have you, because
17 of the time in the morning, 9.00.

18 Q. Sorry, are you on night duty or on day?

19 A. We were just coming on duty, we were.

20 Q. You were coming on duty, okay.

21 When you first entered Aldgate station, are you
22 saying that no one actually said to you there were
23 people dying down there?

24 A. I can't recollect people saying they were dying down
25 there, no.

1 Q. Did anybody speak to you while you were on the actual
2 platform or on the mezzanine floor coming off of the
3 train?

4 A. Yes, well, they were saying thank you, as is the English
5 way.

6 Q. They were saying thank you?

7 A. Yes, thank you for helping them.

8 Q. For helping them coming back up. I think you referred
9 to the word "maverick" in your evidence.

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Can you just explain to me what you mean by "maverick"?

12 A. Yes, a firefighter who thinks for himself and doesn't
13 just do it by -- he stays within the rules, but just.

14 There are times when you have to put others before
15 yourself. That incident was one of them. If the
16 electric had been on that track, on the traction rail,
17 we would have stepped inside it. Sometimes you need to
18 be told. Other times you just do it because common
19 sense tells you to do it, because that's what you do.

20 That's what your occupation is, firefighter, rescuer.

21 Q. Your crew that you worked with, would you say that they
22 were mavericks as well?

23 A. No, but they trusted me.

24 Q. That's obviously an integral part of the way you work.

25 What happens if someone is seconded from another fire

1 station to your station? Would you expect them to work
2 in the same way that --

3 A. You get an instinct on who you would trust in life. In
4 30 years of being a firefighter and a junior officer,
5 I never took anyone into a place where it was dangerous,
6 where I wouldn't go myself. I never killed anyone,
7 I never had anyone injured. People followed because
8 they wanted to, not because I made them, if that's what
9 you're getting at.

10 Q. I'm not really getting at anything, actually, I'm just
11 asking relevant questions. When you went down, did you
12 make a dynamic risk assessment? Is it your job to make
13 a risk assessment?

14 A. Every firefighter makes a dynamic risk assessment.
15 Everywhere, even walking in here we make a dynamic risk
16 assessment.

17 Q. Referring to power on the line, I think you said it
18 wasn't confirmed until about 9.30. Did you see at any
19 time before that anybody actually physically stand on
20 the line, the power, the third rail?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You didn't see somebody standing on there?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Where did that confirmation come from,
25 London Underground staff?

1 A. I believe it came from London Underground, it was
2 relayed via Brigade officers. It would have had to have
3 come from the control room, the LUL control, and it
4 would have had to come through our liaison officer or
5 whoever. I am too low down the pecking line to ...

6 Q. So London Underground never actually physically said to
7 you "The power is off", it came from somebody else?

8 A. It would have come from above.

9 Q. Yes, but how do you receive it, though?

10 A. By walking on the line and not going "Bang".

11 Q. Finally, did anybody mention the possibility of
12 secondary devices or CBRN?

13 A. I turned a policeman's radio off on the platform because
14 of secondary devices and we had a discussion over it.

15 Q. You turned a policeman's -- not your radio, but
16 a policeman's radio off?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What did he think about that, did he say anything?

19 A. He asked me what I was doing and when I explained to him
20 that secondary devices can be actuated by radio waves,
21 he looked at me and went "Oh, yeah".

22 Q. You've worked a very long time in the fire service,
23 you've seen a lot of incidents, very large incidents,
24 I would imagine: you must work alongside police
25 officers, ambulance people, London Underground staff

1 maybe, HEMS. Have you ever come across any friction
2 between them?
3 A. No, no.
4 MR TAYLOR: Thank you very much.
5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions?
6 MR COLTART: My Lady, can I just ask one arising out of
7 something which Mr Taylor has just asked?
8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Of course, Mr Coltart.
9 Further questions by MR COLTART
10 MR COLTART: Do we take it that the police officer you spoke
11 to at the surface did turn off his radio as a result of
12 your request?
13 A. He was on the platform, yes. I turned his radio off.
14 Q. You turned his radio off. Were you aware of that
15 example being followed by others in terms of radios
16 being turned off?
17 A. I wouldn't let my boys have their radios on. They
18 didn't have their radios on. They don't work
19 particularly well underground anyway, unless there's
20 a leaky feeder, and I don't think there was one working
21 properly down there.
22 Q. Were you ever conscious of a direction being given by
23 I think a MAIAT officer for radios to be turned off
24 because of the fear of secondary devices?
25 A. I didn't even see a MAIAT officer.

1 Q. But in any event, as far as your crew were concerned at
2 the carriage, their radios were off. What about the
3 other crews who were working down there?

4 A. I think theirs was off as well. I don't think the
5 radios were working, to be quite honest with you,
6 anyway, underground. As I said, unless there's a leaky
7 feeder down there, you won't get a reception.

8 Q. What about the London Underground staff, because their
9 radios did work down in the tunnel, or at least some of
10 them did, were you conscious of any requests for them to
11 turn their radios off?

12 A. No, I didn't actually converse with any of the LUL lads
13 down there. Once -- I thought that, once they'd
14 detrained the train, got all the passengers off that
15 they could, then they went upstairs, went to the ground
16 level. I didn't actually converse with any LUL blokes.

17 Q. The same for the British Transport Police, did you have
18 any conversation with them about their radios or the use
19 of radios?

20 A. No.

21 MR COLTART: All right, thank you very much.

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Thank you very
23 much, Mr Foster. I'm sorry we had to ask you to relive
24 something that, not surprisingly, you've tried to put
25 out of your mind, but thank you for coming in.

1 MR KEITH: My Lady, there are two further fairly short
2 witnesses. I don't know whether that's a convenient
3 moment.

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Of course. Oh, you want to break
5 now. Sorry, I thought you meant you wanted to get the
6 witnesses.

7 MR KEITH: I'm sorry my Lady, it's only, if my Lady was
8 minded to take a break, that would be a convenient
9 point, because I think we can accommodate two further
10 short witnesses even with a break.

11 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Very well.

12 (3.15 pm)

13 (A short break)

14 (3.25 pm)

15 MR KEITH: May I invite to you call Dimitri Burge?

16 MR DIMITRI GREGORY BURGE (sworn)

17 Questions by MR KEITH

18 MR KEITH: Could you give the court your full name, please?

19 A. Dimitri Gregory Burge.

20 Q. Mr Burge, on Thursday, 7 July, you were with blue watch
21 at Islington fire station, is that right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Were you assigned to an appliance, a pump ladder,
24 Alpha 301?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. We know from the logs kept by the London Fire Brigade
2 that you weren't mobilised until a little later than
3 some of your colleagues, about 9.15, and you didn't
4 arrive, in fact, until around about 9.30 at Aldgate. Do
5 you recollect that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You, I think, had been in the duty station?

8 A. The watch room.

9 Q. The watch room in the fire station --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- whilst some of your other colleagues were being
12 mobilised and you no doubt could hear something of what
13 was going on over the radio?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So you knew there was a major incident being called?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So when you arrived, there were a number of other
18 appliances on the scene, were there not?

19 A. There was.

20 Q. Were you wearing your breathing apparatus, the BA?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. When you went into the station, to Aldgate, did you keep
23 your breathing apparatus on or were you told to take it
24 off?

25 A. We was told to take it off by a station officer outside

1 the station.

2 Q. So you were able to -- I think it's quite easy to take
3 it off; you take your arms out of the rucksack-like
4 webbing, do you not, and take it off?

5 A. You loosen the straps and you just step out of it, yes.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Is that just to make you more mobile,
7 Mr Burge, to take it off? It sounds obvious, but --

8 A. If you don't need it, then you don't have the need to
9 wear it.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It makes you more mobile?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR KEITH: Were you instead told that you needed cutting
13 equipment?

14 A. We was.

15 Q. So did you go and get the cutting equipment from your
16 appliance?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Does it take a number of firefighters to carry the
19 cutting equipment?

20 A. It's a four-person lift.

21 Q. Is that because of the way in which it is on a sled with
22 a generator?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Where did you take it?

25 A. We took it down the concourse, down the stairs, onto the

1 track.

2 Q. Did you go straight down onto the track, or did you
3 pause on the platform?

4 A. I cannot remember.

5 Q. All right. From the time that you arrived, we know it
6 was quite a way into the incident, do you recall whether
7 or not there were a large number of people, passengers,
8 coming the other way, out of the tunnel and onto the
9 platform?

10 A. When we arrived, there was passengers already outside on
11 the street level, and there was passengers still coming
12 up the stairs, and on the track.

13 Q. Did you place the equipment down on the track, next to
14 the train?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. All right. Now, I'm not going to ask you about your
17 recollection of the state of the carriage and the train
18 because we've heard a great deal of evidence about that,
19 Mr Burge. What I'd like to ask you instead about is how
20 a young lady came to be taken out of the carriage.
21 Could you tell us, please, how you played your part
22 in holding the end of an improvised ladder that was
23 being used as a stretcher to take her out?

24 A. Yes, the part of the ladder that was passed to me
25 I helped lower it and someone else took the other end,

1 and we laid it on the ground.

2 Q. It's very important to the family of that young lady,
3 Mr Burge, that they know that their daughter was treated
4 with respect and as best as could be done in very
5 difficult, indeed dangerous, circumstances.

6 Did you take great care yourself to support the head
7 of that young lady as she was brought out of the
8 carriage?

9 A. Whilst we was manoeuvring the makeshift stretcher out of
10 the carriage, her head had slipped through the rungs of
11 the ladder and was swinging about quite a bit, so
12 I called everybody to stop while I adjusted her head so
13 that it was resting back on the ladder and not swinging.

14 Q. When the ladder together with the young lady was placed
15 down on the tracks next to the train, did you take the
16 time and the trouble to find a blanket to put over her?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And there did she lie?

19 A. She did.

20 Q. You then, I think, turned to help with other stretchers
21 and other casualties being brought out of the carriage,
22 is that right?

23 A. That is, yes.

24 Q. You describe how there was a male being brought out on
25 a stretcher who was conscious and you helped taking his

1 stretcher up to ground level?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then did you return a third time to play your part in
4 taking yet another casualty upstairs?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. I think you remained downstairs in the tunnel for some
7 time because it took quite a long time to get people
8 upstairs and then for you to get back down --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and then assist in carrying stretchers back up again.

11 A. It took quite a bit of time to actually carry the
12 stretchers down on the track because of the -- the
13 footing wasn't very good, and you had to be careful
14 where you was going, and you had to be careful you
15 didn't trip over and obviously drop the stretcher. So
16 that took a bit of time.

17 Q. In terms of the difficulties that you faced because of
18 the footing and the visibility and the circumstances of
19 this explosion, was that job of carrying casualties out
20 on stretchers particularly difficult?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR KEITH: Mr Burge, thank you very much. Will you stay
23 there, please? There may be some more questions for
24 you.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It seems there are no questions.

1 Mr Taylor, any questions?

2 Thank you very much, Mr Burge. It seems there are
3 no more questions for you, and thank you for treating
4 that young lady with such respect and for all you did.

5 MR HAY: My Lady, may I invite you to call Vincent Magyar,
6 please?

7 MR VINCENT MAGYAR (affirmed)

8 Questions by MR HAY

9 MR HAY: Good afternoon. Can you give your full name to the
10 court, please?

11 A. Yes, Vincent Magyar.

12 Q. Mr Magyar, you were based at the same station as
13 Mr Burge, Islington, on 7 July 2005?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You were also crewed on the same appliance, pump ladder
16 A301?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. I just want to have a quick look at the time at which
19 you arrived at Aldgate. Can we have on the screen
20 LFB23, please? If we could go to page 17 [LFB23-17], and then, if
21 we could focus on the bottom part of the page, and then,
22 if we could highlight where it says 09.13.39, that there
23 suggests that your appliance is mobilised at 09.13.39
24 and you were mobile at 09.16.07, but it has the arrival
25 time at 09.27.50.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I'm just wondering whether or not that seems accurate to
3 you, the time of arrival?

4 A. It's hard to remember but, to my recollection, these
5 times come from a button box system that we had on the
6 fire engine, and that, if we were called at 09.14, it
7 would be -- yes, we'd be gone within a minute, I should
8 think, so it could be there's a delay on sending that
9 message, but I think that the time to get there,
10 14 minutes, it might be right, because there was a lot
11 of traffic, so it's probably reasonably accurate, I'd
12 think.

13 Q. The reason why I ask is in the statement which you
14 provided to the police on 4 November you thought that
15 you arrived within five minutes of mobilisation, but on
16 reflection, do you think that was probably an
17 underestimate?

18 A. Yes, I do. When I was informed that I was coming here,
19 I looked at the statement and I did think that "I didn't
20 get there in five minutes, that's too fast".

21 Q. On your way, were you aware that it was a major
22 incident?

23 A. I've got some kind of recollection that we knew there
24 was something going on. We weren't quite aware of it.
25 There was traffic -- I can't remember what the traffic

1 was, but we knew something was going on. We had a major
2 incident that we were called to, so we knew something
3 major was going to go on.

4 Q. You didn't know what the nature of it was?

5 A. We didn't know exactly what it was, no.

6 Q. On arrival, what were you asked to do?

7 A. When we arrived, Station Officer Pinchen from Kingsland
8 was outside the entrance of the station and he asked
9 me -- well, actually, I can't remember who it was that
10 first asked me -- asked me to get guys in breathing
11 apparatus. So I got my crew to wear BA and came back to
12 the entrance to the station, and then I spoke to
13 Station Officer Pinchen and I remember speaking to him,
14 and he said it was no longer required, what we actually
15 needed was Holmatro equipment, which is cutting
16 equipment, because he believed that people were trapped
17 in the train.

18 Q. Just pausing there, I'm sure this is obvious, but the
19 reason why you would need the breathing apparatus is if
20 there was a particular large amount of smoke or
21 something along those lines.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. So at about 09.30, his initial instinct was you needed
24 the breathing apparatus?

25 A. That was my initial briefing and then it was changed to,

1 as I say, the cutting equipment.

2 Q. How quickly was it changed to you need the cutting
3 equipment?

4 A. Well, it was -- as soon as we arrived, we were told we
5 needed BA, so it would be just a few minutes that we'd
6 arrive at the front wearing the sets, and we were told
7 then by Station Officer Pinchen to get the cutting gear
8 and not bother with the sets.

9 Q. And that's because --

10 A. A few minutes.

11 Q. That's because it was understood that there were people
12 trapped in the carriage?

13 A. That's what I was told.

14 Q. We've had the cutting equipment described to us, but as
15 we understand it, it's a large piece of equipment that
16 requires four people to carry it. Is that correct?

17 A. Yes, it's quite heavy, yes.

18 Q. You took that cutting equipment all the way down to the
19 train?

20 A. Yes, with some first aid equipment, and I know we got
21 a short extension ladder from the fire engine but
22 I can't remember if we carried that as well. I do
23 remember struggling quite a bit to get down to the
24 scene.

25 Q. When you got to the train, was the cutting equipment

1 actually required?

2 A. No, it wasn't.

3 Q. Did you, yourself, board the carriage?

4 A. Very briefly I did.

5 Q. Can we have up on the screen INQ10280 and then page 9 [INQ10280-9] ,

6 please? You may have seen this plan earlier. Are you

7 able to say which doors you boarded the carriage

8 through?

9 A. I'm afraid I can't make any sense of the plan. I could

10 explain what I saw and where I went, but I don't know

11 what door I went to.

12 Q. What did you see?

13 A. Well, what I saw was there was an extension ladder laid

14 into the carriage at the gap where there was a hole in

15 the carriage side, there were firemen in the carriage

16 working, and there was just a moment where I went up to

17 the carriage to see if they needed any extra assistance.

18 So I briefly went up, the firemen were to the left of

19 me, then I just came back down when I realised I wasn't

20 needed and they didn't need any more help.

21 Q. Were you aware of any particular bodies in the area

22 where you boarded the train or anything like that?

23 A. Yes, there was a body between myself and the fireman

24 that I spoke to.

25 Q. Can you describe that body at all?

1 A. I've been trying to remember it since I've been told
2 I've been coming here, and I can't remember. I'm sorry.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: You were told they didn't need any
4 more assistance. What about whether or not they needed
5 any more equipment, Mr Magyar?

6 A. Yes, well, that's what happened then. When I -- they
7 didn't need actual help on the carriage, but when I got
8 back down, I was talking -- I can't remember who it was
9 I was speaking to, but it was a combination of medical
10 personnel, and Fire Brigade people, I think the British
11 Transport Police, and what we did, we -- well,
12 I realised there were three people that had to be taken
13 out of the carriage, and taken back upstairs, and we
14 didn't have stretchers for them, and I was asked to
15 arrange it, and more medical equipment, somebody asked
16 for more medical equipment, because we didn't have
17 enough.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I was focusing on what happened when
19 you asked if you could do any more in the carriage.

20 A. Right.

21 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Is this all after you've, as it
22 were -- you're talking to people on the track, or did
23 any of your colleagues --

24 A. No, I talked to the people -- I'm sorry, I'll just
25 explain briefly.

1 What happened was the first thing I was told to do
2 was get an equipment dump set up, that's what happened
3 when I originally got there. We put the Holmatro and
4 other gear all together so that people can find it if
5 they need it. Then I briefly went on to the carriage
6 just for a few seconds, came back down, and then
7 I was -- then we made this decision that I had to get in
8 touch with the control point to get some stretchers and
9 more medical equipment.
10 There were three people being worked on in the
11 carriage at the time, and I was told they didn't have
12 enough medical equipment and we didn't have stretchers
13 to get them out, and could I arrange that that be done.
14 So I did.
15 MR HAY: I think you tried to contact
16 Station Officer Pinchen?
17 A. That's right, I tried to call him on my radio and
18 I couldn't get through.
19 Q. Because you couldn't get through, what did you do?
20 A. I decided that I'd take a firefighter with me,
21 Firefighter Green and we went to the entrance of the
22 station to get the equipment. I met a -- I don't know
23 if it's an ambulanceman or a paramedic, he was coming
24 down, he didn't have a stretcher with him, so I liaised
25 with him and I said -- I told him exactly what we

1 needed, three stretchers, "Make sure you bring three
2 stretchers back down", and we carried more medical
3 equipment back down with us, back to the scene.

4 Q. Before you went down to the train, if you had been asked
5 to bring stretchers then, was that the sort of equipment
6 that you carried on your appliance?

7 A. No, we don't carry stretchers on fire engines.

8 Q. So you would have to ask paramedics, in any event?

9 A. Yes. Although the fire rescue unit has stretchers, the
10 fire engine doesn't.

11 Q. You also required additional medical equipment, first
12 aid equipment. Is that right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. What sort of equipment did you need to bring down with
15 you?

16 A. I can't remember exactly what I was told to bring, but
17 it wasn't stuff off the fire engine because we had
18 a basic, small first aid box, about a foot square.

19 That's all we had at the time. It was stuff from the
20 ambulance. So I just asked the ambulance personnel to
21 bring what they could. It was just a general request
22 for more equipment and I can't remember precise details
23 of what it was. I remember carrying some bags back down
24 from the ambulance personnel.

25 Q. You then made your way back down to the train. Were

1 you, yourself, taking a stretcher and first aid
2 equipment with you or --
3 A. Not a stretcher, just first aid equipment. The
4 ambulance people said that they would bring the
5 stretchers, and they did.
6 Q. At that point, did you remain outside the train?
7 A. Yes, I didn't go back on the carriage. I stayed on the
8 ground level. People were being worked on, and one by
9 one they were taken off and evacuated on the stretchers.
10 Q. I think you remained there until the last live casualty
11 had been removed?
12 A. That's correct, yes.
13 Q. After which you then left the scene, presumably?
14 A. Yes, we went to a church hall nearby for a while, wrote
15 a statement and then we went back to station.
16 Q. Do you recall -- sorry, I should have asked you this
17 earlier -- whether or not the first aid equipment that
18 you were asked to get, did that include any
19 resuscitation equipment?
20 A. I'm sorry, but I can't remember exactly what I was asked
21 to get, as far as medical equipment goes.
22 MR HAY: Thank you very much, Mr Magyar. I have no more
23 questions for you, but others may.
24 MR COLTART: No, thank you.
25 MR SAUNDERS: No, thank you, my Lady.

1 MS SHEFF: No, thank you.

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: No more questions? Mr Taylor?

3 MR TAYLOR: No, thank you.

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Magyar, it seems there are no more
5 questions for you. I'm sorry we had to ask you to come,
6 but you will appreciate, when we did ask you to come, we
7 weren't sure whether there would be other issues to be
8 explored with you, so thank you very much for coming and
9 thank you for doing your best to help.

10 A. Thank you.

11 Housekeeping

12 MR KEITH: My Lady, may I raise just one matter of
13 housekeeping very briefly?

14 In the light of the evidence that my Lady has heard
15 over the last two weeks we've been able to turn our
16 attention a little more closely perhaps to the witnesses
17 provisionally scheduled for later on this week, in
18 particular those concerned with what we've been calling
19 command and control.

20 We have therefore suggested that those witnesses be
21 rescheduled, in the sense that some witnesses may be
22 giving evidence on Wednesday rather than Thursday. Some
23 additional witnesses, you will recall DCI Lawson, the
24 BTP officer, and another officer, DCI Robert Pacey, will
25 need to be inserted into the schedule somewhere.

1 So Mr Smith has very kindly written to all the
2 interested persons setting out how the schedule will
3 vary later in the week. But the email contains
4 a request that my learned friends inform us tonight as
5 to whether or not they want a particular witness,
6 DCI Robert Pacey, and I would be very grateful if we
7 could receive responses from everybody, because plainly
8 time is of the essence in order to get witnesses here
9 for Wednesday and Thursday.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much.
11 Could you hear that, Mr Taylor? I know that
12 Mr Keith was talking forwards.

13 MR TAYLOR: Just about.

14 MR KEITH: I am very sorry.

15 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: We will make sure that Mr Smith has
16 a word for you, if there are any doubts.

17 MR KEITH: My Lady, those are all the witnesses for today.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much. 10.00 tomorrow,
19 please.

20 (3.47 pm)

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

22