

Coroner's Inquests into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005
Hearing transcripts - 14 January 2011 - Afternoon session

1 (2.05 pm)

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr O'Connor?

3 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: I'm grateful. My Lady, we will be
4 taking the evidence now of Leandra Vavize, who I believe
5 is in Paris, and then returning to the evidence of
6 Mr Grygiewicz after we have heard her evidence.

7 Can you both hear me properly?

8 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, we can.

9 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: We can see two people on the screen.
10 I believe that the lady sitting closest to the camera is
11 Ms Vavize. Is that right?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: And the gentleman is the interpreter?

14 THE INTERPRETER: Exactly.

15 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Mr Interpreter, could I ask you to give
16 your name, please.

17 THE INTERPRETER: My name is Marc Lheureux. M-A-R-C, is my
18 first name, Leheureux is L-H-E-U-R-E-U-X.

19 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you. Mr Lheureux, in English
20 Court proceedings, we have a procedure whereby an
21 interpreter gives an oath or an affirmation at the
22 beginning of evidence which they interpret to the effect
23 that they will interpret the evidence truly. I wonder
24 if I could read out the words of the affirmation that
25 interpreters take in our court proceedings and ask you

1 to repeat them after me?

2 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

3 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: I'll start now.

4 MR MARC LHEUREUX, THE INTERPRETER (affirmed)

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Mr Lheureux.

6 You've obviously had an opportunity to speak to

7 Ms Vavize?

8 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, I have.

9 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Can you confirm the language that you

10 use between you?

11 THE INTERPRETER: French.

12 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Are you able to understand each other?

13 THE INTERPRETER: Absolutely.

14 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you. Ms Vavize, we now need you

15 to affirm, and I believe that the words of the

16 affirmation have already been translated for you. Is

17 that right?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could you then read those words out?

20 THE INTERPRETER: In English, you mean?

21 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: In whichever language you have in front

22 of you.

23 MS LEANDRA VAVIZE (affirmed)

24 (Evidence given by videolink)

25 Examination-in-chief by Mr ANDREW O'CONNOR

1 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much.

2 Ms Vavize, could you give your full name, please?

3 A. Leandra Vavize.

4 Q. Ms Vavize, in July 2005, I believe you were living in
5 London and undertaking a work placement.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You were on your way to work on 7 July 2005 and you'd
8 got as far as Baker Street when the station was
9 evacuated?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You went out on to the street and looked for a bus to
12 continue your journey?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You managed to find a bus, and a red double decker
15 London bus, which we now know was the number 30 bus that
16 was subsequently involved in the explosion?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You went on to the bus and took a seat on the lower
19 deck?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Could we have on the screen, please -- [INQ10285-6] thank you, and we
22 can highlight or enlarge the top half of the page.

23 Ms Vavize, we are looking at a plan which shows both
24 decks of the number 30 bus. Can you see that on the
25 screen?

1 THE INTERPRETER: We can't just now.

2 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Let's carry on and we'll see if we can
3 manage to make it visible to you.

4 Ms Vavize, you've said that you sat down on the
5 lower deck of the bus. Is it right that you sat on the
6 right-hand side of the bus, as it were, behind the
7 driver towards the back of the bus?

8 A. I was on the seats behind the driver, on the right-hand
9 side.

10 Q. Next to the window, is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. In the statement that you gave to the police after the
13 7 July, you describe hearing a group of people sitting
14 at the very back of the lower deck talking about the
15 Olympics and also about possible explosions that had
16 happened in London earlier that day.

17 A. Yes.

18 THE INTERPRETER: Excuse me, the interpreter, speaking. As
19 a matter of fact, we can see the plan you now.

20 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you for answering that question,
21 Ms Vavize. Before I ask my next one, can I ask you
22 this: on the plan, we believe that you were sitting at
23 the position marked number 15. Would you agree with
24 that?

25 A. It would help to see the numbers.

1 Q. We're going to try to enlarge it a little bit. Does
2 that make it any easier? It's being highlighted in
3 yellow on our screens.

4 A. Where is the driver?

5 Q. The driver is at the far left of the screen. At the far
6 right of the screen, there are two red figures and then
7 we believe that Ms Vavize was sitting one further figure
8 to the left, which is a white figure highlighted in
9 yellow.

10 A. And who is number 9?

11 Q. Number 9 was another passenger, we believe a female
12 passenger.

13 A. It does not correspond to the plan of the bus in which
14 I was.

15 Q. Where do you think you were sitting? If you could
16 possibly use the numbers on the plan to say where you
17 think you were sitting, Ms Vavize.

18 THE INTERPRETER: According to Mr -- Mrs Vavize's memory,
19 she was sitting in the seat at number 9, but according
20 to her, there was another seat next to her.

21 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Ms Vavize, were you facing the front of
22 the bus or were you facing into the middle of the bus
23 when you were sitting down?

24 THE INTERPRETER: Mrs Vavize thinks that there was some kind
25 of partition, some kind of door in front of her. There

1 was nobody in front of her.

2 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: But was she looking forwards or into
3 the middle of the bus?

4 THE INTERPRETER: She was looking forward.

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Okay. Let's go back to the questions
6 I was asking you before. You say that you remember
7 hearing the discussion behind you. I wanted to ask you
8 what you thought was going on at the time.

9 THE INTERPRETER: She remembers people talking about what
10 had happened in the Underground, because they'd heard
11 that there had been explosions in the Underground. They
12 were really not sure, apparently, because they were
13 laughing, and they were making jokes saying that maybe
14 it was a Frenchman who was not happy because London had
15 claimed the Olympic games, so that maybe it was the
16 French who made that terrorist attack with bombs.

17 Q. Did you join in this conversation or were you simply
18 listening to what they were saying?

19 A. No -- well, smiling, but, as a matter of fact, people
20 knew that I was French because I'd asked a question and
21 obviously people could tell that I had a French accent.

22 Q. While you were sitting on the bus, you refer in your
23 witness statement to the fact that you saw a lady get on
24 the bus, an African lady, carrying a large box. Do you
25 recall that?

1 A. No, I can't remember.

2 Q. You refer in your witness statement to the fact that
3 there was a lady who was carrying a microwave oven in
4 a box or a trolley which she put on to the luggage rack.
5 Does that help you remember?

6 A. Yes, I remember now.

7 Q. How did you know it was a microwave oven inside the box?
8 Was there some writing on the outside?

9 A. I believe so.

10 Q. Can you remember what this lady was wearing?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Can I ask you one more question about that? Can you
13 remember whether she was wearing a hat or a cap of any
14 sort?

15 A. She was not wearing a cap, and I don't believe she was
16 wearing a hat.

17 Q. You say in your statement that you saw her put the box
18 containing the oven in the luggage rack, which was just
19 in front of where you were sitting, and then she went
20 upstairs. Is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you see her again that day?

23 A. I can't remember, but I don't think so.

24 Q. So that you know, Ms Vavize, we believe that that lady
25 was a lady called Gladys Wundowa who died shortly after

1 the explosion.

2 Did you remain in the same seat until the time that
3 the explosion took place?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Where did you move to?

6 A. Well, I moved to that seat towards the ends of the
7 journey right before the explosion.

8 Q. Do you mean the seat that you told us about a few
9 minutes ago?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So you were -- what do you remember about the explosion?

12 A. Well, it's quite a broad question.

13 Q. Describe in your own words what happened from just
14 before the explosion and tell us what you remember
15 happening.

16 A. There was some kind of whistling that was quite intense,
17 but actually that was gradual. It became stronger and
18 stronger. So I put my hands on my ears and then I heard
19 a little noise, and then I found myself not being able
20 to move, actually bending on to a bar that was in front
21 of my seat.

22 Q. Did you lose consciousness during this time?

23 A. No. No, but I couldn't move anymore, and I remember
24 that I was thinking to myself, "You've got to stand up
25 and try and understand what has just happened", but

1 I just couldn't move, for a few seconds.

2 Q. Were you able to see around you?

3 A. No, I was leaning forward and just didn't move at all
4 for some time.

5 Q. How long was it before -- please go on.

6 A. The person next to me started screaming, that actually,
7 in a sense, allowed me to stop screaming myself and to
8 start standing up. But the reason also why I could not
9 move was that piece of metal, that bar, had fallen onto
10 us and it's the driver that came and released us.

11 Q. The person sitting next to you, was it a man or a lady?

12 A. A lady.

13 Q. Are you sure that it was the --

14 A. And she got out of the window.

15 Q. Are you sure that it was the driver who moved the
16 wreckage off you or could it have been someone else who
17 came on to the bus to help?

18 A. I think it was the driver.

19 Q. Once the wreckage had been moved off your legs, were you
20 then able to move?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you then manage to get out of the bus?

23 A. Yes, I went out of the bus, through the window, just
24 like the person who had been sitting next to me had just
25 done.

1 Q. While you were inside the bus, did you see any of the
2 other people, either dead or alive, still inside?

3 A. I didn't look around.

4 Q. What happened after you went through the window?

5 A. I went on to the pavement next to a small square.

6 Q. You suffered serious injuries to your head and your
7 legs. Is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were you, in due course, taken to hospital and given
10 treatment for those injuries?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you, Ms Vavize, those are all the
13 questions that I have to ask you. It may be that some
14 of the other people in the room have questions for you
15 which they'll ask now.

16 MR SAUNDERS: No, thank you.

17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Does anybody have any questions for
18 Ms Vavize?

19 Hello, Ms Vavize.

20 MR O'MONAGHAN: Who do you mean by anyone?

21 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Anyone who's either designated as an
22 interested person or any lawyer representing an
23 interested person.

24 Thank you very much, Ms Vavize. I am Lady Justice
25 Hallett, the coroner, or "la juge". Thank you very much

1 for taking the trouble to tell us what happened that
2 day. I'm sorry I had to ask you to think about it all
3 over again.

4 Thank you very much. Goodbye.

5 THE WITNESS: Goodbye.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.

7 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, may we resume the evidence of
8 Mr Grygiewicz?

9 MR TAD GRYGIEWICZ (continued)

10 Examination-in-chief by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR (continued)

11 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Mr Grygiewicz, thank you for waiting,
12 and I'm sorry that we had to interrupt your evidence in
13 that way.

14 A. That's okay.

15 Q. When we broke for lunch, I was asking you about the
16 moment when you were taken into the BMA building.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You described that and you described how people came to
19 help you. You refer in your statement to the fact that
20 you were given a certain amount of treatment in the BMA
21 and then taken out again and taken to hospital.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How long do you think that you were inside the BMA
24 building before you were taken to hospital?

25 A. It would be very difficult for me to assess how long.

1 I thought it was a considerable time, I was just sitting
2 on the table and somebody was attending to my arm
3 injury, and then I realised that I have injury to my
4 forehead and then somebody else was actually helping me
5 with that.

6 I thought it was quite some time, because I could
7 see that the floor is filling with my blood and I was
8 just sort of thinking, you know, "How long can
9 I bleed?", and, you know, "What's going to happen
10 next?", and eventually there was an announcement that an
11 ambulance is going to arrive and eventually it did, and
12 I was taken to the ambulance.

13 Q. Can I ask you this: you describe in your statement being
14 taken by an ambulance to hospital.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are you quite sure that it was an ambulance and that you
17 weren't taken, for example, in an ordinary car or
18 perhaps a police car?

19 A. I thought it was an ambulance.

20 Q. The reason I ask you -- this may not matter very much --
21 is that in your statement you refer to the ambulance
22 coming to the front of the BMA building, just close to
23 the bus.

24 A. Not to the front. The ambulance actually -- when -- the
25 bus was the closest to BMA entrance and the ambulance

1 was behind the bus.

2 Q. But it was on the same road as the bus?

3 A. It was on the same road as the bus, yes.

4 Q. That was why I asked you, because most of the

5 ambulances, as far as we know, came to a different

6 entrance to the BMA on another side of the building.

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. Your memory is coming out of the BMA building the same

9 way that you'd gone in?

10 A. My memory is that I left BMA building through the

11 entrance I came in and I turned right and I passed the

12 bus on my left, and then I was warned not to look to the

13 bus, but I remember vividly a helicopter was sort of

14 above us and somebody just advised me, "Well, why don't

15 you look at the helicopter?", and -- however, I just

16 wanted to see for the last time the bus, and then, once

17 more, I saw two people without any motion --

18 Q. You saw the two people that we were talking about before

19 lunch?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Their bodies?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Or, in the case of one of them, their body?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But you then walked to the vehicle?

1 A. I did, yes.

2 Q. That vehicle, you think it was an ambulance?

3 A. I thought it was an ambulance, yes.

4 Q. Is it possible that it was a different sort of vehicle?

5 A. If you ask me today, anything is possible, but I thought
6 it was an ambulance at the time.

7 Q. We'll leave it there. That vehicle then took you to
8 hospital?

9 A. It did indeed, yes.

10 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Mr Grygiewicz.

11 Those are all the questions that I have to ask you.

12 I think some of the others in the room will have some
13 for you now.

14 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

15 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

16 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Grygiewicz I will not be very long at all,
17 but I represent the family of the lady -- if we could
18 have the plan back up again, please, thank you. We've
19 now established you're at seat number 13.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I'm representing the family of the lady who was sat at
22 seat number 20. You've described seeing her before the
23 explosion.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Because she is facing backwards in the bus.

1 A. She was, yes.

2 Q. And is directly behind Sam Ly?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. After the explosion, I think you see her again.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You describe her -- and I won't ask you to repeat
7 that -- but it's quite clear from your evidence that, as
8 far as you were concerned, from the observation you had,
9 there was no signs of life at all?

10 A. This was my impression.

11 Q. Of course. And we all appreciate that, Mr Grygiewicz.
12 You're doing your best with your impression.
13 Then I think what you've just said now to
14 Mr O'Connor is that she's still in place when you come
15 out and you see the bus as you go --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. However you're taken, I'm not really too bothered what
18 vehicle you go in, but you see her again in exactly that
19 same position.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You've given us the description as to how you think she
22 is at that stage?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Grygiewicz.

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Yes, Ms Sheff?
2 Questions by MS SHEFF
3 MS SHEFF: Mr Grygiewicz, I represent the family of
4 Anat Rosenberg. I would just like to ask you a few
5 questions just to clarify what you believe you saw of
6 her.
7 Could we have the plan back up, please?
8 Can I ask you about seat 13? Was that your first or
9 second position on the bus?
10 A. This was my second position on the bus.
11 Q. Was your first position, then, the seat that now looks
12 empty but next to number 14?
13 A. No. The seat which I occupied before was the seat which
14 is marked 10 and 11, two numbers.
15 Q. I see.
16 A. So I was closer to the aisle, and the person was sitting
17 next to my left.
18 Q. I understand, thank you. Because from what we
19 understand of a conversation that Anat Rosenberg had
20 with her boyfriend prior to the explosion, she told him
21 that she was sitting on the bus near to the door and
22 that would actually correspond perhaps with that
23 position, wouldn't it?
24 A. Perhaps, yes.
25 Q. She said she was near the window. However, you believe

1 that this conversation took place before the large surge
2 of people got on at Euston.

3 A. That's what I think happened. It must have been before
4 Euston, yes.

5 Q. We're not entirely clear as to where she did get on the
6 bus, but it's likely again from this conversation that
7 she saw the crowds of people at Euston and she therefore
8 walked back one stop and might have got on the stop
9 before Euston. Would that have corresponded with the
10 timings of the person you saw?

11 A. Perhaps not, because, when I boarded the bus in Baker --
12 at Baker Street station, there was already a person to
13 my left.

14 Q. I see.

15 A. So what I'm saying is that the space which is -- you
16 would have a space, it's not marked here, the empty
17 space next to 10 and 11 number was already occupied.

18 Q. So those timings wouldn't have corresponded, if she had
19 got on, either at Euston or the stop beforehand?

20 A. That's absolutely correct.

21 Q. It may very well not have been her?

22 A. No.

23 Q. The other factors which may lead one to the conclusion
24 that it wasn't Anat Rosenberg is, again, your
25 recollection is that she was wearing light-coloured

1 clothing.

2 A. That's what I seem to remember.

3 Q. Yes, whereas we believe she left the house dressed in
4 a black dress and a black jacket. Can you remember
5 anything of the build of this person? Was she small,
6 medium, tall?

7 A. Sort of medium build, not a very large lady, medium to
8 small.

9 Q. We know Anat Rosenberg was very petite, though. Did she
10 strike you as particularly small or just average build?

11 A. It is hard to say when somebody's sitting down. It
12 would be wrong for me to assess exactly.

13 Q. What about her age?

14 A. Probably she -- the person wasn't older than 40.

15 Q. I think in your statement you said between 40 and 48.

16 A. Possibly, yes.

17 Q. How long were you in the seat next to her before you
18 moved?

19 A. I suppose the bus was moving very, very slowly. There
20 was enormous traffic on Euston Road. So I was sitting
21 there for considerable time. I'd probably have changed
22 those positions perhaps before Euston, I can't exactly
23 remember.

24 Q. So in terms of minutes?

25 A. It's hard to say, because the bus was going very, very

1 slowly and didn't make any progress, so I don't know how
2 long the bus was moving. For an hour on Euston Road
3 perhaps. Since I boarded the bus about 9.00, it must
4 have been sort of an hour before he -- the bus arrived
5 at Tavistock Square. 40 minutes maybe.

6 Q. You could have been in that --

7 A. 35.

8 Q. -- seat for about 35, 45 minutes?

9 A. I'm guessing at the moment. It was -- it felt that it
10 was quite some time I was sitting in this position
11 before I moved over to number 13.

12 Q. The reason for you moving, you said something about
13 feeling uncomfortable?

14 A. A few reasons. First of all, I felt slightly
15 uncomfortable because I could see that there is chaos on
16 the streets, things are happening, and I was just
17 focusing on getting to work, getting to Barbican, and in
18 a way, to sort of be at peace with myself, I was
19 listening to the music and the person next to me, to my
20 left, was talking on the phone all the time, and this
21 was disturbing me and, on the other hand, I could see
22 that at this particular seat there is -- there was
23 a barrier in front, which was sort of limiting my --

24 Q. Your movement, your leg movement?

25 A. My movement, yes. So --

1 Q. But was it anything about the way -- apart from being on
2 the phone -- anything in the way that person was
3 behaving which was making you uncomfortable?

4 A. Not really, it's just the person was moving all the time
5 and looking through the window and this sort of movement
6 and talking on the phone sort of slightly disturbed me.
7 And it's just -- I never do that, and on the day, it was
8 a feeling, "Well, I'd better move to another seat",
9 which is unexplained, but that's what I did.

10 Q. Just how you felt at the time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You said that you did read quite a few of the reports
13 afterwards of the incident and no doubt saw photographs
14 of both the survivors and also those who had sadly lost
15 their lives.

16 A. I did.

17 Q. So is your recollection now perhaps a combination of
18 what you saw at the time and the distress, of course,
19 that you were going through at that time, coupled with
20 the information you'd gleaned from reading about the
21 incident?

22 A. Perhaps. I mean, I must have been influenced by what
23 I read and what I saw in some way. I tried not to.

24 I try to think that I'm not, but ...

25 Q. But you're not saying with any certainty, are you, that

1 the person that was sitting next to you was
2 Anat Rosenberg? It's just a possibility you've raised?
3 A. No, yes, it's a possibility.
4 Q. Thank you. We know that Anat Rosenberg, of course she
5 lost her life, very sadly, on the bus and ended up in
6 the walkway between the two sets of seats. Do you have
7 any recollection of seeing her or seeing anybody who
8 fitted that description?
9 A. No, I don't. In fact, I have seen this map before and
10 I understand that she was number 16.
11 Q. Yes.
12 A. But then that's what I learnt later. But I didn't see
13 a person standing just behind me, in fact.
14 Q. So the person who was sitting next to you originally,
15 did you see what happened to them?
16 A. The person who was sitting -- which seat were you
17 referring to?
18 Q. I'm sorry, I should have been clearer, the first seat
19 that you sat at?
20 A. No, I don't know what happened, because there was
21 a movement, people left at the church when the bus
22 stopped. People actually left and came into the bus at
23 Euston station, and then, again, there was migration of
24 people once more when the bus stopped.
25 Q. So that person might have got off, in fact?

1 A. Might have.

2 Q. But you never saw that person again?

3 A. Never, no.

4 MS SHEFF: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Grygiewicz.

5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Are there any other questions?

6 I have one question, if I may. You said that you

7 are a qualified electrical engineer and as you were on

8 the train your immediate instinct was that whatever had

9 happened wasn't a power surge.

10 What was it about what happened that made you think,

11 as a professional, "This isn't a power surge"?

12 A. Perhaps I was influenced by something which happened

13 a few years before when I was working as an electrical

14 design engineer on the Jubilee Line extension project.

15 One evening, in 1996, there was a massive explosion in

16 Canary Wharf and I was actually petrified by what I've

17 seen. In fact, I was standing in my office on the

18 10th floor, this was about 7.00 in the evening, I was

19 working quite long hours, and there was this almighty

20 explosion, and the whole building shook.

21 It was quite a traumatic experience and, for some

22 reason, from that day, from 1996, and what was happening

23 in the world, you know, in Madrid and other places,

24 I was somehow attuned to the terrorism, and before

25 actually this happened on 7 July, on numerous occasions

1 I felt uneasy on the trains and I was sort of reading
2 the press, as I always did, and --

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: So it wasn't the physical nature of
4 what happened?

5 A. No, it wasn't.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It was more your mental state?

7 A. It was my mental state.

8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I follow. I was wondering whether
9 there was something about the physical events that led
10 you, as a professional, to realise it wasn't a power
11 surge.

12 A. No.

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Right.

14 A. I just sort of -- at the time I found it hard to believe
15 that, you know, a whole system has been shut down
16 because suddenly there is a power surge in whole system,
17 and we know that the system is vast.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Indeed. That's extremely helpful,
19 thank you very much for being prepared to give evidence
20 so carefully and so thoughtfully. I'm very grateful to
21 you and I'm sorry we've kept you so long.

22 A. Thank you, my pleasure.

23 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: May I actually repeat something
24 I have said to others, but I will say it because of the
25 earlier intervention from the gentleman at the back? If

1 there's anybody who has survived the incident or,
2 indeed, anybody else who has a legitimate line of
3 enquiry they'd like to suggest to me or questions they
4 think I should be asking, please don't hesitate to
5 contact Mr Smith. I know you'll have his details.

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: And I suspect the gentleman at the
8 back does too. So please let me know and I will, of
9 course, do what I can.

10 A. Thank you very much.

11 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much for coming.

12 A. Thank you.

13 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, that concludes the live
14 evidence for today. There are two further statements to
15 be read, if I may. The first statement I'll read is
16 a statement of a lady called Sapna Khimani. The
17 statement is dated 9 January 2006.

18 Statement of MS SAPNA KHAMANI read

19 "I am the above named person and I live at an
20 address provided to the police. I have been asked by
21 the police to recall my movements for 7 July 2005. At
22 approximately 8.00 am, I boarded an Underground train at
23 Colindale Tube station bound for Old Street station,
24 London, as I was going to work. The clothing I was
25 wearing that day was a pair of red trousers, a white

1 blouse, black blazer jacket and black, leather-heeled
2 shoes. I was also carrying a blue denim handbag wrapped
3 around my shoulder. En route, the train stopped at
4 Euston station. People were saying that the service had
5 been suspended due to either an electrical fault or some
6 sort of explosion.

7 "I was getting conflicting stories. I then left the
8 station to get a bus. As I left the train station,
9 I bumped into a work colleague called Jenny Adlan. We
10 both decided to get a bus to work. I was not familiar
11 with the bus service, so I was sort of led by Jenny, who
12 was. We got on to the number 30 bus, which was a red
13 double decker bus. I wanted to stay downstairs near to
14 the exit, as I wasn't sure where to alight from the bus
15 for work. Jenny wanted to sit down.

16 "The lower floor of the bus was very crowded with
17 two seats available that I could see. Jenny told me she
18 thought she knew where to get off the bus when required,
19 so we both went to the upper deck of the bus. Jenny
20 went first, followed by myself. Jenny went towards the
21 back of the bus and sat down nearest to the window on
22 the right-hand side as you look towards the front of the
23 bus. I sat next to her. I have been shown a plan of
24 the bus and I have indicated to the policeman who took
25 the statement where Jenny and I were sat."

1 I wonder if we could get the normal plan back up on
2 the screen? My Lady, you'll see that Sapna Khimani is
3 identified at number 57 and Jennifer Adlan sitting next
4 to her at 58, and I can confirm that that is consistent
5 with where she placed herself on the plan that she drew,
6 and she, in fact, at the very end of this statement,
7 stressed that she was facing backwards, which, of
8 course, those two seats do, they face looking towards
9 the rear bank of seats.

10 The statement continues. Perhaps we could keep the
11 plan on the screen while I read:

12 "I looked around after taking the seat and saw the
13 following persons: a black man, late 20s, early 30s,
14 slim build, wearing a dark baseball cap and
15 loose-fitting denim jacket. He was sat opposite Jenny,
16 facing her."

17 My Lady, if one looks back at the plan, you will see
18 that they were sitting facing, it would seem,
19 Gladys Wundowa. Of course, it's possible that the --
20 that people sitting in the bus moved and so she is
21 referring to a different black person, but it is at
22 least possible that she is there referring to
23 Gladys Wundowa and she had mistaken her gender.

24 She goes on:

25 "I also saw a female who I would describe with light

1 hair, shoulder-length. I cannot describe her further.
2 She was sat next to me with the aisle of the bus between
3 us."
4 My Lady, looking again at the plan, it would appear
5 that she is there referring to Camille Scott, whom we
6 will hear evidence from on Monday:
7 "These positions have also been indicated on the
8 plans of these individuals. I cannot recollect any
9 other person on the bus. We got on the bus about 9.05.
10 I telephoned my boss and told him that I was on the bus
11 and would be late for work. I would have been on the
12 bus for about 15 minutes, as there was some delay
13 leaving Euston station.
14 "Whilst seated on the bus, the next thing I knew is
15 that suddenly there was a bright flash of white light
16 from behind me from left to right. Simultaneously,
17 I felt that on my left side and a fire cracker bang
18 noise, all coming from my left. The next thing I was
19 aware of was a sound of a male and female voice asking
20 who I was and saying something along the lines that
21 I was having difficulty breathing. At this point, I was
22 unaware of where I was as my eyelashes were stuck
23 together. I could not open my eyes. I was not aware of
24 any pain or injury at this time. I remember giving my
25 husband's name and telephone number to someone and

1 spelling out my name. The next thing was complaining
2 that I was feeling really cold and someone gave me some
3 blankets.

4 "I then heard someone saying something about cutting
5 my clothes off and I became very anxious. Some of my
6 clothes were removed. The next thing I was aware of was
7 being placed on something and being wheeled to a vehicle
8 and being conveyed somewhere. The next thing I was
9 aware of was being at University College Hospital,
10 London, in a bed, waking to the face of my husband.
11 I was not aware of how long I had been unconscious and
12 the timescales surrounding that day."

13 My Lady, the rest of the statement of the witness
14 describes her injuries and the treatment she received.

15 My Lady, finally we have the evidence of
16 Mr O'Monaghan. He provided two statements to the
17 police, one in July 2005 and one much later
18 in June 2010. I will read sections of them both and, as
19 you know, my Lady, Mr O'Monaghan is here in court.
20 I'll start by reading the excerpt from his first
21 statement.

22 MR O'MONAGHAN: Sorry, I'm here. I just read that I'm not
23 here in court.

24 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Sorry, I said that you were here in
25 court. It may be that the transcriber misheard me, but

1 my words were that Mr O'Monaghan was here in court.

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Would you like the opportunity to
3 have a quick word with Mr Smith, Mr O'Monaghan, or not?

4 MR O'MONAGHAN: If possible, yes. I didn't say I was going
5 to come today, I have just arrived because I have some
6 time off. If that's -- I won't be very long.

7 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I'll just wait here. If Mr Smith
8 could just go to the back of the court and have a quick
9 word with you. (Pause).

10 Would you like to continue, Mr O'Connor? I gather
11 that everything's --

12 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: I'm grateful, I'll read from
13 Mr O'Monaghan's first statement dated 14 July 2005.

14 Statement of MR GARY O'MONAGHAN read

15 "I make this statement in relation to being
16 a passenger on the number 30 bus, which was blown up in
17 Tavistock Square, WC1."

18 Mr O'Monaghan gives details of his occupation and
19 then details some of the passengers who were with him on
20 the bus that day, which aren't of significance for
21 present purposes.

22 Towards the bottom of the page, the statement
23 continues:

24 "On Thursday, 7 July 2005, my day started as almost
25 every day. I got ready for work and drove from my home

1 in Oxley to Northwood Tube station. I parked my car in
2 an available space in a nearby road. I set off at
3 around 8.00 and I arrived at Northwood minutes before
4 8.30. My mind was in neutral as this was such
5 a routine. I walked the short distance to the station
6 and did not take any notice of anyone around me.
7 I bought a copy of the Daily Mail from the shop inside
8 the station and picked up a copy of the free Metro
9 newspaper. I cannot remember who I interacted with, but
10 again, everything seemed as normal. The train arrived
11 at about 8.30. It was a Metropolitan Line train. It
12 was not the first stop for the train and I remember
13 thinking that there were not as many people as usual on
14 it."

15 My Lady, there is then a passage of the statement
16 that describes the journey on the Metropolitan Line to
17 Baker Street and the station being evacuated and
18 Mr O'Monaghan leaving Baker Street station, and the
19 statement continues:

20 "I knew that the number 30 bus ran from
21 Baker Street, so it was logical to get off at
22 Baker Street and join the bus a few stops early. I got
23 off the Tube and made my way out of the station.

24 I cannot remember anything about this section of the
25 journey other than the fact that I followed others out

1 of the station and on to the street. I don't know if
2 anyone from my carriage left the train with me. I was
3 just concentrating on getting to the bus. I turned
4 immediately right out of the station and walked along
5 the service road past the vending kiosks.

6 "I noticed that the number 30 bus was actually
7 already at the bus stop. I ran to the bus which was
8 parked on the Euston Road facing east. There was
9 a large queue at the front door and I did not think I'd
10 get on in time. I noticed that the exit doors at the
11 centre of the bus were open and there wasn't anyone
12 blocking this. I had a prepaid ticket, so jumped on to
13 the bus through the exit doors. I knew my journey would
14 be longer than usual, so I decided to go upstairs so
15 I could get a better view of London.

16 "I therefore jumped in through the rear doors and
17 turned left. It was only a couple of steps before
18 I ascended the stairs inside the number 30 bus. The
19 stairs bend to the left then open out on to the upper
20 deck. As I got to the top, I began to look around. For
21 some reason I did not feel comfortable with the thought
22 of sitting at the front. There were seats at the front
23 but I cannot remember anything other than the fact that
24 there were several people sitting at the front, nothing
25 more. I turned left at the top of the stairs and did

1 not fancy sitting at the back. I started walking along
2 the aisle towards the back. There were several seats
3 available. The bus was by no means full. I did not
4 take any notice of the people already seated at the rear
5 of the bus. For some reason, and I don't know why,
6 I sat down only three or four seats from the stairs on
7 the nearside of the bus. There were other seats
8 available nearer the rear, but I felt a compulsion to
9 sit in the seat that I have marked on a diagram."

10 Could we have the plan back up, please?

11 My Lady, as we've heard, Mr O'Monaghan sat on the
12 top deck of the bus and he is marked at number 43, which
13 is again consistent with the marking that he made on the
14 plan which is exhibited to this statement.

15 The statement continues:

16 "I sat in the aisle seat, leaving a vacant seat next
17 to me against the window. I do not like to feel cramped
18 into a small space, so the aisle seat gives a little
19 more sense of space. As I sat down, I was aware that
20 people were sat behind me, but at that moment I did not
21 take much notice. I was aware that other people were
22 filing past me, but again, I didn't take any notice of
23 them."

24 My Lady, there is then a further passage of the
25 statement which records the journey along Euston Road

1 and some of the people that Mr O'Monaghan saw on the bus
2 during that period.

3 He then goes on:

4 "As we arrived at Euston bus station, the bus
5 travelled its usual route into the standing area, that
6 is left off the Euston Road. Then only a short distance
7 down the side road, then right into the stand which is
8 in front of Euston railway station. Again, I was
9 looking around at the buildings and people were rushing
10 to work. I did not take any notice of the people on the
11 bus."

12 There is then a section of the statement which
13 describes further people on the bus and what
14 Mr O'Monaghan saw and the bus moving away from the stand
15 and, a little further down the page, the statement
16 resumes:

17 "Finally, the bus got to the Euston Road junction
18 and I expected it to go left. I could see the traffic
19 to the left was gridlocked and that there was cordon
20 tape across the road. I could see flashing lights and
21 emergency vehicles. The bus therefore went straight
22 across the Euston Road into Upper Woburn Place. I could
23 hear people on the bus talking on mobile phones about an
24 incident at Liverpool Street station. At this point,
25 I still had no idea that several bombs had been

1 detonated. I do not know who was talking, as it was
2 almost background noise to me. I was again looking out
3 of the window and admiring the buildings in a street
4 along which I did not usually travel."
5 He refers to seeing someone sitting on the church
6 steps. He goes on:
7 "My mind wandered out of the bus and I started to
8 look intently at the buildings. I noticed that the
9 traffic was moving very slowly and this gave me a better
10 opportunity to look at the buildings. I saw the British
11 Medical Association building coming into view on my left
12 and could see people milling around on the footpaths.
13 I began to read a blue plaque adorning a white-walled
14 building which commemorated Charles Dickens. I was then
15 aware of the bus stopping completely. Several people
16 walked past me and down the stairs. I cannot remember
17 who or how many, other than the fact that the girl with
18 the shiny top and her friend in the denim dress were in
19 the group. They all disappeared from view down the
20 stairs.
21 "A few short seconds later, I felt the bomb explode.
22 When I say 'felt' I really mean 'felt'. It was like
23 nothing that I thought I could ever describe, but after
24 thinking about it, the closest I can come up with is
25 like placing your head on an anvil with your ear to the

1 flat surface, then someone striking your other ear with
2 a sledgehammer as hard as they could. I cannot believe
3 this is how it felt. It still makes me feel sick to try
4 to describe it. It did not really alert me by sound or
5 blinding light. It was the pure force I felt. I felt
6 completely disoriented by the impact. I say this
7 because I cannot quite remember if the next event
8 happened before or after this.

9 "I was sat in my seat when the black guy in the dark
10 suit next to me suddenly flew backwards. He twisted
11 backwards and to his left. It is how I would imagine
12 someone would be sucked out of an aeroplane if there was
13 a hole in the side. He just disappeared in the blink of
14 an eye. I did not see where he went. I felt a huge
15 pressure on my left foot and I looked down to see the
16 whole top of my shoe at the front had been ripped off.
17 My seat was twisted backwards and I was surrounded by
18 what I would describe as a grey-black spray. It did not
19 look like normal smoke. It was billowing around me.
20 I looked behind me, over the back of the seat, and then
21 I started to realise the seriousness of the situation
22 I was in. The whole back of the bus was missing. There
23 was literally nothing left behind me. I knew I had to
24 get off the bus. It was just a self-preservation
25 instinct.

1 "I took no notice of what was in front of me, I knew
2 the quickest way out was to jump over the nearside of
3 the top deck. I shuffled along the seat towards the
4 outside and managed to swing my leg out into the gap
5 between the remaining fragments of the side of the bus
6 and a large gap where it should have been.
7 "The side of the bus was twisted and ripped
8 downwards and outwards. As soon as my left leg was in
9 the gap, I pushed off the chair and dropped to the
10 pavement. I caught my buttocks on the twisted remains
11 on the nearside of the bus as I fell and I can remember
12 feeling pain for the first time since the bomb exploded.
13 "I landed on my feet and just started to run. I ran
14 along the pavement in the direction of travel of the
15 bus. I don't know why I did this, but, on reflection,
16 I think it was in the opposite direction to the smoke
17 and spray. At this point, it had not struck me that the
18 bus was the site of the explosion. It wasn't something
19 I considered. I felt it was likely that the building
20 was the site and it had exploded against the side of the
21 bus. This is perhaps why I ran away, fearing it would
22 explode again. I don't think I had considered that it
23 was even a bomb in the bus."
24 My Lady, in the remainder of the statement
25 Mr O'Monaghan describes the injuries he suffered and the

1 treatment he received for them.

2 My Lady, as I said, Mr O'Monaghan gave a second
3 statement dated 7 June 2010 which I will read from.

4 It starts:

5 "I make this statement in furtherance to the witness
6 statement that I made on 14 July 2005. I make this
7 additional statement as there is further information
8 that I consider to be important that I want to make the
9 police aware of.

10 "Before I make mention of this additional
11 information, I wish to add that the policeman from the
12 Counter-terrorism Command at New Scotland Yard has
13 allowed me to see a typed copy of the statement I made
14 on 14 July 2005. I wish to state that, having been
15 through that statement, I can say that the statement
16 I made to the officer at the time was not a verbatim
17 account of our conversations that took place over the
18 course of several days and that there is a certain
19 phraseology used in the statement that I wouldn't
20 normally use. I cannot remember seeing a typed version
21 of my statement similar to the one I have seen this
22 morning before, although, similarly, I cannot remember
23 whether the statement I signed was a handwritten or
24 typed statement. However, I would say that I agree with
25 the contents in general of that statement that I made in

1 2005.

2 "Turning now to the additional information that

3 I wish to give, I can state that, after providing my

4 original witness statement, I became aware of

5 a considerable amount of media erupting concerning one

6 of the passengers on the bus, a male called

7 Jamie Gordon, who lost his life. As a result of

8 studying the reports around the bombing of the bus at

9 Tavistock Square and in particular in relation to

10 Jamie Gordon, I am able to say that I remember

11 Jamie Gordon as being a passenger on the upper deck of

12 the bus and that he was sitting in the seat directly

13 behind me on the row behind, on the aisle seat next to

14 the girl in the headscarf that I mentioned in my

15 previous statement.

16 "I remember Mr Gordon because of his ginger hair,

17 which was in a sort of bob style, and the freckles on

18 his face. He appeared to be in his 20s and I think he

19 was wearing a blue suit. I turned around to look at the

20 girl in the headscarf and that is when I would have seen

21 Mr Gordon. I did not speak with Mr Gordon, as most

22 people, including Mr Gordon, I think, were speaking on

23 their mobile phones. I think Mr Gordon got on the bus

24 at Baker Street, but I cannot be certain. Following the

25 explosion, there were no seats left behind me. I do not

1 know where Jamie Gordon ended up. I know that he died
2 but I did not see him after the explosion.
3 "Additionally, in relation to the bomber,
4 Hasib Hussain, I remember, having been discharged from
5 hospital, I saw TV pictures of Hasib Hussain which now
6 lead me to believe that I saw this man on the bus.
7 I cannot be 100 per cent sure it was him, but I am
8 75 per cent sure. I think it was seeing him in moving
9 pictures on the television that triggered something in
10 my mind about this individual.
11 "I think that this male got on at Euston, ie after
12 I had got on at Baker Street. I remember a male walking
13 past me on the bus towards the rear of the bus. I would
14 describe him as an Asian male of Indian or Pakistani
15 origin, aged in his 20s, reasonably tall and of an
16 athletic build. He had swept-back, dark hair which
17 appeared to be gelled. I think he was cleanshaven,
18 possibly with designer stubble, although I cannot be
19 sure. I think he was wearing a short, dark,
20 bomber-style jacket and a dark, possibly striped, shirt.
21 The male looked quite smart as if he cared about his
22 appearance. I think this male was carrying what
23 I recall is a shoulder bag on one of his shoulders, but
24 I cannot recall which shoulder. I would describe the
25 bag as a normal commuter-sized shoulder bag and I cannot

1 recall the colour. I cannot remember whether my memory
2 of the bag is based on my own memory or what I saw on
3 the television subsequently.

4 "After he walked past me, I did not see whether he
5 sat down, nor indeed where he sat. I did not speak to
6 him, and I am unable to say whether he was in company
7 with anybody. Following the explosion, I did not see
8 him again.

9 "In relation to the information concerning
10 Jamie Gordon, I recall mentioning it to somebody whilst
11 in hospital, but I cannot remember exactly who to.

12 I have not provided this additional information before
13 now as I thought someone might get in touch with me to
14 see if there was anything else I remembered and because
15 some of the pictures on TV came out a long time after
16 the event.

17 "I make this statement of my own free will. I have
18 had the opportunity to read through it, and I agree with
19 the contents."

20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: All right, Mr O'Monaghan?

21 MR O'MONAGHAN: I'm sorry, I missed that.

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Are you content now? Are your
23 concerns --

24 MR O'MONAGHAN: I'm content, I'm very sorry to interrupt.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Not at all, don't worry, thank you.

1 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, that concludes the evidence
2 for today.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Did we complete all the statements
4 that had to be read on Wednesday?

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: There were two outstanding statements.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Would you like to complete those?

7 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: May we read them on Monday? I know
8 that they are somewhere on this table, but I'm not quite
9 sure where they are, nor indeed which they are.

10 My Lady, before you rise, may I raise one matter in
11 relation to Monday's evidence? The intention had been
12 to call two particular witnesses amongst those who were
13 to be called, those witnesses being a man called
14 Prevshan Vijendran and, secondly, a man called
15 Scott Kelman. My Lady, the position in relation to both
16 of those witnesses is that Mr Smith and his team have
17 been in contact with them and have indicated your desire
18 to hear their live evidence. There have been
19 discussions between them and Mr Smith's team and they
20 have both indicated that, because of the extremely
21 traumatic memories they have of that day, they would
22 very strongly indeed wish not to come to court to give
23 evidence.

24 My Lady, I know that you are aware of those
25 developments and I know that you formed the provisional

1 view that, in light of their disinclination to come to
2 court, your provisional view is that you are content for
3 their statements to be read rather than --

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It was rather more a disinclination
5 to give evidence. It was everything I was told about
6 the effect on them and their medical conditions.

7 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, yes. I've tried not to go
8 into too much detail.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Indeed.

10 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: As you say, they did register their
11 objection in the strongest terms and did provide a very
12 detailed explanation to Mr Smith, and through him to
13 you, as to why they didn't want to come to give
14 evidence.

15 May I through you, then, indicate that it is your
16 intention that those statements should be read on Monday
17 and that, if any of the interested persons, either here
18 or in court or reading the transcript, have any
19 objection to that course, they should tell Mr Smith
20 either today or on Monday and that, if no such
21 objections have been received by the end of proceedings
22 on Monday, their statements will be read at that moment.

23 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Certainly. One could add if there
24 are any matters that they'd like Mr Smith just to ask
25 the witnesses, to see if they're likely to be able to

1 elaborate, so that we do not bring them here
2 unnecessarily, that would also be, I think, a good idea.
3 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, yes.
4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Very well, thank you very much. And
5 I think it's 11.00 on Monday.
6 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: 11.00 on Monday.
7 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much.
8 (3.15 pm)
9 (The inquests adjourned until 11.00 am on Monday,
10 17 January 2011)
11