

1 Monday, 1 April 2019
 2 (10.00 am)
 3 Discussion (in the absence of the jury)
 4 (In the presence of the jury)
 5 (10.16 am)
 6 THE CORONER: Good morning, members of the jury.
 7 I promise you will I return to one or two questions.
 8 I hope most of them have already passed but I will
 9 certainly review them. I have started reviewing them.
 10 And we will come back to them.
 11 Yes.
 12 MS WILLIAMS: Thank you, Sir. I think it is me.
 13 THE CORONER: Yes. Can you just remind us where we are.
 14 MR ANTHONY MOLE (continued)
 15 Questions on behalf of the FAMILIES represented by BROUDIE
 16 JACKSON CANTER
 17 MS WILLIAMS: Yes. We are dealing still with the sixth
 18 forewarning topic. The Talk of the Town, we decided to
 19 call it.
 20 Good morning, Mr Mole.
 21 **A. Good morning.**
 22 Q. If I may say, just to remind ourselves, since it was
 23 last Wednesday that we were hearing evidence about this:
 24 The alleged or potential forewarning as described by
 25 Mrs Frances McCarry, who became Mrs Frances Lowe, was

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1 that she was to tell officers during a later interview
 2 that on the morning of 21 November 1974, the date of the
 3 bombings, she went to Queen's Road police station and
 4 spoke to the officer who was on the front desk there.
 5 Is that right?
 6 **A. Yes, that is correct.**
 7 Q. And this is what she said that she told him.
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. And I am reading this from what she said in her
 10 later interview:
 11 "There have been a lot of men in my house with my
 12 husband at ..."
 13 And then the address was given:
 14 "They are going to do something at the Talk of the
 15 Town tonight."
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. So in terms of the information that she provided, if
 18 that account is accurate, she gave officers an
 19 identifiable person, namely her husband?
 20 **A. What were her exact words again? Can you lead me to the
 21 page again. That might be helpful.**
 22 Q. Yes, that would, wouldn't it. Give me a moment.
 23 **A. Yes. It is 5144.**
 24 Q. Yes. Page 19.
 25 **A. Page 19. Thank you very much.**

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1 Q. Could we have it on the screen, please, Henry.
 2 [INQ005144] page 19, towards the bottom of the page.
 3 You see in the penultimate paragraph. That is what
 4 she is described as saying:
 5 "There has been a lot of men in my house with my
 6 husband at [location given, redacted for us]. They are
 7 going to do something at the Talk of the Town."
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. So she referred to an individual who had been involved
 10 in this matter, namely her husband.
 11 THE CORONER: I think he ought to be shown the
 12 particular passage referring --
 13 MS WILLIAMS: I thought we were looking at that, Sir.
 14 THE CORONER: Right, I beg your pardon.
 15 MS WILLIAMS: This is what Mrs Lowe said she told the
 16 officer at the Queen's Road police station.
 17 **A. Yes. I can't say she identified her husband. She used
 18 the word "husband" obviously, but I don't know whether
 19 the officer actually knew who she was. I can't comment
 20 on that, other than --**
 21 Q. Of course. It would have been possible for him to have
 22 asked who she was and the name of her husband --
 23 **A. It would have been possible.**
 24 Q. -- without too much difficulty?
 25 **A. It is possible he could have asked. I can't say that**

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1 **from the account here.**
 2 Q. She describes a location, which is redacted for us --
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. -- but we know it was her house from the
 5 preceding words?
 6 **A. Yes, that is correct, yes.**
 7 Q. So I suggest to you that she did give some information
 8 for officers to pursue, albeit she referred to Talk of
 9 the Town?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Just so that we remind ourselves and understand the
 12 chain of events as she described it --
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. -- she was to tell officers in this later interview that
 15 she thought she overheard the men in her house referring
 16 to the Talk of the Town?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. So that's what she told the officer at Queen's Road
 19 police station the next morning?
 20 **A. Correct.**
 21 Q. But it was when she heard about the explosions that
 22 evening on the 21st that she appreciated or she felt
 23 that the reference must have been to the Tavern in
 24 the Town?
 25 **A. Yes. I think, from memory, in the report she said that**

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<p>1 she thinks they must have been talking about that, but 2 I think she's still using the words "Talk of the Town". 3 Q. If she simply wanted to be vindictive and falsely accuse 4 her former husband of being involved in the bombing -- 5 THE CORONER: He can't answer a question about whether or 6 not she was being vindictive. 7 MS WILLIAMS: I will move on. 8 Let me clarify it in this way: she was not 9 suggesting that she had told the officer at the Queen's 10 Road police station that the reference had been to the 11 Tavern in the Town. 12 A. That I have interpreted -- 13 Q. But she was freely acknowledging that she felt that she, 14 Mrs Lowe, had made a mistake in what she had overheard? 15 A. I think she has made the inference that they must have 16 been talking about the talk of the Town. 17 THE CORONER: But not in this interview at the 18 police station? 19 A. That is the officer's opinion. 20 THE CORONER: I just wanted that clarified. 21 MS WILLIAMS: I think I might have lost -- sorry, Sir, it is 22 my fault. 23 THE CORONER: It is important to identify what she says that 24 she said at the police station and what she was thinking 25 about, speculating about, reasoning about, later.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Q. Then if we go to the next page, please. 2 I will take you to another reference. Top half of 3 the page, please. 4 A. Page 12? 5 Q. Yes, please. Top of the page. 6 She states that McCarry told her the meetings were 7 in order to discuss the unions. So her account was that 8 he said to her it was to do with union business in 9 his workplace? 10 A. Yes. Yes. 11 Q. She also said during the course of the interview, did 12 she not, that there were a number of people present and 13 she was not able to identify them all? 14 A. I believe so, yes. I'm just trying to get to the -- 15 Q. I was not proposing to take to you a specific reference? 16 A. Sorry. 17 Q. In the event, she mentioned a couple of names but she 18 was saying there were more people than that? 19 A. Yes, yes. 20 Q. In terms of the telephone messages that you went through 21 with Mr Skelton dating from 1975 -- 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Firstly, a telephone message, in West Midlands 24 Police-speak of the 1980s, doesn't mean simply messages 25 that were received from somebody making</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 MS WILLIAMS: Yes, indeed, Sir. 2 THE CORONER: I just wanted those two to be separated. 3 MS WILLIAMS: The proposition I was simply trying to clarify 4 was that the notion that she had given the officer at 5 Queen's Road police station the wrong name of the 6 location -- the Talk of the Town rather than the Tavern 7 in the Town -- came from her own account. 8 A. Yes. It is page 21, the words that she uses. 9 Q. Yes. She described, did she not, in this interview, 10 that the meeting involved other people from her 11 husband's workplace? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. If we can look -- I will just take you to a couple of 14 passages that we didn't cover when Mr Skelton took you 15 through this on Wednesday. Same document, 16 page 11, please. 17 It is that second paragraph. I think you picked it 18 up, Mr Skelton, at the paragraph below: 19 "Mrs Lowe believes that these occasions were 20 meetings rather than any other type of gathering because 21 she was not be allowed to be present. They would always 22 take place late at night in the front room, usually when 23 John McCarry was on the night-shift at Forgings 24 and Pressworks." 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 a telephone call? 2 A. I believe so, from the information, yes. It was a way 3 of recording information. 4 Q. Information and, generally speaking anyway, actions to 5 be taken consequent upon that information? 6 A. Yes, I think that was the system they were using, from 7 some of the things I have read in the file. 8 Q. Yes. 9 If we could look back, please, at the telephone 10 message at [INQ005128]. If you could just magnify the 11 first half, thank you. 12 This is the first of the sequence of messages that 13 you looked at with Mr Skelton on Wednesday, the 14 reference number is 5138. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. I will clarify this with Mr Johnson, representing the 17 West Midlands Police Service, that there is no doubt 18 that the person who provided this information was 19 Mrs McCarry. So she is the informant being referred to 20 here. Are you happy with that proposition from what you 21 have read? 22 A. Yes, DCI Banks, I think, says all the information is 23 from her, yes. 24 Q. I only mention that because there seemed to be a slight 25 query when you were taken to this document.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

1 The officers who are referred to as being involved
 2 at this stage we can see in the third line,
 3 "Received by": Detective Chief Inspector Banks, a
 4 Detective Constable Jarvis and a Detective
 5 Constable Langford.
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. And then "SCS", which is the abbreviation for Serious
 8 Crime Squad, isn't it?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Then within the body of the message, that first
 11 paragraph, if we can look just below the various
 12 redacted bits of text, so four lines up from the end of
 13 that first paragraph:
 14 "All these persons will be the total of about 14
 15 people who attended a meeting ..."
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. That's why I was suggesting to you there were more
 18 people there, who were not identified at McCarry's
 19 house, when the pub bombings were discussed on
 20 Wednesday 20th.
 21 So in terms of this message, that was a reference to
 22 the pub bombings, when the pub bombings were discussed?
 23 **A. I believe so, yes.**
 24 Q. Then if we go to the next message in time, [INQ005129].
 25 This is the next day, 15 July.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Again involving DCI Banks and, this time, a Detective
 3 Sergeant Wale.
 4 We can see from the third line that the informant --
 5 so that is Mrs McCarry/Mrs Lowe -- has been seen by
 6 DCI Banks and Detective Sergeant Wale on that date?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Thank you. It is right, is it not, that thereafter,
 9 apart from that -- I don't take you back to it -- apart
 10 from the telephone message that records an interview
 11 with the security guard in the workplace, Mr Orton,
 12 there are no other documented follow-ups in relation to
 13 the account that Mrs Lowe was giving at that stage? Is
 14 that correct?
 15 **A. Not from what I can recall on the pack that I was given.**
 16 Q. Right.
 17 **A. I have not seen anything.**
 18 Q. You have not seen anything to suggest there were any
 19 follow-ups. Thank you.
 20 Moving on from that, if we could then go, please, to
 21 [INQ005138]. We are now moving on to the 1990s and
 22 Operation Review, which is the re-investigation
 23 following the release of the Birmingham Six.
 24 If we go to page 3, please. You looked at this
 25 briefly with Mr Skelton on Wednesday. It is when the

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1 retired Detective Superintendent Banks was interviewed.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Plainly it is the same Mr Banks, isn't it, who was
 4 involved in 1975?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Just a couple of things I want to ask you. Firstly, if
 7 you look at the second paragraph you will see that that
 8 confirms that in 1974 he was promoted to being detective
 9 chief inspector, second in command of the Serious Crime
 10 Squad. At the time it was under the command of
 11 Superintendent Andrew Crawford --
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. -- who is a name we have heard about before. Not
 14 a member of the Bomb Squad, but DCI Banks -- Mr Banks as
 15 he now was -- said that he worked closely with them, the
 16 Bomb Squad, on numerous occasions.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Particularly during that period in 1974?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. It is right, is it not, that during this interview,
 21 although, as we saw last Wednesday, Mr Banks was asked
 22 about his assessment of Mrs Lowe, he was not asked to
 23 clarify when she first gave the information to police
 24 and when he first spoke to her?
 25 Can I suggest we deal with it in this way,

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1 Mr Mole --
 2 **A. Yes, it is the paragraph below, isn't it, where he gives
 3 the narrative?**
 4 Q. Sorry, do you want to look on the same page.
 5 **A. It is on the same page on mine. Banks was able to
 6 recall the information he received in relation to -- is
 7 that what you are referring to?**
 8 Q. No. What I am suggesting -- I will tell you where I am
 9 taking this from. I imagine you have this document so
 10 I don't ask for it to be put up on the screen unless it
 11 is considered necessary. But the report to the Coroner
 12 by West Midlands Police about this topic you
 13 presumably have?
 14 **A. You will have to take me to it, just to remind me.**
 15 Q. I am told there is no objection to our having it on the
 16 screen.
 17 I'm sorry, Henry, it may not be in the list of the
 18 documents I gave you. It is [INQ005124]. First of all
 19 go to page 1, so we can see what it is.
 20 You see:
 21 "Report on behalf of West Midlands Police in
 22 relation to Frances Geraldine Lowe (McCarry)."
 23 You have probably seen that document before.
 24 **A. Yes, I have. The detail -- I can't remember everything,
 25 of course.**

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1 Q. Of course.
 2 Then if we could go to paragraph 63, which is the
 3 lower part of page 11, please, Henry.
 4 You will see there it says:
 5 "Operation Review did not establish with Mr Banks
 6 the date when he first had contact with Lowe."
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. But it goes on to suggest that the inference can be
 9 drawn from the materials that it was in 1975. Do you
 10 see why I asked you that, that this report appears to be
 11 saying that during this Operation Review interview with
 12 DCI Banks in the 1990s he was not asked specifically
 13 "Well, when did you first have contact with Mrs Lowe
 14 about this subject?"
 15 **A. Yes, on the West Midlands report, yes.**
 16 Q. Yes. That, I suggest, would be because at that stage
 17 the focus of Operation Review was on who were the
 18 perpetrators of the bombing; they were not looking
 19 necessarily at the topics that we are considering for
 20 the purpose of this Inquest?
 21 **A. From my knowledge of what the review was -- which was**
 22 **not detailed, I would agree -- it was an open-ended**
 23 **investigation, I think, into the --**
 24 Q. To be clear, I'm not in any way criticising the
 25 interviewer for not asking that. But the fact remains

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1 that in terms of the material we are trying to put
 2 together, no one at that stage asked DCI Banks, "Well,
 3 when did you first speak to Mrs Lowe about these
 4 matters?" Correct?
 5 **A. I don't know what they asked him, but certainly their**
 6 **report did not establish the -- it was not clear.**
 7 Q. Thank you.
 8 Then if we go, just for one point, to the interview
 9 with Mrs Lowe herself as part of Operation Review, which
 10 we looked at in detail.
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. That long document, [INQ005144], please, Henry. And
 13 could we start at the bottom of page 43, please.
 14 **A. Yes, these are the officer's comments.**
 15 Q. Yes.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. I just wanted to be clear about that. So
 18 Woman Detective Constable Docherty appears, from what we
 19 saw on the first page earlier, to essentially have been
 20 the author of this document setting out what Mrs Lowe
 21 said in interview.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Then we see on the next two pages, do we not, 42 and 43,
 24 her assessment?
 25 **A. Yes, it is her comments, yes.**

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1 Q. So if we go to 42, please, Henry.
 2 We saw those paragraphs yesterday. And then her
 3 concluding assessment at 43 -- not yesterday, last
 4 Wednesday, though it feels like yesterday in some ways.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. She said at the top of the page:
 7 "In view of the circumstances, I feel the above
 8 information should thoroughly be investigated, not only
 9 disregarded as information based on a 'malicious and
 10 vengeful' woman."
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. So that is where you had reached, I believe, with
 13 Mr Skelton.
 14 If you could then go to the next page,
 15 please, Henry.
 16 What I suggest we have here is that then the
 17 officer, who would have been the supervisory officer for
 18 Woman Detective Docherty, reviews the documents and
 19 contributes her assessments?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Turning over the page, we are going to see that the next
 22 two and a half pages are written by an acting
 23 Inspector Bunn?
 24 **A. Correct.**
 25 Q. So in addition to the Detective Constable's assessment

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1 we see the Acting Inspector's assessment. And we see at
 2 the top the page again, "SIO", which is Senior
 3 Investigating Officer, isn't it?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. And she is suggesting:
 6 "Sir, I suggest this matter is investigated as
 7 thoroughly as possible in an attempt to either
 8 corroborate or nullify the information that Mrs Lowe
 9 has provided."
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Then if we go to page 46, Henry, we see the Acting
 12 Inspector's name at the bottom of that section, JA Bunn?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. And then another officer below that has contributed
 15 their view.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. That is a Detective Inspector Cole?
 18 **A. Right.**
 19 Q. Again presumably addressing it to the senior
 20 investigating officer, because it is headed "Sir"?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Suggesting that certain particular inquiries
 23 are pursued?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. So that is, as far as we can understand things, the

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1 position at that stage. Perhaps I should take you to
 2 the last page, page 47.
 3 **A. The SIO.**
 4 Q. Exactly, the SIO's comment.
 5 **A. And he agrees.**
 6 Q. I think he was a detective chief superintendent.
 7 **A. Detective Superintendent.**
 8 Q. Superintendent Wall. He says:
 9 "I agree. Try to bottom out as far as possible.
 10 Raise actions accordingly."
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. That is the position at that stage. There is also a
 13 brief reference to the Operation Review final report
 14 which was produced, I think published in September 1993.
 15 There was a question mark raised in your discussions
 16 with Mr Skelton as to the author of that. Can I suggest
 17 to you -- without putting it on the screen -- that the
 18 author was the senior investigating officer who we have
 19 seen referred to here, Superintendent Wall?
 20 Will you accept that? I am sure Mr Johnson will
 21 tell me if I have that wrong. His name is on it as
 22 the author.
 23 **A. Yes, I can't recall that, but --**
 24 Q. Mr Johnson has just told me that that is right. So if
 25 we just deal with it in that quick way. If I can just

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1 take you to two sections in that report.
 2 Henry, if we just go to [INQ004726], please, and
 3 page 3.
 4 This is the introduction, okay? Then the next page,
 5 just taking you to that, so you see the heading is
 6 "Introduction". And then the last paragraph says:
 7 "The main facts uncovered by the inquiry are the
 8 subject of the report which follows."
 9 Do you see that?
 10 **A. Yes, that bottom line, yes, on page 2.**
 11 Q. Yes. Then having seen the context, if we can go to
 12 page 13, please. At the top of the page is a heading:
 13 "Summary of the main findings."
 14 Do you see that?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Then there are a number of paragraphs in relation
 17 to that. Then to the next page, and just home in on
 18 paragraph 12, please. Thank you.
 19 So the 12th main finding of the Operation Review
 20 investigation was:
 21 "At lunchtime on 21 November 1974 [and there are
 22 then the names of two of the Birmingham Six] were
 23 overheard discussing what the witness believes to have
 24 been the public house bombings."
 25 That is a reference, is it not -- I am going to take

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1 you to later sections in the report -- but looked at in
 2 context we can see that that -- sorry, I have just taken
 3 you to the wrong reference. The lunchtime one is the
 4 other matter.
 5 I am so sorry. Just bear with me for a second. It
 6 is number 11, not number 12. Entirely my mistake.
 7 There we are. That is more like it. On 20 November, so
 8 the day before the bombings, some persons named holding
 9 a meeting, and the person in question, who is here
 10 redacted, heard what they now believe to be the planning
 11 of the public house bombings.
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. I do not want to take you into the later sections of the
 14 report, which are heavily redacted, but do you accept,
 15 or are you satisfied, that that is Mrs Lowe's account?
 16 **A. It is highly possible. The only thing I have seen on**
 17 **the 20th on discussions in relation to the subject of**
 18 **the Talk of the Town is that information.**
 19 Q. Exactly. So that is being put forward in the report as
 20 one of the main findings made by the investigation?
 21 **A. From that title on page 2, yes.**
 22 Q. Yes. It is a finding --
 23 THE CORONER: In what sense is it a finding?
 24 **A. It says a finding on page 2, whatever the word is.**
 25 MS WILLIAMS: It says "Summary of main findings".

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1 THE CORONER: It is not a finding that it is true, it is
 2 a finding that that is available as evidence, or
 3 something of that kind?
 4 MS WILLIAMS: Respectfully, Sir, I don't read it in that
 5 way. It is a summary of the findings made by an
 6 extensive investigation --
 7 THE CORONER: That those things are true?
 8 MS WILLIAMS: If you read -- there are reasons why I don't
 9 want to show all the paragraphs on the screen --
 10 THE CORONER: Yes.
 11 MS WILLIAMS: -- which is, I presume, an approach you would
 12 endorse. But read in context, these are the conclusions
 13 which the investigation has drawn.
 14 **A. I cannot say what context. I can say what the words**
 15 **are. It is certainly a finding that -- if you went to**
 16 **page 2, whatever wording is on there. I would imagine**
 17 **it is a reference to this, although -- unless there is**
 18 **any other information about 20 November that I'm not**
 19 **aware of.**
 20 Q. What I am suggesting to you is that this is not simply
 21 being raised in a neutral way in this report as it may
 22 have happened or may not have happened. It is being
 23 positively put forward as a finding which the
 24 investigation has drawn?
 25 **A. Yes. It is a summary of their investigation.**

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<p>1 Q. And insofar as there is no document from 1974 that 2 confirms that Mrs McCarry, as she then was, attended the 3 Queen's Road police station, would you accept that that 4 simply raises two possibilities: either there never was 5 such a document or there was but, as with many documents 6 from that length of time ago, it no longer exists? 7 A. I can't comment, other than I have not seen a document 8 that is relative to that meeting. 9 Q. But both of those are credible possibilities? 10 A. As in it didn't happen or there is -- 11 Q. That there was a document but it is no longer available? 12 A. I can't -- 13 MR JOHNSON: Sir, these are logical deductions that would be 14 a matter for -- 15 THE CORONER: I was going to answer that, yes. 16 MS WILLIAMS: Just one last point, then, which relates to 17 the extent to which Operation Review looked into this 18 point. If we go back to the West Midlands Police 19 report. If it helps to have it on screen again, 20 Mr Mole, it is [INQ005124], and this time paragraph 65. 21 So just need the top, Henry, of page 12. If you 22 just home in on paragraph 65, please. 23 This is West Midlands Police report to the Coroner. 24 What is being said is that there is no evidence 25 indicating that Operation Review -- that is the 1990s</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 about an interview with Frances McCarry, or 2 Frances Lowe? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. If we go forward, please, to page 16. Do you have those 5 in hard copy, Mr Mole? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. What I am seeking to extract from you is -- and we will 8 get the electronic version in a moment -- I think 9 somewhere in the middle of the page it makes it clear 10 that they are talking about there being two members of 11 the Birmingham Six at the house? 12 A. She clearly saw one of the Birmingham Six and the man, 13 one of the Birmingham Six, seated, yes. 14 Q. Yes. So two members of the Birmingham Six? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. And then at the bottom of the page, what she recalls 17 overhearing is "it's on" or "it's up" "for the Talk of 18 the Town today"? 19 A. Yes. There is no reference to who said that. Yes. 20 Q. No, no, I'm just trying to -- 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. The general point is that what she's saying in 1993 is 23 that on that night she saw two members of the 24 Birmingham Six -- 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 investigation we have just been looking at -- 2 investigated Mrs Lowe's reported visit to Queen's Road 3 police station on 21 November 1974. 4 A. Yes. On the Castor's database, yes. 5 Q. Again, no doubt, because the focus at the time was on 6 the perpetrators rather than the topic we are current 7 concerned with. 8 Thank you, Mr Mole. That is everything I wished to 9 ask you. 10 A. Thank you. 11 Questions on behalf of WEST MIDLANDS POLICE 12 MR JOHNSON: Mr Mole, just a few questions on this topic. 13 We know, don't we -- and I will take you back to the 14 document if necessary -- that in 1993 Mrs McCarry gave 15 an account in which she said that two members of the 16 Birmingham Six had visited her house the night of 17 20 November and she had overheard the words "it's on" or 18 "it's up", "for the Talk of the Town today"? That is 19 the gist of it? 20 A. Can you take me to it so I can double-check. 21 Q. Yes. [INQ005144]. If we can start at page 1, just so 22 we can get the date. So the date in the end of the 23 capitalised text is 26 April 1993. 24 A. That is correct. 25 Q. And this is the report that is completed, then, in 1993</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Q. -- at her house, with her husband. We have it there on 2 the screen. And what she recalls being said, right at 3 the bottom of the page, is "it's on" or "it's up" "for 4 the Talk of the Town ..." 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. She then claims -- and we can go to page 19, if need 7 be -- that she took her children with her to 8 Queen's Road police station the following day, the 21st, 9 the day of the bombings? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. And informed the police about it. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. But the officer manhandled her out of the station and 14 said she was hysterical? 15 A. That is correct. 16 Q. So that is her account in 1993? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Now, it is right, isn't it -- and Ms Williams has asked 19 you about this -- that you have not seen any documents 20 from 1974 recording that incident that happened? 21 A. That is correct. 22 Q. There are no documents in 1974 recording Mrs McCarry 23 speaking to the police about her husband and saying 24 anything about the Talk of the Town or the 25 Birmingham Six?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 A. I have not seen anything from 1974.</p> <p>2 Q. What we do have is a series of messages in mid-1975?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Which Mr Skelton took you through last week.</p> <p>5 A. That is correct.</p> <p>6 Q. And they include, if we have it up on screen, one</p> <p>7 concerning information given by Mr Orton, I think in</p> <p>8 July. This is at 5127.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. [INQ005127].</p> <p>11 A. That is correct; that was on 17/7/75.</p> <p>12 Q. 17 July 1975?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And is this right: he talks about Mrs McCarry making</p> <p>15 allegations to him about her husband's involvement with</p> <p>16 one of the Birmingham Six and involvement in the IRA and</p> <p>17 Mr Orton saying that she was being hysterical?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. I am now going to struggle to find it on the screen.</p> <p>20 It is in the main block of text, starting</p> <p>21 "Arthur Orton", and it is four lines down.</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Talking about --</p> <p>24 A. "Hysterical condition", yes, that is on his report.</p> <p>25 Q. So there are similarities in that what Mr Orton is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 which I think Ms Williams showed you a moment ago, and</p> <p>2 it is the message of 14 July 1975.</p> <p>3 A. Yes, that's the 5138 reference to the phone message. Is</p> <p>4 that the one?</p> <p>5 Q. 5128, I think.</p> <p>6 A. What reference is it, the inquest 00 --</p> <p>7 Q. [INQ005128].</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Thank you. This is the one Ms Williams showed you</p> <p>10 a moment ago.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And it is the first block paragraph, last four lines.</p> <p>13 Nothing about Talk of the Town but it does make the</p> <p>14 suggestion or allegation that there had been people in</p> <p>15 their house that night of 20 November into the early</p> <p>16 hours of 21 November?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, the 14 people.</p> <p>18 Q. Clearly talking about the same general topic?</p> <p>19 A. General topic, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. But no mention of Talk of the Town?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. And no suggestion she has previously provided this</p> <p>23 information. She is not saying here, "I told you this</p> <p>24 on the day, on 21st November"?</p> <p>25 A. No, nothing in this report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 recording Mrs McCarry as saying -- it doesn't say</p> <p>2 anything about Talk of the Town but it does say about</p> <p>3 allegations of her husband being involved with at least</p> <p>4 one of the Birmingham Six, and involved in the IRA, and</p> <p>5 it does mention the suggestion that she was being</p> <p>6 hysterical. Is that right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. You, of course, can't say whether Mrs McCarry in 1993</p> <p>9 was confusing what she is here said to have said to</p> <p>10 Mr Orton in 1975 with what she in 1993 claimed to have</p> <p>11 told the police in 1974?</p> <p>12 That was a horribly garbled question, I'm sorry, but</p> <p>13 do you understand the jist of it?</p> <p>14 A. I do.</p> <p>15 Q. But you can't say?</p> <p>16 A. No, I can't say.</p> <p>17 Q. But there is nothing here, is there, which refers to the</p> <p>18 Talk of the Town?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. And there is nothing here which suggests that she had</p> <p>21 given this account previously to the police in</p> <p>22 November 1974?</p> <p>23 A. Nothing in that document, no.</p> <p>24 Q. We have a series of other messages in 1975. I suggest</p> <p>25 the closest we get to this topic is at [INQ005128],</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 Q. All right.</p> <p>2 So the first mention we have of Ms McCarry giving</p> <p>3 this sort of account, not mentioning Talk of the Town</p> <p>4 but talking about the same topic, is around mid 1975,</p> <p>5 14 July 1975, taken together with what Mr Orton says?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, the general topic, with what Mr Banks was saying in</p> <p>7 this report.</p> <p>8 Q. On Wednesday, Mr Skelton quite understandably and</p> <p>9 rightly explored with you whether there was a basis for</p> <p>10 thinking that in fact Mrs McCarry might have reported</p> <p>11 this before mid-1975.</p> <p>12 The basis for those questions was a document in</p> <p>13 1993 -- and in fact I think we should have it up on</p> <p>14 screen. It is [INQ005146], page 6, please. So this is</p> <p>15 a document in 1993, 13 June 1993.</p> <p>16 Page 6. And what it says, right at the bottom of</p> <p>17 the page, if Henry could go right to the very last</p> <p>18 bit, please --</p> <p>19 THE CORONER: Could I just have the date again, please?</p> <p>20 MR JOHNSON: 30 June 1993. I thought the redaction might</p> <p>21 have changed a little bit. But if we look right at the</p> <p>22 very last line we see a name that has been redacted.</p> <p>23 THE CORONER: Do you know what tab, Mr Skelton, this is?</p> <p>24 29 June?</p> <p>25 MR JOHNSON: I think it is 30 June, I am afraid.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

1 THE CORONER: It has both dates.
 2 MR JOHNSON: I am so sorry.
 3 THE CORONER: And we are on page 6.
 4 MR JOHNSON: We are on page 6.
 5 Mr Mole, we see on the very last line there is
 6 a name that has been redacted. I am going to call that
 7 Person G, who was questioned as early as January 1975?
 8 **A. Yes. This is the lodger or potential lodger.**
 9 Q. Yes, potential lodger. Questioned in January 1975. So
 10 before mid-1975. And the point was, well, what caused
 11 that person to be questioned? Could it have been that
 12 Mrs McCarry had given this information before the
 13 mid-1975 messages we have all been looking at? That was
 14 the line of logic. Is that right?
 15 **A. Yes. The reference was questioned as early as**
 16 **10 January 1975.**
 17 Q. Yes.
 18 **A. Yes. But we have seen no documentation --**
 19 Q. You have seen nothing which --
 20 **A. -- to cause that, other than this.**
 21 Q. Yes, exactly. The point being, in the absence of
 22 anything else to cause the police to question the lodger
 23 in the January, is it a reasonable inference that
 24 Mrs McCarry had gone to the police, as she said she did,
 25 and that it was that that caused them to question

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1 the lodger?
 2 I think that was what Mr Skelton was exploring with
 3 you last week?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Yes. So what I want to do with you is see if we can see
 6 whether there is an explanation for this person
 7 being questioned.
 8 Can we then go, please, to [INQ005176].
 9 We see here a message on 28 November, so a week
 10 after the bombings, is that right?
 11 **A. Yes, on this message, yes.**
 12 Q. Can we just keep in mind the reference number at the top
 13 right, 3414?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. If we look in the second line we see a name, and my
 16 suggestion -- and Counsel to the Inquest can look at the
 17 original documents and correct me if I'm wrong about
 18 this, but my suggestion is that where it says "reason"
 19 in the second line, that's the same person, Person G,
 20 "to be interviewed and statement taken."
 21 Do you see that?
 22 **A. Yes. Obviously I don't know who the person is. You are**
 23 **saying Person G, but I have not seen anything --**
 24 Q. I understand. You can't confirm that, but others can.
 25 And then there is a reason given, isn't there, as to why

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1 that person is to be interviewed? It is because they
 2 are believed to be related to either one or other of the
 3 Birmingham Six?
 4 **A. Yes, according to this document, yes.**
 5 Q. So subject to being told I am wrong about the name,
 6 we here --
 7 MR SKELTON: I can confirm that that is correct, so far as
 8 we are aware.
 9 MR JOHNSON: I am very grateful. That will save some
 10 verbal gymnastics.
 11 So that shows that what I am calling Person G, there
 12 was an action for that person to be interviewed well
 13 before 1975, within just a week of the bombings. The
 14 reason given was because they were a relative of the
 15 Birmingham Six -- two of the Birmingham Six?
 16 **A. That is what this would suggest, yes.**
 17 Q. There is no mention here of Mrs McCarry? It is not
 18 saying: please interview him because Mrs McCarry says
 19 he's the lodger and he's ... And there is no mention of
 20 the Talk of the Town?
 21 **A. Correct.**
 22 Q. Then can we go, please, to [INQ005175], remembering the
 23 reference number 3414 in that document. Do we see the
 24 same reference number in this document? Top right.
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. And we see "reason to" again, and that I suggest is
 2 Person G, a relative of one of the Birmingham Six, has
 3 been interviewed and a statement obtained?
 4 **A. According to this, yes. In relation to 3414, yes.**
 5 Q. All right. This is 4 January, so there is a wrinkle
 6 about the date because the earlier document which we
 7 looked at had talked about him being interviewed on
 8 10 January. But here we see that in fact a document on
 9 4 January is saying that the person is being
 10 interviewed then?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Then if we go, please, to [INQ005173], page 4, please,
 13 Henry. I am so sorry, I didn't give you any of these
 14 references.
 15 We see a statement which I suggest is the statement
 16 of Person G, dated 3 January 1975. Do you see that?
 17 **A. I do, yes.**
 18 Q. Mr Mole, I'm sorry, you probably have not seen this
 19 before, have you?
 20 **A. No.**
 21 Q. All right. Can we just scroll through it. My
 22 suggestion will be that is there no mention of Talk of
 23 the Town, no mention of him being questioned about an
 24 account Mrs McCarry has given, and in fact he's being
 25 interviewed because of his relationship, we see in the

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<p>1 third line: 2 "I am related to [one of the Birmingham Six]..." 3 Do you see that? 4 A. Yes. Yes. 5 Q. And then he's giving an account, heavily redacted, but 6 it appears to be of how he met one of the members of the 7 Birmingham Six and his knowledge of them and so on. 8 If we go over the page. Keep going down, and over 9 the page again, please. I don't think it is a terribly 10 long statement. I think we can just go through it, 11 please, and I think if we go over the page that is the 12 last page. 13 We see here lots of biographical detail about 14 members of Person G's family, and then the end of the 15 statement. So nothing in there, it appears, relating to 16 the account Mrs McCarry gave? 17 A. From the speed-reading I did there, and obviously 18 I can't see the redactions, I only saw the Yew Tree 19 mentioned, not anything else in terms of what you are 20 referring to. That's the best I can say. 21 Q. Then seven months later we have the messages in 22 July 1975. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Can we just look again very quickly to pick up 25 a reference, [INQ005128], on 14 July, a document we have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. So the sequence appears to be: on 14 July the account we 3 see in the message we have just looked at a moment ago 4 from Mrs McCarry is given. And the same day an action 5 is created to go back and see Person G about 6 that account? 7 A. Yes, if those redactions are correct. 8 Q. Yes. But all of that of course is -- 9 A. I have not seen the -- 10 Q. But all of that is mid-1975? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Very finally, you were asked about [INQ005138] at 0003. 13 This was the document in 4 November 1992 -- 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. -- where Mr Banks was being interviewed and Ms Williams 16 was asking you whether there was any evidence that he 17 was asked about when Mrs McCarry had given her account. 18 And Ms Williams took you to the West Midlands report and 19 so on. 20 But of course, this predates, doesn't it, the 1993 21 interview with Mrs McCarry, which is the first document 22 we have of her saying she had gone to see the police on 23 21 November 1974? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Yes. So at this stage, on the documents we have seen,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 looked at several times now. 2 I can't remember if I said the reference. The 3 reference in the top right is 5138. Do you see that? 4 A. Yes, 5128 is the Inquest number, yes. 5 Q. Oh, I see. That is where the confusion has arisen. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. But the reference number in 1975 was 5138. 8 A. Correct. 9 Q. This is the document Ms Williams and I have shown you 10 a couple of times now -- 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. -- where we get Miss McCarry's account in July 1975. 13 That is on 14 July. Then the very next day, I think, or 14 possibly the same day -- if you go to [INQ005174]. It 15 is the same day, 14 July. Do you see that? Do you 16 have that? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. And it says: 19 "Renew inquiries regarding [I suggest Person G] 20 employed at Forgings. This man is a member of the IRA, 21 the brother-in-law of one of the Birmingham Six, and is 22 believed to be conspiring with John McCarry and others 23 to cause explosives. See telephone message 5138." 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Which is the one we just looked at.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 the police didn't have anything to suggest that Mr Banks 2 or anyone else had had any interaction with Mrs McCarry 3 before July 1975? 4 A. On the information, yes. 5 Q. Of course, always qualifying it in that way. 6 A. Yes. 7 MR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Thank you for bearing 8 with me. And thank you to Henry. Those are all of my 9 questions. 10 MR SKELTON: Sir, just on that very last point, one point of 11 re-examination for Mr Mole. 12 Further questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUEST 13 MR SKELTON: Can we go back to [INQ005141], please. 14 Thank you. 15 Just a reminder. This is a report from Detective 16 Inspector Parsons to Detective Inspector Wall, which is 17 about the interview with retired Detective 18 Superintendent Banks -- 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. -- on 20 October and 28 October 1992. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. And the report is dated 4 November 1992. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Mr Johnson has rightly reminded you that that predates 25 the reassessment of Mrs McCarry's evidence and her</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

1 interviews in 1993?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. But just if you could highlight the final substantive
 4 paragraph starting "Banks was able to recall", please.
 5 Would you mind reading out that paragraph, Mr Mole?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 **"Banks was able to recall information he received in**
 8 **relation to two of the Birmingham Six collecting the**
 9 **explosives from the Yew Tree public house on the night**
 10 **before the public house bombings [redacted] Frances**
 11 **Geraldine McCarry, whose spouse John Joseph McCarry**
 12 **figures significantly in the information received.**
 13 **"Mr Banks said that the information given by**
 14 **Mrs McCarry caused many hours of inquiries and**
 15 **observations but the result was that she nearly always**
 16 **gave information after an event or, where the inquiries**
 17 **were possible, none of the information could ever be**
 18 **substantiated.**
 19 **"McCarry was [redacted] and in the opinion of Banks**
 20 **was not reliable and was not a worthy line of inquiry**
 21 **for this review. Besides being estranged from her**
 22 **husband at the time back in 1975, and there being an**
 23 **element of malice, she appeared to be an**
 24 **attention-seeker trying to endear herself with the**
 25 **police. Inquiries would continue into her information**

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1 **for some considerable time, although the officers became**
 2 **suspicious of her information at an early stage.**
 3 **However, it was felt she should be persisted with**
 4 **because of her contacts in Northern Ireland."**
 5 MR SKELTON: It is that date 1975 there. He doesn't appear
 6 to be challenged on the exact point at which he had
 7 first contact with Mrs McCarry?
 8 **A. Correct.**
 9 Q. Although it is not clear, because this is a report and
 10 not a transcript?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. But it looks like someone has volunteered, possibly
 13 Mr Banks himself, the date 1975. And read in context,
 14 this appears to be his position as it stood in 1975
 15 rather than earlier?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. So it doesn't definitively answer the question of when
 18 the first contact was made, but it leads to at least one
 19 implication that it might have been 1975, when this line
 20 of contact with Mrs McCarry occurred?
 21 MR SKELTON: Thank you.
 22 Sir, that concludes Mr Mole's evidence on
 23 this topic.
 24 THE CORONER: Yes.
 25 MR SKELTON: It may be a convenient moment to have

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1 a short break.
 2 THE CORONER: Yes. We are moving on to another --
 3 MR SKELTON: We are. Shall I introduce that or shall
 4 I allow Mr Hill to do so when he returns?
 5 THE CORONER: Well, you could keep us in suspense.
 6 MR SKELTON: We will do that.
 7 THE CORONER: So we will have a slightly early break.
 8 15 minutes, please.
 9 (11.06 am)
 10 (A short break)
 11 (11.23 am)
 12 Evidence relating to CIVILIAN WITNESSES
 13 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY
 14 MR HILL: Sir, we are going to turn now to some evidence
 15 about timing. In particular, we are going to look at
 16 some evidence from what we have termed "civilian
 17 witnesses", so just ordinary members of the public, who
 18 were in or around the pubs at the time of
 19 the explosions.
 20 The reason we are using Mr Mole to do so is because
 21 there is a great deal of that evidence and this is a way
 22 of cutting through it and hopefully making it
 23 comprehensive.
 24 Mr Mole, is it right that you have produced
 25 a further report on the timings contained in the

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1 'civilian' evidence as we are calling it?
 2 **A. That is correct, Mr Hill, yes.**
 3 Q. Was that report provided to the lawyers here in advance,
 4 some of whom made helpful suggestions to you which you
 5 took on board?
 6 **A. Yes, that is correct.**
 7 Q. The jury have heard some evidence from civilians. But
 8 is it right that those are only a few of the witnesses
 9 among the many that you have seen?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Is it right that you have reviewed evidence from
 12 witnesses who were firstly inside the pubs --
 13 **A. Correct.**
 14 Q. -- and secondly outside the pubs at the time of
 15 the explosions --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. -- and thirdly on the number 90 bus that was damaged in
 18 the explosions?
 19 **A. Correct.**
 20 Q. And in the Odeon Cinema, which was on New Street just
 21 along from the Tavern in the Town?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Is it also right that you have tried to group these
 24 witnesses together, firstly by geographical location and
 25 secondly by the times that they give in their evidence?

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<p>1 A. Yes, the approximate times that they gave, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Have you done this purely to try to assist the jury in</p> <p>3 understanding this mass of evidence?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Just so we are very clear from the outset, you are not</p> <p>6 here to say who was right and who was wrong, are you?</p> <p>7 A. That is correct.</p> <p>8 Q. And you are not here to say which parts of an account</p> <p>9 might be reliable and which parts might be unreliable?</p> <p>10 A. That is correct.</p> <p>11 Q. You are not here to identify factors which make an</p> <p>12 account more reliable or less reliable, are you?</p> <p>13 A. That is correct.</p> <p>14 Q. You are simply here to say what it is that these people</p> <p>15 say in their statements?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. So you have no case to put or no argument to make about</p> <p>18 any particular timings, is that right?</p> <p>19 A. That is correct, yes, thank you.</p> <p>20 Q. Before we turn to your report, and to give a flavour of</p> <p>21 some of this evidence, I would like to begin by</p> <p>22 referring to five witnesses who you were taken to when</p> <p>23 you previously gave evidence. You were taken to them by</p> <p>24 Ms Williams. These were five individuals who were in</p> <p>25 the Tavern in the Town.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 about 7.55 ..."</p> <p>2 So this is Mr Longthorn. The statement is dated</p> <p>3 1 December 1974. He says:</p> <p>4 "At about 7.55 on Thursday 21 November I was with my</p> <p>5 friends Stephen Grater, Stephen Cox and Leslie Robinson</p> <p>6 in the Tavern in the Town."</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. He says:</p> <p>9 "I was standing in the middle of the room, opposite</p> <p>10 the end of the bar, facing New Street. Stephen Grater</p> <p>11 heard a bang and he went outside and then came back and</p> <p>12 found us and said it was off at the Rotunda. A few</p> <p>13 minutes later, 8.30, I thought I had been electrocuted."</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And he then talks about the effects on him and he is</p> <p>16 plainly talking about the explosion.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. So the time he has given there is about 8.30?</p> <p>19 A. Correct.</p> <p>20 Q. If you take that down, please, Henry.</p> <p>21 I would just like to take a look at a couple of</p> <p>22 statements from those who were with Mr Longthorn.</p> <p>23 The first is [INQ000266] page 1, please, Henry.</p> <p>24 We can see that this is a statement of</p> <p>25 Stephen Grater. It is dated 6 December 1974, so a few</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And Ms Williams adduced the evidence that all of them</p> <p>3 said that the explosion took place at around about 8.30?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Part of her point she was making, as I understand it --</p> <p>6 and she will correct me if I'm wrong -- is that Chief</p> <p>7 Superintendent Brannigan could not have taken these</p> <p>8 statements into account when he made his report because</p> <p>9 they post-dated his report?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. And they suggested a later time of the explosion, at</p> <p>12 least in the Tavern in the Town?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. The first of those statements was a man called</p> <p>15 David Longthorn.</p> <p>16 If we could have on screen, please, Henry,</p> <p>17 [INQ00254] page 1.</p> <p>18 Just so we are clear, Mr Mole, we are going to refer</p> <p>19 to a lot of different witnesses in your evidence today.</p> <p>20 I'm not going to bring up all of them on the screen.</p> <p>21 I will just bring up some of them every now and again</p> <p>22 where it assists. Of course if you want to see any of</p> <p>23 them, please let me know and I will bring them up.</p> <p>24 A. Okay.</p> <p>25 Q. If we could expand, please, Henry, from "at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 days after the account given by Mr Longthorn.</p> <p>2 If we could go down a little bit on the statement,</p> <p>3 please, Henry.</p> <p>4 We can see that Mr Greater says:</p> <p>5 "At about 7.45 on Thursday 21 November 1974 I left</p> <p>6 my house to go up to Leslie Robinson's house. When</p> <p>7 I got there, Stephen Cox was there as well. If we were</p> <p>8 going out for a drink we would always use the Tavern in</p> <p>9 the Town."</p> <p>10 And then he goes on to describe going to the Tavern</p> <p>11 in the Town.</p> <p>12 So those are some of the people that Mr Longthorn</p> <p>13 was with?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. We can see in this statement, third paragraph:</p> <p>16 "The three of us caught the bus into town and went</p> <p>17 into the Tavern in the Town. The time then would be</p> <p>18 about 8.05. When I was inside the pub, my two friends</p> <p>19 split away from me and I went to buy my own drink.</p> <p>20 I had been there for about ten minutes when I heard this</p> <p>21 rumbling noise."</p> <p>22 So according to the timings he's given in this</p> <p>23 statement this would be about 8.15, is that right?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. "I went up the stairs to the pavement to see what the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 noise was. I could see people running, and I found out 2 there had been an explosion in the town. I immediately 3 rushed back into the pubs to tell my friends that there 4 had been an explosion. I spoke to somebody and told 5 them about this. I cannot remember who I spoke to. It 6 was then, just as I was picking my drink up, everything 7 went dark and I must have lost consciousness then." 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. He's plainly talking about the explosion in the Tavern 10 in the Town? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. So the timing that Mr Greater gives is, 8.05 he arrives 13 in the Tavern? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. On his account, about ten minutes later he heard about 16 the explosion which appears to be the Mulberry Bush? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. He returned into the Tavern and spoke to somebody, and 19 then the bomb occurred. He doesn't give a precise time 20 for when that happened? 21 A. That is correct. 22 Q. Next, Leslie Robinson, another of those within 23 that group. 24 Henry, please could we have [INQ000302] page 1. 25 We see 3 December 1974. So around the same time as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Thank you. 3 We will move on to the second of the witnesses that 4 Ms Williams mentioned previously. This is Doreen Dean, 5 or, as she was in 1975, Doreen Lowe. I don't ask that 6 her statement is brought up, but will you take it from 7 me, Mr Mole, that she was a barmaid in the Tavern in the 8 Town. And the evidence that she gave in a statement 9 dated 2 December 1974 was that it was at about 8.30 pm 10 when the explosion in the Tavern occurred? 11 A. Yes. Dot, I think her name is, yes. 12 Q. Doreen -- 13 A. Doreen. 14 Q. -- sometimes known as Dot. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Will you also take it from me that in a 1991 statement 17 Ms Dean mentioned that she had been joking with one of 18 her fellow bar workers, Pat Daly, some time before the 19 explosion occurred? 20 A. I'll take it from you, yes, Mr Hill. 21 Q. Pat Daly is someone whose evidence was read to the jury 22 previously. He was a bar worker in the Tavern. 23 If we could have on screen, please, Henry, 24 [INQ000317], page 1. This is evidence from a statement 25 dated 4 December 1974. This has been read to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 previous statements. 2 THE CORONER: You said Leslie Robinson? 3 MR HILL: [INQ000302] sorry, Henry. My poor diction. 4 14 December 1974, slightly later. If we go to the 5 second paragraph, do we see the names of Stephen Cox, 6 Stephen Grater and David Longthorn? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Those are the people that Mr Robinson says that he was 9 in the Tavern in the Town with; is that right? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Is it also right that he says that he got there at 12 about 8.10? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. If we could go down to the next paragraph, please, 15 Henry, on the screen. 16 It describes having a drink with Stephen Cox? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Then he says this: 19 "I had been in the pub for ten minutes when there 20 was a sudden loud explosion and I was blown by the blast 21 onto the foot of the stairs." 22 A. Correct. 23 Q. On Mr Robinson's account, that would be about 8.20? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. And that is the explosion in the Tavern?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 jury before. 2 If we could go down to the fourth paragraph, 3 please, Henry. 4 I will ask you, please, Mr Mole, if can you read it 5 comfortably from the screen there, or would you like me 6 to read it? 7 A. I can read it. 8 Q. Could you read, please, the paragraph starting 9 "Just prior ..." 10 A. Yes: 11 "Just prior to the explosion in the pub, I had heard 12 the explosion that took place at the Mulberry Bush. 13 I didn't know it was the Mulberry Bush at the time, 14 because I thought it came from the back of our pub in 15 the direction of New Street railway station. When 16 I heard the first explosion I went into the cellar and 17 opened the back door. I couldn't see anything and 18 I returned to the server behind the bar. I have shown 19 you where I was at the time on your plan. 20 "The next thing I know there was big flash. I was 21 surrounded by darkness. I was knocked to the floor and 22 the next thing I remember is removing debris from about 23 my body and getting up. 24 "When I got myself up, I took Doreen Lowe, the 25 barmaid, and John Boyle, the barman, through the cellar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

1 **wall, which had been blown out and into the back of**
 2 **the pub."**
 3 Q. Just pausing there, Doreen Lowe is the witness we have
 4 just been speaking about, his colleague in the pub?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. He has described there, hasn't he, hearing the explosion
 7 at the Mulberry Bush, coming back into the Tavern, and
 8 the explosion at the Tavern taking place
 9 shortly thereafter?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. If we could just go on to the next page, please, Henry.
 12 If we could look at the fourth paragraph down,
 13 beginning:
 14 "I can tell you ..."
 15 If you could just read that to us, please, Mr Mole.
 16 **A. Yes, certainly.**
 17 **"I can tell you that after going out of the pub to**
 18 **see where the first explosion occurred, that when**
 19 **I returned to the pub I noticed that the time was**
 20 **8.20 pm."**
 21 Q. He returns into the Tavern at 8.20 pm --
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. -- on his account?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. And he says that he noticed the time.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. That was shortly before, on his account, the explosion
 3 in the Tavern took place?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Thank you.
 6 The next two witnesses that Ms Williams mentioned
 7 were Gail Jones and Yvonne Graham. They were in the
 8 Tavern in the Town together. And they both gave
 9 evidence which was adduced through you previously that
 10 the explosion took place at about 8.30 pm.
 11 Will you take all of that from me?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Thank you. Ms Graham's evidence was that she was with
 14 another friend --
 15 THE CORONER: Ms Graham is saying this?
 16 MR HILL: Yes.
 17 THE CORONER: Are we not looking at Gail Jones and
 18 Jane Hutt?
 19 MR HILL: No, Gail Jones and Yvonne Graham were the two
 20 witnesses together.
 21 THE CORONER: My mistake.
 22 MR HILL: We will come to Jane Hutt later. She is the last.
 23 THE CORONER: Yes, sorry. Then repeat what you said.
 24 MR HILL: Yvonne Graham's evidence from 1974 was that they
 25 were with a woman called Christina Hubball as well.

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1 And indeed, in 1991 Ms Jones also mentioned
 2 Christina Hubball as being with them. Again, will you
 3 take that from me?
 4 **A. Yes, thank you.**
 5 Q. I will be corrected if I'm wrong.
 6 [INQ000543] page 1, please, Henry.
 7 This is the statement given by Christina Hubball,
 8 dated 22 November 1974, so the day after the bombings.
 9 If I ask you just to read the first three
 10 paragraphs, please.
 11 And if you just go down a little, please, Henry.
 12 **A. Thank you.**
 13 **"At about 8.10 pm on Thursday 21 November 1974 I was**
 14 **with my two friends Yvonne Graham and Gail Jones in the**
 15 **Tavern in the Town public house, New Street, City.**
 16 **We were sitting on the left-hand side (as you walk into**
 17 **the public house) by the ladies' toilet, in between the**
 18 **toilet and a pillar. There was a loud bang and I fell**
 19 **straight to the floor and blacked out."**
 20 Q. Would you agree with me that the only time mentioned
 21 there is the arrival at the pub, 8.10?
 22 **A. Correct.**
 23 THE CORONER: She doesn't say that, does she?
 24 MR HILL: No, I'm sorry. She was with her friends at 8.10.
 25 THE CORONER: Yes.

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1 MR HILL: And then the rest of the account is as you
 2 have read.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. It culminates in the explosion.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Thank you.
 7 The final witness that Ms Graham mentioned,
 8 Jane Hutt, also sometimes referred to as Jane Nutt, and
 9 later Jane Mills.
 10 In her statement from December 1974, she, too, had
 11 given the time of about 8.30 when the explosion in the
 12 Tavern took place. She was with her boyfriend at the
 13 time, a man called Charles Poolton.
 14 Can we have Mr Poolton's statement up, please,
 15 Henry, [INQ000421], 2 December 1974, as we can see
 16 there. If we could go down to the third
 17 paragraph, please.
 18 If you could read that paragraph, please, Mr Mole.
 19 **A. "At about 8.10 pm on Thursday 21 November 1974 I was**
 20 **with my girlfriend, Jane Nutt [DPA] in**
 21 **Corporation Street, and we decided to go into the Tavern**
 22 **in the Town in New Street for a drink. It is not our**
 23 **usual practice to go in there.**
 24 **"We both went up to the bar and had our drinks and**
 25 **we sat down in an alcove on the right of the entrance**

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<p>1 (stairs) as indicated on page 1. I sat down behind 2 Jane, being on my left-hand side, and then everything 3 just collapsed. I did not hear any bang but I could not 4 hear anything for a few seconds, and beams and bricks 5 were falling around me." 6 Q. Thank you. 7 If we can take that from the screen, please, Henry. 8 This is where my previous questions should have been 9 directed. We have a time of 8.10 for meeting his 10 girlfriend, Ms Nutt, in Corporation Street and deciding 11 to go to the Tavern. No further timing is given in that 12 description that you just read. 13 A. No. Correct. 14 Q. Thank you. 15 So those are the five witnesses that Ms Williams had 16 previously raised. We will move on to your report now. 17 There is just one thing that the jury should bear in 18 mind. We are now in an age where people's electronic 19 watches are synced to a central time source, so people 20 often have the same time on their mobile phones or on 21 their watches. That is right, isn't it? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. In 1974 that was not necessarily the case? 24 A. No. 25 Q. Let us begin with the witnesses in the Mulberry Bush.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 looked at a few minutes ago? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. When you performed this exercise, is it right that you 4 have had to treat times that are approximate in the same 5 way as you have treated times that are precise? 6 A. Yes, I have put them in the same category. 7 Q. So if somebody says "it was about 8.15", they go into 8 the same category as someone who says "I looked at my 9 watch and it was 8.15"? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. That has involved, has it not, a little bit of 12 subjective personal analysis on your part to try to see 13 which account somebody goes into? 14 A. Yes. So some might say "around 8.10", and "a few 15 minutes later", so they may go into -- it is 16 a subjective question. 17 Q. You have done your best to be as consistent as possible, 18 but is not easy, is it? 19 A. Yes. It is more event ranges, really, is probably 20 a better way to describe it. 21 Q. Some witnesses gave evidence in both 1974 and later on, 22 particularly in the early 1990s. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Have you counted those witnesses twice? 25 A. No, I have counted them once.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Page 2 of your report, paragraph 8. 2 You have analysed the evidence of some 31 witnesses 3 that were in the Mulberry Bush. Is that right? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. And you have sought to assist the Inquest and the jury 6 by separating them into different categories. Is that 7 also correct? 8 A. Yes. I have attempted to, yes. 9 Q. These are based on the times that they give in 10 their statements? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. I would just like to ask you a little about the 13 methodology that you have employed. That is paragraph 4 14 of your statement. 15 This is an imprecise analysis, isn't it, despite 16 your best efforts? 17 A. Yes, it is imprecise, yes. 18 Q. The witnesses are not all answering the same question 19 the same way. They are giving their evidence in 20 different way, aren't they? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. So it is not always possible to compare two 23 accounts identically? 24 A. That is correct. 25 Q. Indeed, we have seen that in the accounts we have just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 Q. So if Mr X gave a statement in 1974 saying "8.15", and 2 he gave a statement in 1991 saying 8.15, then he's only 3 accounted once? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. What about if Mr Y gave an account in 1974 saying 8.25 6 and then an account in 1991 saying 8.10. What have you 7 done there? 8 A. If the 1974 statement is clear, I have relied on the 9 first statement of 1974 and gone into that category. 10 Q. You have not counted the later statement? 11 A. No. 12 Q. What about witnesses who have not given particularly 13 precise evidence and have just said something about "the 14 explosion takes place just after 8.00 pm"? 15 A. They would go into that category of 8.00 pm or 16 afterwards. 17 Q. We will look at some of those in second. 18 A. Yes. They are just not precise and I couldn't work 19 it out. 20 Q. There are quite a few of those who fall into that 21 category, it is fair to say? 22 A. Yes, there are. 23 Q. Have you included in this analysis both those witnesses 24 who have given evidence to these Inquests, either in 25 person or through their statements being read, as well</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

1 as those the jury have not yet heard from?
 2 **A. Yes. It is mentioned in the chart where they have**
 3 **given evidence.**
 4 Q. Have you included any witnesses who did not themselves
 5 see or hear the explosions?
 6 **A. No.**
 7 Q. All of the figures that we are about to hear are from
 8 people who have said one way or another that they were
 9 aware of either the explosion at the Mulberry Bush or at
 10 the Tavern?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Just to repeat, this report was provided to the lawyers
 13 here, who have had an opportunity to comment on it?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. And indeed I think you made some corrections to your
 16 original report and received some helpful comments from
 17 the lawyers?
 18 **A. Yes, they were helpful. Thank you.**
 19 Q. The Mulberry Bush then. As I say, 31 witnesses. Now,
 20 the first category that you have included in your report
 21 is witnesses who don't give a time at all?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Is it right there are two of those?
 24 **A. Correct.**
 25 Q. The second category, which you flagged up a moment ago,

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1 are those who say 8.00 pm or an unspecified time after
 2 8.00 pm?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Is it right that there are 11 such witnesses?
 5 **A. That is correct, Mr Hill.**
 6 Q. Just to give the jury an example of what we are talking
 7 about here -- and I don't ask that this is brought up on
 8 the screen -- but we have evidence from Leonard Cash,
 9 don't we, from 1974?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. What he said was:
 12 "At sometime after 8.00 pm I was in the kitchen [he
 13 was working in the Mulberry Bush]. And the first thing
 14 I remember was suddenly being thrown on the floor."
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. The only timing in that statement is "sometime after
 17 8.00 pm"?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. So he goes into this category.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. And there are 11 such witnesses?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Including Mr Cash?
 24 **A. Correct.**
 25 Q. Then 8.10 pm.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Two witnesses in this category. Is that right?
 3 **A. Correct.**
 4 Q. 8.15 pm.
 5 THE CORONER: Sorry to interrupt. Just to remind ourselves,
 6 we are talking about the explosion in the Mulberry Bush?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 MR SKELTON: And these witnesses are all in the
 9 Mulberry Bush?
 10 **A. These are the ones inside, Sir, yes.**
 11 Q. Is it right, just so that the jury are aware, that this
 12 will be summarised in pictorial form, but at the end of
 13 this we will show two bar charts that have been prepared
 14 that show the --
 15 **A. The numbers.**
 16 Q. -- the preponderance of evidence?
 17 **A. Yes, that is correct.**
 18 Q. Those have important caveats, that we will come to, but
 19 just so the jury are aware that that is coming.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. So 8.15 pm.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. There are six witnesses who you identify as falling into
 24 that category, is that right?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Just so the jury are aware, the next category is
 2 8.20 pm. The category after that is 8.25. So you have
 3 taken it in five-minute chunks, as it were?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Among the six witnesses at 8.15, is it right that
 6 Mr Raymond McVeighty is included?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. The jury may recall that Mr McVeighty was a lawyer who
 9 was in the Mulberry Bush?
 10 THE CORONER: He had a rather old-fashioned style of dress
 11 with a watch chain across his waistcoat.
 12 Q. He told this Inquest:
 13 "I can't remember with any precision what time the
 14 explosion took place, but it would have been sometime
 15 after 8 o'clock, and I can only say between 8.10 and
 16 8.20, I think."
 17 **A. That is correct.**
 18 Q. That's what he told the Inquest, after some 44 years,
 19 isn't it?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Did he also give a statement in 1974, in which he gave
 22 a timing?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. What was that timing?
 25 **A. "Continued sitting in the same position until about**

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1 **8.10 pm to 8.15 pm. I became aware of a very**
 2 **loud noise."**
 3 Q. And that was plainly a reference to the explosion?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Mr McVeighty, as we heard, was with his brother David
 6 McVeighty. Is that right?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. The jury had read to them Mr McVeighty's evidence from
 9 1974. What did he say about the explosion in 1974 in
 10 his statement?
 11 **A. David McVeighty he said "about" -- that is the word**
 12 **he's used:**
 13 **"About 8.15 pm I went up to the bar to buy some**
 14 **drinks, and after a couple of minutes I remember hearing**
 15 **a popping noise."**
 16 Q. Up to the bar at 8.15?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. And returns to the table, and a couple of minutes later
 19 hears a popping noise. And we know from this statement
 20 that that was the explosion at the Mulberry Bush?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Did Mr McVeighty also give a statement in 1991 that was
 23 read to the jury?
 24 **A. He did give a statement in 1991, yes.**
 25 Q. Did he mention in that statement that he lost his watch

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1 in the explosion?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Did he get his watch back?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Was there any particular feature about the timing that
 6 he picked up from his watch?
 7 **A. He said that it stopped at 8.20 pm.**
 8 Q. So six witnesses in this category of 8.15, and the
 9 McVeighty brothers are two of them?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. 8.20. Is it right that there are seven witnesses you
 12 have identified and put into this category?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Do they include Derek Blake, who was the boyfriend of
 15 Pamela Palmer?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Could you just remind the jury about what Mr Blake said
 18 about the timing?
 19 **A. In 1974?**
 20 Q. In 1974?
 21 **A. Yes:**
 22 **"We went into the MB [Mulberry Bush] at about**
 23 **quarter past eight, or it could have been**
 24 **twenty past eight. Found a seat. We went to get**
 25 **drinks. Got the drinks. Took a few sips. And was**

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1 **turning to face Pamela when the bomb exploded."**
 2 Q. So the timing he gives is going into the Mulberry Bush
 3 at about quarter past or twenty past eight?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. And the rest of the account is about what he did there
 6 and then the explosion taking place?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. So you have included him into this 8.20 category
 9 although there is not an absolutely precise time?
 10 **A. Yes, yes.**
 11 Q. Lawrence Molloy. In 1974 what did he say about
 12 the Tavern?
 13 **A. At about 8.20 pm there was a loud bang.**
 14 Q. So again about 8.20?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Michael Marshall, if you could just summarise his
 17 account, please.
 18 **A. 1974, arrived at the Mulberry Bush at about 8.15 pm.**
 19 **Went to the bar and had a drink. Went back to friends.**
 20 **"I had only sat down about three or four minutes**
 21 **when there was a loud boom."**
 22 Q. Again, getting there about 8.15 pm, getting a drink,
 23 there for three or four minutes, and then the explosion?
 24 **A. Yes. And I put him into the 8.20 category.**
 25 Q. So seven in that category, including those witnesses?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. 8.25, how many witnesses in that category?
 3 **A. One.**
 4 Q. Is it right that this is a man who said that he got to
 5 the pub at about 7.55 and had been there for about 30
 6 minutes when the explosion occurred?
 7 **A. Yes, roughly, yes.**
 8 Q. The 8.30 category, how many witnesses in that?
 9 **A. Two.**
 10 Q. Is it right that that category includes Graham Hastings,
 11 who was a witness from whom the jury heard in person.
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. And is it right that Mr Hastings said in his 1974
 14 statement that just before 8.30 pm he got up to go to
 15 the bar and that was when the explosion took place?
 16 **A. Yes. He had been there a couple of minutes, yes.**
 17 Q. Sorry, yes. My mistake. Just before 8.30 he goes to
 18 the bar. He's there for a couple of minutes, and then
 19 the explosion takes place?
 20 **A. Yes, that is correct.**
 21 Q. At 8.30 --
 22 THE CORONER: Was he the security officer?
 23 MR HILL: He was.
 24 Just for completeness' sake, he was asked in his
 25 oral evidence about the time that the explosion took

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1 place. Is it right that he initially said about ten
 2 past eight, but then when he was shown his original
 3 statement he said that that statement is more accurate?
 4 **A. Yes. He said, "I must have got the times wrong". Yes.**
 5 Q. So that concludes the 31 witnesses inside the
 6 Mulberry Bush.
 7 You have also looked at some of the witnesses who
 8 were outside the Mulberry Bush at the time of the
 9 explosion, have you not?
 10 **A. That is correct.**
 11 Q. To deal quite quickly with some of the earlier and
 12 nonspecific timings: one witness, time not specified, is
 13 that right?
 14 **A. Yes, Mr Harrold.**
 15 Q. 8.00 pm or an unspecified time after 8.00 pm, how many
 16 witnesses there?
 17 **A. Four.**
 18 Q. 8.05 pm, how many witnesses?
 19 **A. One.**
 20 Q. 8.10 pm, how many witnesses?
 21 **A. Three.**
 22 Q. 8.15 pm, how many witnesses there?
 23 **A. Five.**
 24 Q. Is one of those five Robert Willis?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. We will have it on screen, please, Henry. [INQ000323]
 2 page 1, please.
 3 We can see this is a statement dated
 4 15 December 1974?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. If we go down a little, please, Henry.
 7 He describes meeting his girlfriend in the second
 8 paragraph. He had arranged to meet her in the Tavern in
 9 the Town, hadn't he?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. He says:
 12 "I got to the pub at about 8.15 pm."
 13 So that is the Tavern in the Town, isn't it?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. "And was going down the steps when I heard
 16 a loud noise."
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. "I went back out into New Street and saw people running
 19 near to the Mulberry Bush."
 20 **A. Correct.**
 21 Q. "And then a bloke on the stairs who said a bomb had gone
 22 off in the Mulberry Bush."
 23 **A. Correct.**
 24 Q. So he has been included in this section outside the
 25 Mulberry Bush, even though he was essentially at the

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1 entrance to the Tavern in the Town?
 2 **A. That is correct.**
 3 Q. Just so we finish his account, he says that he started
 4 walking down the steps into the Tavern in the Town but
 5 he didn't remember anything else?
 6 **A. Yes, I think he said he was knocked out.**
 7 Q. And that's because of the explosion in the Tavern?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. So the evidence is about 8.15 pm, the Mulberry Bush?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. And on his account, it seems, a short time later the
 12 explosion in the Tavern?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Also Robert Twitty is in this category of 8.15.
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Could you just say to the jury what Mr Twitty included
 17 in his 1974 account?
 18 **A. "I remember that the time was exactly quarter past eight
 19 by the clock over Yates's when the first bomb went off."**
 20 Q. Yates's, as the jury has heard, is another pub, or wine
 21 lodge, in Birmingham city centre, isn't it?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Next category, 8.20. These are still people outside the
 24 Mulberry Bush. How many witnesses for 8.20?
 25 **A. One.**

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1 Q. Is it right that for that one witness the evidence comes
 2 from the statement in 1992?
 3 **A. That is correct.**
 4 Q. Is it also right that, in that 1992 statement, this
 5 witness, Gerald Clarke, said:
 6 "I remember the date and exact time the first bomb
 7 went off. It was 21 minutes past eight."
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. It is fair to say that the last two witnesses mentioned
 10 both give the exact time, so far as they recollect it,
 11 but those times are different?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Looking at different clocks?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. The number 90 bus. This is the next group of witnesses
 16 that you have considered.
 17 THE CORONER: Just one moment, please.
 18 Yes.
 19 MR HILL: You looked at seven witnesses from the number
 20 90 bus.
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. No time was given by two of those, is that right?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Is it right that you included one witness in your
 25 8.15 category?

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<p>1 A. That's correct.</p> <p>2 Q. This is a woman called Hilda Lawley, who said that at</p> <p>3 about 8.15 she was travelling on the bus when the</p> <p>4 explosion occurred?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. Just past the Mulberry Bush.</p> <p>6 Q. Then 8.20, how many in your 8.20 category?</p> <p>7 A. Four.</p> <p>8 Q. Does that include the driver of the bus, Anthony Gaynor?</p> <p>9 A. That is correct.</p> <p>10 Q. The jury have heard his evidence before.</p> <p>11 We will bring it up on screen again, [INQ000490].</p> <p>12 If we could just move down three paragraphs. The third</p> <p>13 paragraph again, please, Henry.</p> <p>14 We see a date, 13 January 1975. If I could ask you</p> <p>15 to read from "At about 18.18 ..."</p> <p>16 THE CORONER: Shall we have a bit earlier?</p> <p>17 MR HILL: Yes, please. If you could read from:</p> <p>18 "I am employed ..."</p> <p>19 A. "I am employed by the West Midlands Passenger Transport</p> <p>20 Executive as a bus driver based at Hockley bus depot.</p> <p>21 On Thursday 21 November I was on duty driving the</p> <p>22 number 90 bus from Ballwells Lane to Beasley Estate.</p> <p>23 The fleet number of the bus was 2544.</p> <p>24 "At about 8.18 pm, I was driving the bus along</p> <p>25 St Martin's Circus and it was my intention to drive into</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 "At about 8.20 the explosion took place at the</p> <p>2 Mulberry Bush."</p> <p>3 A. That is correct.</p> <p>4 Q. Four witnesses in that 8.20 category?</p> <p>5 A. Four, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. The next group of witnesses, the Odeon Cinema.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. These are people again that you think are talking about</p> <p>9 the explosion at the Mulberry Bush, is that right?</p> <p>10 A. They are not quite clear, from the Odeon. I couldn't</p> <p>11 quite work out which --</p> <p>12 Q. Because the Odeon is sitting between the Tavern in the</p> <p>13 Town and the Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. So if somebody refers to simply an explosion --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- it is not possible to state which one it is?</p> <p>18 A. No, I don't believe so.</p> <p>19 THE CORONER: And if you are watching a film, you are</p> <p>20 probably not watching your watch.</p> <p>21 A. I wouldn't have thought so, Sir.</p> <p>22 THE CORONER: No.</p> <p>23 MR HILL: And obviously also inside.</p> <p>24 A. Inside. So some of the witnesses refer to a rumbling,</p> <p>25 but I don't know which direction or ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 New Street. I was due to arrive at New Street at</p> <p>2 8.22 pm. As I had just passed the Mulberry Bush</p> <p>3 licensed house in St Martin's Circus I felt a bang."</p> <p>4 Do you want me to carry on?</p> <p>5 Q. I think you can stop there. It is clear he's referring</p> <p>6 to the explosion having taken place?</p> <p>7 A. Yes. Later on he says, "I realised there had been</p> <p>8 an explosion".</p> <p>9 Q. It had damaged his bus?</p> <p>10 A. That is correct.</p> <p>11 Q. He gave the time at the beginning of the previous</p> <p>12 paragraph and he said at about 8.18 pm?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And he also said he was due to arrive at New Street at</p> <p>15 about 8.22 pm?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>18 If you take that down, please Henry.</p> <p>19 You have included Mr Gaynor in the 8.20 pm category</p> <p>20 as a result of that evidence?</p> <p>21 A. That is correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Is it also right that there was a passenger called</p> <p>23 Ian Archer?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. And he gave evidence, and I quote:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 Q. In any event, is it right that you have looked at</p> <p>2 six witnesses?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Five of those don't really give a time?</p> <p>5 A. That is correct.</p> <p>6 Q. And one witness does say:</p> <p>7 "I don't recall anything happening until about</p> <p>8 8.15 pm. I remember hearing a sort of bang noise."</p> <p>9 A. Yes. "And then there was a another bang".</p> <p>10 Q. There was another bang.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. At about 8.15 pm. That witness is Mary Rickards, isn't</p> <p>13 it?</p> <p>14 A. That's correct.</p> <p>15 Q. Is it also right that when we get to the charts at the</p> <p>16 end of your document, none of the witnesses at the Odeon</p> <p>17 have been included?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, because they couldn't be precise on what they were</p> <p>19 talking about.</p> <p>20 Q. We move on from them to the Tavern in the Town</p> <p>21 witnesses. There are a lot of these, aren't there?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, there are.</p> <p>23 Q. By my count, 101 witnesses that you mention?</p> <p>24 A. That sounds about right.</p> <p>25 Q. These are people who were inside the Tavern in the Town?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. The jury know that this is the larger of the two venues.</p> <p>3 Have you adopted the same categories of timing as</p> <p>4 with the Mulberry Bush witnesses?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. The first category: time not specified or not clear?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. 17 witnesses fall into that?</p> <p>9 A. Correct.</p> <p>10 Q. What about 8.00 pm or unspecified time after 8.00 pm,</p> <p>11 how many witnesses there?</p> <p>12 A. Twenty-two, I think it is.</p> <p>13 Q. Should the jury understand that that is a similar type</p> <p>14 of evidence to that which we looked at before: somebody</p> <p>15 saying that sometime after 8.00 pm a bomb went off?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, soon after, that type of wording, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. There are 22 of those?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 THE CORONER: Just a moment.</p> <p>20 Yes.</p> <p>21 MR HILL: Is it right that within that group of 22, although</p> <p>22 they don't give specific times, several mention about</p> <p>23 hearing one bomb and shortly afterwards they are aware</p> <p>24 of the bomb in the Tavern?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 A. He did, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. What time did he say?</p> <p>3 A. "I can recall the time. It was 8.17 pm. I had just</p> <p>4 gone to the toilet, and the lights went out."</p> <p>5 Q. So in total in that 8.15 category, twelve witnesses.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. 8.20 pm, how many witnesses in that category?</p> <p>8 A. Thirty-six.</p> <p>9 THE CORONER: Just slow down, please.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. At 8.20 pm, how many witness in this category?</p> <p>12 A. Thirty-six.</p> <p>13 Q. The first name on your list, Anthony Banford?</p> <p>14 A. Correct.</p> <p>15 Q. He is somebody who was working in the Tavern, is</p> <p>16 that right?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Behind the bar?</p> <p>19 A. Behind the bar, next to the kitchen.</p> <p>20 Q. Working with, among others, Mr Daly and Ms Lowe, who is</p> <p>21 a witness we heard earlier?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What time did he give for the explosion in the Tavern?</p> <p>24 A. About 8.20.</p> <p>25 Q. Does the list also include Paul Murphy?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 Q. Then 8.10 pm?</p> <p>2 A. Five.</p> <p>3 Q. Five witnesses?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Do they include Christina Hubball, whose account we</p> <p>6 looked at earlier?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. 8.15 pm, how many witnesses there?</p> <p>9 A. Twelve.</p> <p>10 Q. Do they include John McCarthy, the second name down on</p> <p>11 the list?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. What does he say in his 1974 statement?</p> <p>14 A. "At about 8.15 pm I went to the toilet, and I was</p> <p>15 sitting there when the explosion occurred."</p> <p>16 Q. About 8.15?</p> <p>17 A. About, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Does the list also include Stephen Grater, whose</p> <p>19 evidence we heard earlier?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p>21 Q. Nicola Lee, who gave evidence:</p> <p>22 "At about 8.15 pm there was a sudden flash and</p> <p>23 popping noise."</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Graham Mead, did he give a statement in 1992?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 A. It does, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. He is a witness who gave evidence in person to this</p> <p>3 Inquest, isn't he?</p> <p>4 A. That is correct.</p> <p>5 Q. Did Mr Murphy mention a wristwatch which he lost in the</p> <p>6 explosion and then recovered later?</p> <p>7 A. He did, yes. Not in his original statement -- well, the</p> <p>8 1974 statement, there is no time given.</p> <p>9 Q. Nothing in his 1974 statement. But in his</p> <p>10 1991 statement --</p> <p>11 A. That is correct.</p> <p>12 Q. -- and in his evidence to this Inquest?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. What did he say about the wristwatch?</p> <p>15 A. In 1991, no time given.</p> <p>16 "But the watch, as I recall, had stopped at 8.20 pm.</p> <p>17 That's when the explosion must have occurred in</p> <p>18 the Tavern."</p> <p>19 Then in his oral evidence, he had recovered his</p> <p>20 wristwatch:</p> <p>21 "Had stopped at 20 past eight."</p> <p>22 Q. And Mr Murphy was asked some questions about this and</p> <p>23 how much can be taken from that evidence. But in short</p> <p>24 his evidence was that when he got his watch back it had</p> <p>25 stopped at 20 past eight?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

1 **A. In short, yes.**
 2 Q. Just one or two of the others in this list of 36
 3 witnesses for 8.20. Page 19 of your report. The first
 4 name on page 19, Martin Durham.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. What did he say in 1974?
 7 **A. "The time then would be about 20 past eight. I'm not**
 8 **sure whether or not I had a drink, but all I can**
 9 **remember at this point was seeing a white flash."**
 10 Q. That is clearly a reference to the explosion in
 11 the Tavern?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Again about 20 past eight?
 14 **A. At about, yes.**
 15 Q. Over to the next page, page 20. The first name,
 16 Jonathan Florey?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. And his evidence has been read, I think, to the jury in
 19 connection with the Reilly brothers. Is it right that
 20 he said about 8.20 pm the bomb exploded?
 21 **A. Yes, that is correct.**
 22 Q. Then one below him, Ian Barnhurst, what did he say in
 23 1974?
 24 **A. "The time then would be about 20 past eight. I walked**
 25 **to the bar and was waiting to be served. The next thing**

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1 **I knew there was a loud bang."**
 2 Q. I won't go through any of the others in this list. But
 3 is it right that the 36 include Patrick Daly, whose
 4 evidence we discussed and read earlier? Page 22 bottom
 5 of the page.
 6 **A. Yes. Yes, thank you.**
 7 Q. Next category, 8.25. How many witnesses in
 8 this category?
 9 **A. Nine.**
 10 Q. Do they include Kevin Ivins?
 11 **A. Yes, they do.**
 12 Q. Could you please read his statement --
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. -- or the relevant extract of it, in 1974?
 15 **A. Yes. Thank you.**
 16 **"I had arranged to meet a friend at the Tavern at**
 17 **8.00 pm, but he never turned up."**
 18 THE CORONER: Is there a bit missing?
 19 MR HILL: I think "to" should be "so":
 20 "I had arranged to meet a friend at the Tavern at
 21 8.00 pm, but he never turned up, so ..."
 22 **A. "So at 8.25 I decided to go out into the street to see**
 23 **if I could see him. When I was about halfway up the**
 24 **street there was a terrific bang."**
 25 THE CORONER: You didn't quite read that correctly. Read

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1 that sentence again, please.
 2 **A. "I had arranged to meet a friend at the Tavern at**
 3 **8.00 pm, but he never turned up, so at 8.25 pm I decided**
 4 **to go into the street ..."**
 5 THE CORONER: Could we have the precise words, please.
 6 MR HILL: Can we have it up on the screen, please,
 7 [INQ000319], page 1.
 8 If we could go down a little, please, Henry. Just
 9 pause there. I will read it out:
 10 "I went into the bar and purchased a drink. Then at
 11 about 7.30 pm I moved across by the jukebox as the bar
 12 had become crowded. I had arranged to meet a friend at
 13 the Tavern at 8.00 pm, but he never turned up, so at
 14 8.25 pm I decided to go out into the street to see if
 15 I could see him. When I was about halfway up the
 16 street, there was a terrific bang and I felt a violent
 17 blow at the back of my head and all down my back, and as
 18 a result I was propelled up the remaining stairs and
 19 blown out into New Street and finished up lying on the
 20 pavement. I was knocked out for a couple of minutes."
 21 THE CORONER: The note is just -- the jury don't have this.
 22 The note is not correct in the final sentence. It is
 23 not "halfway up to the street", it is "halfway up the
 24 street". Is that right?
 25 MR HILL: That is correct. If the context of the statement

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1 is taken into account, he then goes on to say:
 2 "When I was halfway up the street, there was
 3 a terrific bang and I felt a violent blow at the back of
 4 my head and all down my back, and as a result I was
 5 propelled up the remaining stairs and blown out into
 6 New Street."
 7 So it appears that the syntax in this statement is
 8 a bit problematic, doesn't it?
 9 **A. It does, Sir.**
 10 THE CORONER: Just pause for a moment.
 11 MR HILL: Would you agree with me, Mr Mole, that, taken as
 12 a whole, that seems to suggest that the witness was
 13 going up the stairs when the explosion took place and
 14 was blown up the rest of the stairs and out into
 15 New Street?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. But the syntax doesn't help us?
 18 **A. That is correct.**
 19 Q. And there may be words missing?
 20 **A. That is correct. The word "street" is confusing there.**
 21 Q. In any event, you have included this witness in the
 22 8.25 category?
 23 **A. That is correct, Mr Hill, yes.**
 24 Q. Have you also included Robert Willis, the witness that
 25 we heard from earlier, in the category of people who

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<p>1 were outside the Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. While you have included him in the about 8.15 category</p> <p>4 for the Mulberry Bush --</p> <p>5 THE CORONER: I see, yes.</p> <p>6 MR HILL: -- for the Tavern you have included him in the</p> <p>7 8.25 category?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Is that because he says something a little later in the</p> <p>10 statement, that he had gone to down into the lounge area</p> <p>11 in the Tavern in the Town, and he estimated it was about</p> <p>12 8.25 when that explosion went off?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, that is correct. In 1991.</p> <p>14 Q. That's his 1991 statement?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. So in the 1974 statement he mentions 8.15 at the</p> <p>17 Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>18 A. Correct.</p> <p>19 Q. In 1991, he mentions 8.25 in the Tavern?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And that's why he's in this category for the Tavern?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Does this category also include David Grafton, who gave</p> <p>24 oral evidence to this Inquest? Top of page 24.</p> <p>25 A. Yes, I have it, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 A. Three.</p> <p>2 Q. 8.10 pm?</p> <p>3 A. One.</p> <p>4 Q. 8.15 pm?</p> <p>5 A. Three witnesses.</p> <p>6 Q. 8.20 pm, how many?</p> <p>7 A. Three witnesses.</p> <p>8 Q. Does that include Raymond Swain?</p> <p>9 A. It does, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Somebody who was read to the jury?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Mr Swain was a doorman at the Tavern; is that right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes. He was outside, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And he said that he arrived at the Tavern at what time</p> <p>15 that night?</p> <p>16 A. 7.30 pm.</p> <p>17 Q. How long had he been there, on his account from 1991,</p> <p>18 when the bomb went off?</p> <p>19 A. "I had been standing outside the door for about</p> <p>20 three quarters of an hour when I heard a loud bang."</p> <p>21 Q. Pausing there, is that the Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>22 A. "I could tell the noise had come from the Rotunda end of</p> <p>23 New Street."</p> <p>24 Q. So that is the Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 Q. He said in 1974, "about 8.25 pm"?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Did he confirm that in his oral evidence here?</p> <p>4 A. He confirmed, yes. Yes, he did.</p> <p>5 Q. 8.30 pm, this category. How many witnesses in total in</p> <p>6 this category?</p> <p>7 A. Ten.</p> <p>8 Q. Do they include the five witnesses that Ms Williams took</p> <p>9 you to when you first came to give evidence?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. The same five that we went through earlier today?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Ten in total for 8.30?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. We move now then to those who were outside the Tavern in</p> <p>16 the Town, which is the last group of civilian witnesses,</p> <p>17 as it were.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. There are 17 witnesses in total, is that right?</p> <p>20 A. I think so, yes. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Take it from me, it was 17.</p> <p>22 A. Yes, I'm just checking.</p> <p>23 Q. How many gave no time?</p> <p>24 A. "Time not specified or before 8.00 pm", six.</p> <p>25 Q. And "8.00 pm or an unspecified time after 8.00 pm"?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Q. If you continue on, please.</p> <p>2 A. "It only seemed like a few minutes later, as I was</p> <p>3 standing with my back to the Tavern's doors, that the</p> <p>4 next explosion happened."</p> <p>5 Q. That's the Tavern in the Town?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And that's why you have included him in the</p> <p>8 8.20 category?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. So he was somebody standing outside of the Tavern on</p> <p>11 New Street, who gives evidence of hearing first the</p> <p>12 Mulberry Bush and then a short time later --</p> <p>13 A. A few minutes later, he describes --</p> <p>14 Q. -- the Tavern in the Town?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. And 8.30, in terms of those who were outside the Tavern,</p> <p>17 how many in that category?</p> <p>18 A. One, Mr Nappin.</p> <p>19 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>20 Now, taking all of those witnesses together, except</p> <p>21 for those in the Odeon, is it right that some bar charts</p> <p>22 have been produced to give a graphical representation of</p> <p>23 the evidence to the jury?</p> <p>24 A. That is correct.</p> <p>25 Q. These come with some caveats, don't they?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Firstly, they only show numbers, don't they?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. The numbers of witnesses?
 5 **A. Yes. Yes.**
 6 Q. Secondly, we are talking here just about the
 7 civilian evidence?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. And even more so, we are talking just about the civilian
 10 evidence where witness statements were taken and have
 11 survived?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. The numbers are the product of the analysis that you
 14 have described, which is, as you say, carefully done but
 15 imprecise?
 16 **A. Yes, that is correct.**
 17 Q. These charts don't tell us anything about the detail of
 18 any of the witness's evidence, do they?
 19 **A. No.**
 20 Q. Save for the timing?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. They don't tell us why it was that a particular witness
 23 came to one time or another time?
 24 **A. That is correct. Pure numbers.**
 25 Q. And to give the same example that we referred to

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1 earlier, somebody who says, "It was about 8.15 pm",
 2 would count as one; and somebody who said, "It was
 3 exactly 8.15 pm", would also count as one?
 4 **A. Yes, in the same category, yes.**
 5 Q. Is it fair to say that these charts really just show
 6 where the preponderance of the civilian evidence that
 7 you have examined lies?
 8 **A. Yes, the sort of event range that they talk about.**
 9 Q. "Event range" is your phrase?
 10 **A. Yes. It is the terminology that I have sort of tried to**
 11 **adopt with it.**
 12 Q. Yes.
 13 Henry, could we have, please, first, the chart for
 14 the Mulberry Bush?
 15 We can see there that the first two categories are
 16 either an unspecified time or a vague time of 8.00 pm or
 17 after 8.00 pm?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. We see obviously a number of witnesses fall into those
 20 two categories.
 21 Of those who give more specific times, we can see
 22 that 8.15 and 8.20 have the most witnesses?
 23 **A. Correct.**
 24 Q. I don't think there is any point in either of us
 25 discussing that chart further. The jury can see it.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. The Tavern in the Town, please, Henry.
 3 Again, we can see a number of witnesses who fall
 4 into the unspecified or around 8.00 pm or afterwards
 5 categories at the start, can't we?
 6 **A. Yes. It is 46, I think, in total. 46/47.**
 7 Q. We can see, and it is important to note, the scale on
 8 the axis on the left-hand side -- I can never remember
 9 if it is the X or Y axis -- but the one that goes up is
 10 the numbers, and there are obviously more witnesses for
 11 the Tavern in the Town than there were for the
 12 Mulberry Bush?
 13 **A. That is correct.**
 14 Q. And so that axis is more compressed in that way?
 15 **A. That is correct.**
 16 Q. We go along. Again, I don't think there is much we need
 17 to add verbally to this chart, save to say the largest
 18 grouping is at 8.20 pm?
 19 **A. That is correct.**
 20 THE CORONER: And the "8.00 pm or after" category does not
 21 include any of the others; is that right?
 22 **A. That is correct.**
 23 THE CORONER: There is no double-counting?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 MR HILL: While, for very obvious reasons, the charts just

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1 say, "8.15", "8.20", the jury should of course
 2 understand that this is not suggesting that all of those
 3 people said exactly 8.20. They have used the kind of
 4 language we have gone through in your report?
 5 **A. Yes, as per some of the descriptions given.**
 6 Q. Thank you. That is where I will leave the further
 7 report you have provided on the civilian evidence.
 8 There are just a couple of further bits of evidence
 9 that I would like to adduce through you. Before I do,
 10 an obvious but important point is that the civilian
 11 evidence is just one part of the picture that the jury
 12 has, isn't it?
 13 **A. Yes. Absolutely, yes.**
 14 Q. They also have evidence from police officers, from
 15 documents created at the time, from emergency
 16 responders, all of which they have heard and we will not
 17 repeat here.
 18 **A. That is correct.**
 19 THE CORONER: I suppose we should be cautious about watches
 20 or clocks not necessarily being accurate?
 21 MR HILL: Precisely.
 22 **A. I agree, Sir, yes.**
 23 THE CORONER: Those in pubs who might have had
 24 a little alcohol?
 25 **A. Yes. Some people had been there for some significant**

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<p>1 time, as well, so it is hard...</p> <p>2 THE CORONER: So some of these are obviously estimates?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 THE CORONER: Some of these people are asked about their</p> <p>5 timing later, or significantly later?</p> <p>6 A. That's correct, Sir.</p> <p>7 THE CORONER: And some may have been traumatised by</p> <p>8 the events?</p> <p>9 A. I would agree, Sir, yes.</p> <p>10 THE CORONER: Yes.</p> <p>11 A. With caution, yes.</p> <p>12 MR HILL: There is one further set of official documentation</p> <p>13 I would like to take you to, so that the jury are aware</p> <p>14 of it. These are the police reports on the deaths of</p> <p>15 those who died.</p> <p>16 First of all, what is a crime report?</p> <p>17 A. It is just a way of recording any crime. There are</p> <p>18 standards around crime reporting, so if a crime is</p> <p>19 identified by the police, they must record it. So</p> <p>20 that's the mechanism by which they count.</p> <p>21 Q. If we can have the crime report for Charles Gray on</p> <p>22 screen, please, Henry. It is [INQ001299] page 1.</p> <p>23 Is this something that you recognise to be a crime</p> <p>24 report from 1974?</p> <p>25 A. Yes. Very similar to when I joined the service,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 bomb explosion taking place at 8.16 pm?</p> <p>2 A. Yes. Well, there are some 8.20s --</p> <p>3 Q. This is just the Mulberry Bush.</p> <p>4 A. Sorry, my apologies, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. So James Caddick, John Clifford Jones, John Rowlands --</p> <p>6 A. That is correct, apologies, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. -- Stan Bodman, Michael Beasley and also, as we now</p> <p>8 know, from outside the Mulberry Bush, Paul Davies and</p> <p>9 Neil Marsh. They all say 8.16 pm, don't they?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. The one exception is Pamela Palmer. We know that she</p> <p>12 was in the Mulberry Bush when she died. There is no</p> <p>13 dispute about that.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. But is it right that her crime report wrongly attributes</p> <p>16 her to being in the Tavern in the Town?</p> <p>17 A. That's how I recall that, yes.</p> <p>18 THE CORONER: Just a moment.</p> <p>19 Yes.</p> <p>20 MR HILL: So that crime has got it wrong, frankly, about</p> <p>21 where she was?</p> <p>22 A. Correct.</p> <p>23 Q. If we could have [INQ001310], please, Henry, page 1. We</p> <p>24 can see another crime report. At item 5, we can see it</p> <p>25 is for Maureen Roberts?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 correct, type of crime report, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. You see "West Midlands Police Crime Complaint Report"?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. The offence is reported: "Murder"?</p> <p>5 A. Correct.</p> <p>6 Q. We have some details about who it was reported to.</p> <p>7 Then I think we can go down, please, to item 6.</p> <p>8 Just expand that, please, Henry. This is about Mr Gray.</p> <p>9 It says:</p> <p>10 "Bomb explosion, 8.16 pm Thursday 21 November 1974,</p> <p>11 Mulberry Bush". Is that right?</p> <p>12 A. Correct.</p> <p>13 Q. We know that Mr Gray was one of those who died in the</p> <p>14 Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. So the time recorded on the crime report is 8.16 pm?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. But we have nothing else in that document to tell us why</p> <p>19 that time is chosen?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Is it right that you have seen crime reports for all of</p> <p>22 the others who died in the Mulberry Bush?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. With one exception, which we will come to in a second,</p> <p>25 is it right that all of those crime reports refer to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Item 6, could you just read, please, what is entered for</p> <p>3 "place, time, day and date of offence"?</p> <p>4 A. "Bomb explosion 8.20 pm, Thursday 21 November 1974, the</p> <p>5 Tavern in the Town LH New Street Birmingham."</p> <p>6 Q. LH, licensed house?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Time given there, 8.20 pm for the explosion at the</p> <p>9 Tavern?</p> <p>10 A. Correct.</p> <p>11 Q. And again no further detail about how that time was</p> <p>12 arrived at?</p> <p>13 A. Correct.</p> <p>14 Q. Is it right that you have seen the crime reports for the</p> <p>15 other people who died as a result of the explosion in</p> <p>16 the Tavern in the Town, and they all refer to the bomb</p> <p>17 explosion taking place at 8.20 pm?</p> <p>18 A. That is correct.</p> <p>19 Q. Thank you. If we could take that from the screen,</p> <p>20 please, Henry.</p> <p>21 One final piece of evidence to adduce through you,</p> <p>22 Mr Mole. Are you aware of a book that was written by</p> <p>23 the journalist Brian Gibson?</p> <p>24 A. Not in detail, but I have seen it.</p> <p>25 Q. If we could have on the screen, please, Henry, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 frontispiece of the book? You can see it is entitled</p> <p>2 "The Birmingham Bombs" by Brian Gibson, with additional</p> <p>3 research with the help of a BBC TV team. They were all</p> <p>4 involved in producing the programme called "Day and</p> <p>5 Night".</p> <p>6 If we could have the following page, please, Henry,</p> <p>7 as well? We can see at the top of that page "Copyright</p> <p>8 Brian Gibson 1976"?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. So the book was first published in 1976?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And it is called "The Birmingham Bombs"?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Could you go to page 15, please? It is electronic</p> <p>15 page 15. That is the correct page. Just so that we</p> <p>16 have a reference for transcript, electronically it is</p> <p>17 [INQ005170] page 15, but in the book it is page 98,</p> <p>18 chapter 12, entitled "Carnage".</p> <p>19 I will summarise the first part of this and then ask</p> <p>20 you to read on. Mr Gibson is talking about how nearly</p> <p>21 everyone in Birmingham can tell you exactly where they</p> <p>22 were and what they were doing on the night of</p> <p>23 21 November 1974.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Then he says he knows where he was, and that every</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 car or to any of the other normal sounds of a city at</p> <p>2 night. A big bomb makes a noise that is quite</p> <p>3 distinctive. It was just a single, short, solid noise</p> <p>4 but it was enough to bring me from my seat and to the</p> <p>5 casement window to see where the damage was. The</p> <p>6 digital clock on the skyline on top of the Post and Mail</p> <p>7 building said 8.18. I was looking at the Rotunda</p> <p>8 building."</p> <p>9 Q. Just go on, "I was looking at the Rotunda building ..."?</p> <p>10 A. "... mainly because that was the favourite target, but</p> <p>11 partly because even at night and from the 8th floor of a</p> <p>12 neighbouring hotel, it was so readily identifiable.</p> <p>13 While I was looking there, there was another sound, an</p> <p>14 identical low crump. After a few seconds, the lights in</p> <p>15 that area went out, and then they went on again."</p> <p>16 Q. We will leave it there.</p> <p>17 Mr Gibson goes on to say that mass murder had come</p> <p>18 to Birmingham?</p> <p>19 A. That is correct.</p> <p>20 MR HILL: Thank you very much, Mr Mole. Those are the</p> <p>21 questions that I ask.</p> <p>22 A. Thank you.</p> <p>23 MS WILLIAMS: Sorry, Sir, just clarifying. Apparently I'm</p> <p>24 going first.</p> <p>25 Questions on behalf of the FAMILIES represented by BROUDIE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 detail is etched into his consciousness. He describes</p> <p>2 driving his car. At 8.10, he left a parking space in</p> <p>3 which he had previously parked his car and drove his car</p> <p>4 to his hotel, the Holiday Inn, where he was staying.</p> <p>5 Is that right?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. I have rather garbled that. But he drives past the</p> <p>8 Mulberry Bush at around about 8.10?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Parks in the underground car park at his hotel, the</p> <p>11 Holiday Inn, and he takes a lift up to his room on the</p> <p>12 8th floor, and he sits down with a book; is that right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Could you then read on, please, from the paragraph</p> <p>15 beginning "The first bang..."? </p> <p>16 A. "The first bang came as a dull, solid, distant thud but</p> <p>17 it had to be a bomb. I had heard the sound many times</p> <p>18 in Belfast, but never in Birmingham."</p> <p>19 Q. Just pausing there for a moment. In the context of the</p> <p>20 rest of the book, Mr Gibson had been a journalist in</p> <p>21 Belfast, in Northern Ireland, during the early part of</p> <p>22 the Troubles; is that right?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Go on, please.</p> <p>25 A. "It is a noise that cannot be compared to a backfiring</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 JACKSON CANTER</p> <p>2 MS WILLIAMS: Dealing first of all with that last piece of</p> <p>3 information from Mr Gibson: is it right, as far as</p> <p>4 inquiries have been able to tell from the available</p> <p>5 documents, he did not make a witness statement about</p> <p>6 what he saw in relation to the events concerning the</p> <p>7 bombings to the police?</p> <p>8 A. I have only seen the book.</p> <p>9 Q. You are certainly not aware of any statement he's made</p> <p>10 to the police?</p> <p>11 A. I'm not aware of any statement, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Or indeed any statement he's made for those involved in</p> <p>13 the preparation for this Inquest?</p> <p>14 A. I have not seen a statement.</p> <p>15 Q. No. I will not take you back to it as an example, but</p> <p>16 as we have seen with many, many statements in this</p> <p>17 Inquest, they are in a standard formal form with what is</p> <p>18 called a "Declaration of Truth" on the statement, with</p> <p>19 the maker of the statement stating that the contents of</p> <p>20 it are true?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>22 Q. And then they put their signature on the statement?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And that statement would normally be prepared by</p> <p>25 a police officer or somebody assisting the police?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. We are not aware, are we, from inquiries that have been
 3 made, whether Mr Gibson provided any account earlier
 4 than 1976?
 5 **A. I have no knowledge.**
 6 Q. Coming back, then, to the material that we have been
 7 considering with Mr Hill this morning, Mr Mole -- and
 8 you have very fairly accepted the caveats, the
 9 limitations of the data, so I can take it quite
 10 briefly -- there are just a few things I wanted to ask
 11 you.
 12 If we can go back to the material statements in
 13 relation to the Mulberry Bush, first of all. Sorry,
 14 I don't have an INQ number for the report, Henry, but
 15 I imagine you have it since you called it up before.
 16 It is page 4 of the report. This is where you dealt
 17 with witnesses who were inside the Mulberry Bush, who
 18 gave, on your analysis, a time of 8.15 pm.
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. You have that?
 21 **A. Yes. I put them in that category, yes.**
 22 Q. Thank you very much. The last name on that page -- you
 23 have looked at his account with Mr Hill -- is David
 24 McVeighty?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. The brother of Raymond, who we heard from; David
 2 McVeighty's witness statement being read.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. I also clarify this with you -- thank you very much,
 5 Henry -- he went to the bar at about 8.15 --
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. -- to buy some drinks. Then he returned to the table
 8 with the drinks. Then there was a further couple of
 9 minutes?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. And then he heard a noise which plainly was a reference
 12 to the explosion.
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. That was his 1974 account.
 15 His 1991 account was he bought the drinks at about
 16 8.15, put them down on the table, then he went upstairs
 17 to the toilet and was away for about two minutes.
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Then he returned to his group and sat down, and then
 20 there was the flash and the loud noise.
 21 Just leave it on the screen for a minute, Henry.
 22 Pausing there, even before we get to his watch, it would
 23 suggest, would it not, from those number of things that
 24 he did after getting his drink at about 8.15, that we
 25 have moved on at least several minutes from 8.15 by the

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1 time that he describes experiencing the explosion?
 2 **A. Yes. I mean, I can't tell the time, but --**
 3 THE CORONER: He says what he says.
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 MS WILLIAMS: Indeed, Sir.
 6 Then you refer to the time his watch stopped.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Of course with all the caveats about watches and the
 9 time they were set for, but if and insofar as this
 10 stopping of his watch was linked to the explosion, that
 11 was 8.20 as opposed to 8.15?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Thank you. Just to put it in context without taking you
 14 back to the bar chart unless it would help, one reason
 15 why I ask you about these questions around this time for
 16 the Mulberry Bush is you had 8.15 and 8.20 as times that
 17 were level pegging, did you not, on your bar chart?
 18 They are both at 12. By all means check it --
 19 **A. I will double-check. I have it in front of me.**
 20 **Yes, that is correct.**
 21 Q. So even one or two witnesses, if the view is taken that
 22 they should have been placed or were better placed in
 23 the other category, that can slightly alter the picture
 24 that your bar chart presents?
 25 **A. Yes, it would, yes.**

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1 Q. Thank you. Of course, we accept it is a very difficult
 2 task to analyse each statement.
 3 The next person I wanted to ask you about, I don't
 4 think we have covered yet this morning. Apologies if
 5 I have misremembered. It is a gentleman called Patrick
 6 Farrell, who you have on your page 3, in the category of
 7 "Unspecified time after 8. pm". He is the penultimate
 8 entry in that part of the chart on page 3. Do you see
 9 that, Mr Mole?
 10 **A. Patrick Farrell, yes.**
 11 Q. Sorry, is it Farrell?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. My mistake.
 14 He said he arrived at New Street Station at 8.10.
 15 So he was able to give a specific time for that aspect
 16 at least.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Apparently linked to his journey. He then walked to the
 19 pub. This is the Mulberry Bush, isn't it?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Walked to the Mulberry Bush. He ordered a pint, and
 22 then he was stood at the bar when the explosion
 23 occurred.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Could I just ask that we look at his two statements

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<p>1 briefly, please? So his 1974 statement is [INQ000396].</p> <p>2 If we can look on page 1, please, the second</p> <p>3 paragraph. So we have there that his train arrived at</p> <p>4 New Street Station at about 8.10 pm.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. We then have him leaving the station and walking to the</p> <p>7 Mulberry Bush pub?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. He went to the bar, ordered a pint, was served by the</p> <p>10 barman, stood at the bar, and then he experienced the</p> <p>11 explosion?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. There is a little bit more detail in his 1991 statement.</p> <p>14 If we could have that, please, which is [INQ000395]?</p> <p>15 Once we have just identified it on the first page as</p> <p>16 being the August 1991 statement and the same gentleman,</p> <p>17 could we go, please, to page 5 of the statement towards</p> <p>18 the bottom of page?</p> <p>19 I think we have gone on a bit too far. It is top of</p> <p>20 the page, not the bottom, I am sorry.</p> <p>21 Perhaps you can take it from me, the previous page</p> <p>22 describes his arrival from New Street Station?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, thank you.</p> <p>24 Q. And then he says, at the top of this page:</p> <p>25 "I walked around to the pub, walked in through the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 time that they describe was, whether it is because they</p> <p>2 looked at a watch or whether it is because they were</p> <p>3 waiting for someone who appeared to be late, but that's</p> <p>4 right, isn't it? There are some people who are much</p> <p>5 more specific than others about the time, whether or not</p> <p>6 they are right?</p> <p>7 A. They have a reference point, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Exactly. A reference point that is a good way of</p> <p>9 putting it, if I may say so.</p> <p>10 Just to give a couple of examples, in relation to</p> <p>11 the Tavern in the Town, your page 24 --</p> <p>12 A. Thank you. 24, did you say?</p> <p>13 Q. I did.</p> <p>14 A. Yes, thank you very much.</p> <p>15 Q. To put it in context, this is part of the way through</p> <p>16 your table for people who gave a time of 8.25 pm, if you</p> <p>17 look at the heading on the previous page --</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. -- just to check I'm right about that.</p> <p>20 A. Yes, thank you.</p> <p>21 Q. David Grafton, who is towards the top of the page and</p> <p>22 who I think Mr Hill referred you to a few minutes ago --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- and who the jury heard from: just to give that as an</p> <p>25 example, he was the gentleman who told the jury that he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 front entrance ... quite busy ..."</p> <p>2 Then, at the end of that paragraph, he says he had</p> <p>3 to wait a short while to be served. He got a pint of</p> <p>4 mild. Then he's taken a sip of the drink and then the</p> <p>5 bomb went off.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. What I suggest to you is that unlike the other people in</p> <p>8 your "unspecified" category, we can potentially form</p> <p>9 a clearer view in relation to Mr Farrell if we take as</p> <p>10 an anchor point his train arriving at 8.10, and then the</p> <p>11 description of the activities: walking to the pub,</p> <p>12 having to wait a short time to order, to be served,</p> <p>13 getting his drink, having sip --</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. -- and the bomb exploding. That would tend to suggest</p> <p>16 something in the range of 8.20, or between 8.15 and 8.20</p> <p>17 at least, would it not?</p> <p>18 A. Well, certainly after 8.10. I couldn't work out how</p> <p>19 long the walk would take, et cetera, so hence it went in</p> <p>20 the "unspecified". But I accept there will be some --</p> <p>21 Q. That sort of area?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. There are some witnesses -- you have already,</p> <p>24 I suggest, covered a couple of examples -- where they</p> <p>25 give a reason to be particularly clear about what the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 was someone who was always very conscious about time,</p> <p>2 that he was a stickler for time, and that therefore he</p> <p>3 felt confident in his timings.</p> <p>4 Would that be fair?</p> <p>5 A. I didn't hear him. But I accept if you are telling me</p> <p>6 that's what he said in evidence, I have no reason to</p> <p>7 doubt you at all --</p> <p>8 Q. He did --</p> <p>9 A. -- it is just because I haven't heard it myself --</p> <p>10 THE CORONER: He did, because he said he arrived at 8.02,</p> <p>11 and he was concerned because he was two minutes late.</p> <p>12 MS WILLIAMS: That's right, yes. And I went on to ask him:</p> <p>13 "You are the sort of person who is pretty conscious</p> <p>14 about what the time is?</p> <p>15 "Answer: Fortunately, yes.</p> <p>16 "Question: You had reason to remember the particular</p> <p>17 time?</p> <p>18 "Answer: Yes."</p> <p>19 I can give the reference if needs be. It was on Day</p> <p>20 4, but I don't think I need to take Mr Mole to it,</p> <p>21 thank you.</p> <p>22 You were asked by Mr Hill about Kevin Ivins -- who</p> <p>23 I think is just on the page before, page 23 -- who had</p> <p>24 cause on his account to remember the time of 8.25, did</p> <p>25 he not, because he had arranged to meet a friend who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 didn't turn up at that time, or hadn't turned up by that 2 time? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. One other in this category which I don't think you 5 looked at with Mr Hill, page 24 -- so we are going with 6 the 8.25 witnesses -- Richard Hepburn-Ward? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. He is the penultimate one, perhaps, Henry, if you 9 could -- thank you very much. 10 I don't think I need to take you to the statement 11 because you have fairly summarised it here, Mr Mole. 12 His 1974 statement: 13 "We were in the pub about an hour when the bomb went 14 off. I remember looking at a clock in the pub and the 15 time was 8.25, and the bomb went off shortly after 16 that." 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. So rightly or wrongly, but he's giving, to use your 19 phrase, an anchor for the time that he's provided? 20 A. Yes, some people have reference points, yes. 21 Q. Reference points, anchor, yes. Thank you very much. 22 Would this also be fair: one thing which 23 inevitably -- I make clear it is not in any way 24 a criticism, but just in terms of understanding all the 25 material that might help us with timings -- one thing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 the Tavern at about 8.05: 2 "... been there for about ten minutes when I heard 3 the noise ..." 4 And that appears to be the noise from the 5 Mulberry Bush? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. So we have now reached about 8.15, as you said, with 8 Mr Hill? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. But then this: Mr Greater says he went upstairs to the 11 pavement to see what the noise was. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. He saw people running about. He found out there had 14 been an explosion. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. He then rushed back into the pub. He told his 17 friends -- he spoke to somebody and told them about 18 this, but he couldn't remember who. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. He was then picking up his drink and then the second 21 explosion occurred? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. So that might be an example of, in helping us as to the 24 interval between the two explosions, we could bear in 25 mind that account and any other accounts we have where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 which your bar charts can't tell us, amongst others, is 2 where individuals have given an account about what they 3 did between two the explosions, such that any view might 4 be formed perhaps as to how long or roughly how long the 5 amount of time would be required to do those things? 6 A. Yes, that is correct. 7 Q. So insofar as that is something that may or may not be 8 considered relevant, that is not something that we would 9 be able to derive from your bar charts and your tables? 10 A. No, you have to sit and read. 11 Q. Yes, I appreciate that. 12 Perhaps you could bear with me just for two. I am 13 only going to give you two examples. One is 14 Stephen Grater, who you were referred to by Mr Hill in 15 a slightly different context. Perhaps, Henry, we could 16 have him back on the screen. That is [INQ000266]. 17 THE CORONER: Which page of the report? 18 MS WILLIAMS: I am so sorry, Sir, it is page 16. 19 THE CORONER: Thank you. 20 A. Thank you. 21 MS WILLIAMS: So this is his 1974 statement we can see on 22 the screen. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. If we just go down to the third paragraph. With his 25 group of friends, caught the bus into town, went into</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 there is a degree of precision as to what the person in 2 question did between two the explosions? 3 A. Yes. I have no way of telling how long that took, yes. 4 Q. No. We can only do the best we can. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Just one more example, I promise the last of these, if 7 you could go to a gentleman, William Hughes, who is on 8 your page 11 as a "time not given". 9 Henry, it is [INQ000468]. This is his 1974 10 statement. I agree with you a time is not given. As 11 I say, I'm taking you to it for this related point about 12 what he did between the two explosions. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. So he's in the Tavern in the Town, as we can see from 15 the second paragraph, yes? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Stood in a group. He then says: 18 "I heard the first explosion ..." which he realised 19 was a bomb, "I went up the stairs into New Street." 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. He spoke to someone who told him it had gone off round 22 by Lewis's. He went back down and rejoined the group. 23 One of his friends left them to go to the toilet. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Then he was stood at the bar talking to his friend,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

1 Tony, and then there was the second explosion.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. I am not going to go through them now because, as has
 4 already been said, this evidence has already been
 5 covered earlier in the Inquest.
 6 But insofar as police officers gave evidence about
 7 what they did between the two explosions, that might
 8 also assist with coming to a view as to the likely lapse
 9 of time between the two bombs going off?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 MS WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. I have nothing else.
 12 Questions on behalf of the FAMILIES represented by KRW LAW
 13 MR THOMAS: Just one matter, Sir, if I may.
 14 Henry, can you call up, please, [INQ004604]? It is
 15 the criminal investigation report of 24 May, thank you.
 16 Mr Mole, this document we are looking at relates to
 17 the crime investigation report of the first Rotunda
 18 bombing in April 1974?
 19 **A. All right.**
 20 Q. Can you see that, if you look --
 21 **A. Yes, signal box. Yes.**
 22 Q. Yes, okay. You can see, if you look at the second
 23 paragraph -- the jury has already heard this evidence --
 24 this relates to the first bombing at the Rotunda
 25 building: the telephone call from a man with an Irish

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1 accent, and then the bomb goes off at 8.30. I'm not
 2 going to go through all of that. The jury will remember
 3 that evidence.
 4 One issue that has concerned us during this Inquest
 5 is which police stations attended, whether it be Digbeth
 6 or Steelhouse Lane?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. At the top of this document, right at the very top --
 9 **A. Yes, Steelhouse Lane.**
 10 THE CORONER: I think we have heard that Steelhouse Lane
 11 officers attended both the April and July incidents.
 12 MR HILL: We have not heard it in evidence, Sir.
 13 THE CORONER: Have we not heard it? Right.
 14 MR THOMAS: Which is why --
 15 THE CORONER: That is fine.
 16 MR THOMAS: Which is precisely why I am putting this
 17 document in.
 18 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you.
 19 MR THOMAS: I am grateful.
 20 THE CORONER: Thank you for correcting me.
 21 MR THOMAS: So, Mr Mole, it is quite clear, isn't it, that
 22 it would appear from this document that the police
 23 station that appears to have been dealing with this is
 24 Steelhouse Lane; would you agree?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 MR THOMAS: It is now in evidence, Sir.
 2 MR JOHNSON: I have no questions, Sir.
 3 THE CORONER: No.
 4 Both incidents or just the one?
 5 Further questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUEST
 6 MR HILL: Sir, I would like to come back to that document,
 7 if I may, so we can see what it does show.
 8 THE CORONER: Yes.
 9 MR HILL: [INQ004604] at 1.
 10 THE CORONER: You will have your go in a moment. But on
 11 15 July, the jury have in their bundle that
 12 Steelhouse Lane police officers on night duty attended
 13 the scene.
 14 MR HILL: I don't think there is any dispute at all about
 15 the July bombing.
 16 THE CORONER: It is the April --
 17 MR HILL: It is the April when officers attended -- I will
 18 be corrected. Everybody agrees that.
 19 This document, Mr Mole --
 20 **A. Yes, Sir.**
 21 Q. We can see, as Mr Thomas has said, Steelhouse Lane in
 22 the top right-hand corner?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. The left-hand corner we can see West Midlands Police?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. And crossed out is "Birmingham City Police", the
 2 previous force.
 3 We can see underneath that "Criminal Investigation
 4 Department"?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. "24 May 1974". So we can see this document originates
 7 at Steelhouse Lane, can't we?
 8 **A. That's where it indicates, yes. Well, from the stamp
 9 there, yes.**
 10 Q. And that the criminal investigation department were
 11 dealing with the matter?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. That is the investigation into the bombing, who did it?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. But is there anything else in this document -- please
 16 take time to read it if you wish -- that says who it was
 17 who attended on the night?
 18 **A. If it could just be made a bit smaller so I can read.
 19 Thank you, yes.**
 20 Q. If we could just go on to the next page?
 21 **A. Sorry, thank you. I have read it as quick as I can,
 22 Mr Hill.**
 23 **Could you ask the question again?**
 24 Q. This is a document that shows that the investigation
 25 after the bombing into the bombing was being conducted

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1 by CID identified at Steelhouse Lane; that is right,
 2 isn't it?
 3 **A. Yes, it has the CID stamp on the second page on 28 May.**
 4 Q. And it is headlined "Steelhouse Lane"?
 5 **A. Yes, the document is headlined "Steelhouse Lane", yes.**
 6 Q. Which would suggest that whoever wrote the document is
 7 based in Steelhouse Lane?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Does this document tell you anything about whether
 10 officers from Steelhouse Lane attended the April
 11 bombing?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 MR HILL: Thank you. Those are the only questions I have.
 14 THE CORONER: I seem to recall, but I may be entirely wrong,
 15 that an officer -- a police officer -- was at some stage
 16 asked a question which had an assumption in it that, in
 17 relation to both these earlier incidents at the Rotunda,
 18 Steelhouse Lane officers attended, and why would that
 19 be.
 20 I may be wrong. He simply, whoever it was -- it may
 21 have been Detective Constable Plimmer, it may have been
 22 somebody else -- simply said "Well, there is a dividing
 23 line, we are quite close", something like that, not very
 24 much more. But there may have been an assumption --
 25 that's why I have it in my head -- an assumption in the

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1 question which was not necessarily based on evidence
 2 which we have seen.
 3 Obviously, questions are themselves not evidence,
 4 unless agreed by the witness.
 5 MR HILL: We can check, Sir. It may take us all a little
 6 time.
 7 THE CORONER: Yes. It may not be very significant, in any
 8 event.
 9 MR HILL: I certainly think there is no dispute that in July
 10 officers from Steelhouse Lane --
 11 THE CORONER: Yes, the jury has that document which states
 12 it clearly.
 13 MR HILL: It does, Sir.
 14 Thank you, Sir.
 15 THE CORONER: Thank you.
 16 Yes, thank you very much, Mr Mole. That was a very
 17 helpful process --
 18 **A. Thank you, Sir.**
 19 THE CORONER: -- from my point of view at least.
 20 **A. Thank you, Sir.**
 21 **(The witness withdrew)**
 22 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, we have reached
 23 1 o'clock. We will say 2 o'clock, please.
 24 Discussion (in the absence of the jury)
 25 (1.05 pm)

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1 (The short adjournment)
 2 (2.00 pm)
 3 (In the presence of the jury)
 4 (2.07 pm)
 5 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, can I deal with your last
 6 question first.
 7 "With regard to timing evidence, is there any reason
 8 that the times quoted by the assistant caretaker at the
 9 Rotunda appear to have been excluded?"
 10 The answer is no, because what you heard this
 11 morning related exclusively to those who were inside the
 12 pubs and survived, those who were on the bus, those who
 13 were in the Odeon, and not others.
 14 There is other evidence, which I will remind you of
 15 in the summing up, of the police and other emergency
 16 services, individuals like Mr Hughes, who I think you
 17 are referring to. But if I could just say in passing,
 18 he had a problem with his times. He said he received
 19 a call on the bomb threat. He was at home. He was
 20 a key-holder, and he's the nearest one so he got the
 21 call. And he said first of all, I think -- and this is
 22 from memory -- that he got the call about 7.45. Then he
 23 said sometime between 7.30 and 8.00.
 24 But it is unlikely that that is right, because
 25 Mr Cropper does not get his call, which starts this all

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1 off, until 8.11.
 2 So I am going to deal with some other questions
 3 which you have asked.
 4 First of all, a long time ago you had a question of
 5 Professor Hennessey. And I said, well, we will wait
 6 until he comes back.
 7 Well, he's not coming back because it is agreed that
 8 we had since then quite a lot of evidence about the IRA,
 9 and that's what his evidence related to.
 10 Your question was, for Professor Hennessey:
 11 "Was there a significance of martyrs, or Volunteers
 12 killed in aims of IRA itself? Did they look for
 13 publicity from ..."
 14 "Same", I think. But we get the gist of
 15 the question.
 16 The answer is, we have heard no evidence at all
 17 about martyrs or anybody wishing to make themselves
 18 martyrs, like suicide bombers. The only evidence we
 19 have heard is that James McDade blew himself up
 20 by accident.
 21 So just one or two others. A long time ago you
 22 asked: on 21 November 1974, do we know how many police
 23 officers were working during the day and the evening?
 24 We have heard evidence about that from quite
 25 a number of sources, and I will summarise that for you

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<p>1 in the summing up. 2 You had another question about the same, the 3 resources available, the police resources available. 4 Again, we have heard evidence about that. 5 You did ask at one stage, quite a long time ago, if 6 you could have both statements made by William Phillips, 7 the Police Constable. I will remind you of those 8 statements word for word in the summing up. 9 Another question: 10 "Were there any guidelines or processes used by the 11 police in 1974 regarding similar threats, for example 12 unexploded World War II bombs, evacuation, et cetera." 13 We shall hear some evidence about that next. 14 And a more specific question: 15 "Is there any way of establishing what the standard 16 policy would have been for Central Control on learning 17 of a coded warning, ie would they advise all divisions 18 or only specified divisions?" 19 We have heard all the evidence about that, and most 20 of the officers -- certainly those who were on duty that 21 night -- are, I am afraid, no longer available because 22 of the passage of time. I will certainly do my best in 23 the summing up to look at that. 24 "Would Lloyds Bank able to advise details of any 25 records that they might have for 21 November? Would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 MR BARTH: Before we return to live witnesses, we have one 2 witness statement to read. 3 THE CORONER: Yes. 4 MR BARTH: It is the witness statement of David Pithie, who 5 was a fireman. 6 If we could have on screen, please, [INQ000569], 7 page 1, at the top of that page, please. 8 This is a witness statement of David Leslie Pithie, 9 a retired fireman. His witness statement is dated 10 2 February 2016. I am not going to read all of the 11 statement. 12 I introduce it by saying that David Pithie states 13 that he was a serving fireman on duty on 21 November 14 1974. He says he was in the bar in the Ladywood Fire 15 Station when he was informed that there had been 16 a newflash saying there was a bomb in Birmingham city 17 centre. He names the crew that night who were with him, 18 as himself, John Mills, Chris Davit, Terry Topping and 19 Alan Morris, who, members of the jury, you might 20 remember gave live evidence some weeks ago. 21 THE CORONER: Including -- what is the last name? 22 MR BARTH: Alan Morris. 23 THE CORONER: Thank you. 24 MR BARTH: We are going to pick it up at page 4, second 25 paragraph:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 Lloyds Bank security staff be in situ all night?" 2 I am afraid we have heard as much evidence as we are 3 going to hear about Lloyds Bank. There was one witness 4 from Lloyds Bank, Geoffrey Cooke, and again I will 5 remind you of his evidence. 6 Another, I am afraid, unanswered question, really. 7 "Are details available in regard to the processes 8 and protocols used by the Birmingham Post and Mail upon 9 receipt of bomb warnings, either coded or otherwise?" 10 We have heard all the evidence that there is to be 11 heard on that. And Mr Cropper's statement. I will 12 remind you of that. And of course you have the log, or 13 an extract of the log, for that particular call. 14 "Is a technical expert available who could explain 15 how police radios and frequencies in 1974 worked?" 16 Answer: no. Sorry. 17 That, I think, brings us up to date. Does anybody 18 want to add anything? 19 Members of the jury, would you mind going to your 20 room for a moment, please. Thank you. 21 (2.16 pm) 22 Discussion (in the absence of the jury) 23 (In the presence of the jury) 24 (2.18 pm) 25 THE CORONER: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 "The written message that came from the watch room 2 was for the two appliances to attend the 3 Mulberry Bush ..." 4 Witness statement of DAVID LESLIE PITHIE (read) [INQ000569] 5 "... within my view when I arrived." 6 Pausing there, Mr Pithie then goes on to give 7 details of his actions at the Mulberry Bush for 8 approximately ten minutes, when he was told that there 9 was an another one around the corner. He and his crew 10 then left and went round to the Tavern in the Town. We 11 pick it up at the bottom half of page 6, please: 12 "As I approached, the first thing I noticed was ..." 13 Witness statement of DAVID LESLIE PITHIE (continued) 14 "... rather than having gone in to help get 15 people out." 16 That is where we will stop reading 17 Mr Pithie's statement. 18 THE CORONER: Yes, thank you. 19 MR BARTH: I hand over to Mr Hill now. 20 THE CORONER: Yes. 21 MR HILL: Sir, there are two pieces of evidence about Neil 22 'Tommy' Marsh. One is going to be read by Mr Morgan in 23 a second. 24 THE CORONER: Yes. 25 MR HILL: But before he turns to that, the other is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 a correction to the evidence that the jury have 2 previously heard. It is a correction which arises from 3 the wrong document having been read to them as we went 4 through the evidence about Neil Tommy and his movements 5 on the day. 6 Specifically, the jury were taken to a document -- 7 I don't ask for it to be brought up, but the reference 8 is [INQ004274], page 133, which was evidence from Police 9 Sergeant Derek Bedford. 10 The jury may recall that Police Sergeant Bedford was 11 the man at the Mulberry Bush who took charge of a number 12 of people who had died and took them to the mortuary. 13 The wrong statement was read from Police Sergeant 14 Bedford. The correct statement is at [INQ004274] 15 page 136. Again, I don't ask for it to be brought up on 16 screen, but the correction is this: 17 Police Sergeant Bedford said that it was at 11.40 pm 18 on 21 November that he took charge of Tommy's body, and 19 that he then took Tommy to the mortuary, where 20 Dr Sandilands confirmed death at half past midnight. 21 That is the correct evidence, and it stands in 22 replacement -- 23 THE CORONER: Could you just give me that again, please? 24 MR HILL: At 11.40 pm, Police Sergeant Bedford took charge 25 of Tommy's body.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 Evidence relating to NEIL 'TOMMY' MARSH 2 MR MORGAN: This is a statement of Hilda Turner, who is the 3 mother of Neil 'Tommy' Marsh, one of those killed on 4 21 November 1974: 5 "I am the above-named person and I live at 6 an address known to the Coroner. I am the mother of 7 Neil 'Tommy' Marsh, who was killed in the Birmingham Pub 8 Bombings on 21 November 1974. 9 "Tommy was born in Wait-a-Bit, Trelawny, Jamaica on 10 30 November 1957. Tommy came to Birmingham, England to 11 live with me and my husband Wilbert Turner in 1968, 12 prior to his younger brother being born. Wilbert Turner 13 was Tommy's stepfather. Tommy and Wilbert were 14 very close. 15 "There have been many inaccurate statements made 16 about how old Tommy was when he died in newspapers and 17 books. I would be very grateful to have the public 18 record of Tommy's age at his untimely death on 19 21 November 1974 perfected. 20 "Tommy was born on 30 November 1957 in Jamaica. And 21 all through the subsequent years after his death, 22 I would have remembered Tommy's passing with close 23 family members on 30 November. The reason why I am so 24 certain of Tommy's date of birth is because of a young 25 friend Tommy had who lived on the same road as us and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 THE CORONER: Yes. 2 MR HILL: And at 12.30 in the morning, so half past 3 midnight -- 4 THE CORONER: Just a moment. You referred to 11.40. 5 MR HILL: Yes. 6 THE CORONER: Is that correct? 7 MR HILL: That is correct. 8 THE CORONER: You are not quite repeating what you just said 9 earlier. Can you just repeat what you said earlier for 10 my benefit, please? 11 MR HILL: At 11.40 pm, Police Sergeant Bedford took charge 12 of Tommy's body. 13 THE CORONER: Yes. 14 MR HILL: And took it to the Central Mortuary. 15 THE CORONER: Yes. 16 MR HILL: And at half past midnight, Dr Sandilands 17 certified death. 18 That is the correct evidence. And we apologise to 19 the jury and indeed, of course, to Tommy's family for 20 having produced the wrong document. 21 THE CORONER: Yes. Thank you. 22 MR HILL: I turn to Mr Morgan, who I think is going to read 23 some evidence about Tommy's date of birth. 24 THE CORONER: Yes. 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 who was the same age. The friend's birthday was in the 2 same month and same year as Tommy's but on the 14th day, 3 (14 November 1957). They used to celebrate each other's 4 birthday. The family still live near to me and I spoke 5 to them to confirm these details yesterday. 6 "Tommy's gravestone states his age to be 17, but he 7 died short of his 17th birthday. My then husband, 8 Wilbert Turner, Tommy's stepfather, gave statements to 9 state that Tommy was 17 when he died and also made 10 arrangements for the funeral and headstone. However, 11 Wilbert Turner made the statements in error and 12 following the date which would have been Tommy's 17th 13 birthday. The error arose due to the overwhelming 14 emotional turmoil that Wilbert and I found ourselves in 15 when our beloved son was killed. 16 We have been unable to obtain a birth certificate in 17 Jamaica for Tommy and therefore it is respectfully 18 requested that Tommy's age is recorded as 16 years old 19 when he died, and that he was born on 30 November 1957. 20 I hereby verify that the facts presented above by me 21 concerning my son Tommy's date of birth are true. Dated 22 12 March 2019, Hilda Turner." 23 Thank you. 24 THE CORONER: Thank you. 25 MR SKELTON: Sir, I am now going to ask that Mr Mole</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

1 is recalled.
 2 THE CORONER: Yes.
 3 MR SKELTON: He is going to address the issue of policies
 4 and protocols, so far as we can do so.
 5 THE CORONER: Before he does that, can I just go back
 6 to timings.
 7 MR ANTHONY MOLE (continued)
 8 THE CORONER: Mr Mole, please have a seat.
 9 MR SKELTON: Yes.
 10 THE CORONER: Mr Skelton, there are one or two things
 11 I wanted to check that were in evidence. I am not
 12 asking you to say whether they are in evidence or not,
 13 but I'm going to refer to the Brannigan report which can
 14 be brought up on screen. At 382.
 15 MR THOMAS: Sir, can I just ask for the jury to leave for
 16 one moment?
 17 THE CORONER: Yes.
 18 Members of the jury, another piece of exercise.
 19 MR THOMAS: I'm sorry. I do apologise.
 20 (2.35 pm)
 21 Discussion (in the absence of the jury)
 22 (In the presence of the jury)
 23 (2.37 pm)
 24 Questions by THE CORONER
 25 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, I am just go to ask a few

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1 questions about the Brannigan report,
 2 Chief Superintendent Brannigan, who wrote a report on
 3 29 November 1974, headed:
 4 "Bomb incidents, Birmingham City Centre,
 5 21 November 1974."
 6 I think we heard evidence that the draft report was
 7 written by Police Inspector Skitt. But that is just an
 8 introduction. I just want to go to one or two passages
 9 just to make sure that they are in evidence before you
 10 for the purposes of the hearing.
 11 So paragraph 3, please, which is on electronic
 12 page 6.
 13 This is just to say a little bit about the tax
 14 office. Would you like to read that paragraph, Mr Mole.
 15 **A. Certainly, Sir:**
 16 **"On the New Street face adjoining the Rotunda**
 17 **complex is situated the Odeon Cinema, with seating for**
 18 **2,400 patrons. Adjacent to the Odeon Cinema there is**
 19 **King Edward House, owned by Legal & General, Temple**
 20 **Court, London EC4 N4TP. The street level, and in some**
 21 **cases the basements, are occupied by retailing outlets,**
 22 **again, including shops, cafés and licensed premises,**
 23 **including the Tavern in the Town licensed house. The**
 24 **upper storeys are occupied as offices, including Income**
 25 **Tax offices."**

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1 THE CORONER: Yes. Thank you.
 2 The next paragraph, which is about timing, is
 3 paragraph 13 on electronic page 9. Top of the page.
 4 Would you just like to read the first five
 5 lines, please?
 6 **A. "At 20.14 hours on Thursday 21 November, a call was**
 7 **received by PC6798 Phillips at the Central control room**
 8 **via the police exchange, from Mr Cropper, a telephonist**
 9 **at the Birmingham Post and Mail."**
 10 THE CORONER: Yes. That is fine. Thank you.
 11 Then paragraph 16, on the next page. Just the last
 12 sentence of that paragraph.
 13 **A. Yes, Sir:**
 14 **"As near as can be determined, this explosion was at**
 15 **20.18 hours."**
 16 THE CORONER: Then the next page, paragraph 19, the first
 17 sentence, please.
 18 **A. "At 20.20 hours, the second bomb exploded in the Tavern**
 19 **in the Town licensed house as PC Yates was passing,**
 20 **blowing him into an adjoining bus shelter."**
 21 THE CORONER: And the next sentence.
 22 **A. "The officer, who was uninjured, immediately entered the**
 23 **heavily damaged premises, finding many casualties, and**
 24 **began rescue work."**
 25 THE CORONER: Yes. Then the next paragraph on the same

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1 page, paragraph 20, and the last sentence.
 2 **A. "Sergeant Wilson had informed the hospitals (General**
 3 **Accident and Dudley Road) by 20.23 hours."**
 4 THE CORONER: Yes. Thank you.
 5 That is all I ask you in relation to that.
 6 **A. Thank you, Sir.**
 7 THE CORONER: It is just a part of the evidence relating
 8 to times.
 9 Yes, members of the jury, I am going to ask you to
 10 withdraw again, sorry. It is one of those days. We
 11 should be ready in about 20 minutes or so. Thank you
 12 very much.
 13 (2.42 pm)
 14 (A short break)
 15 (3.15 pm)
 16 Discussion (in the absence of the jury)
 17 (In the presence of the jury)
 18 (3.20 pm)
 19 THE CORONER: Can I just refer to your last note, members of
 20 the jury:
 21 "Should Neil 'Tommy' Marsh be categorised as a child
 22 rather than an adult victim of the bomb, ie in 1974
 23 would he have been considered as a child or an adult?"
 24 Well, anybody under 18 is considered in law to be
 25 a child. So he would have been a child.

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1 Yes.
 2 Evidence relating to POLICIES and PROCEDURES
 3 MR SKELTON: Sir, I am now going to ask Mr Mole to introduce
 4 various documents about policies and procedures.
 5 THE CORONER: Yes.
 6 MR SKELTON: They come with a strong health warning. As you
 7 have previously indicated, we don't have a comprehensive
 8 archive in our possession of what may have been in
 9 existence at the time. So we have done our best to try
 10 to find documents at various locations around the
 11 country, including Central Government and locally, with
 12 the police forces. And of those, very few have been
 13 deemed relevant. So I'm just going to adduce the few
 14 that we think may reach the relevance threshold, and ask
 15 Mr Mole to explain their contents.
 16 Some of the documents do not bear necessarily on the
 17 Birmingham City area or the police force at the time.
 18 I would like Mr Mole to make that clear when that
 19 occurs. But one of them certainly does.
 20 THE CORONER: Yes.
 21 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUEST
 22 MR SKELTON: The first document I would like you to look at,
 23 Mr Mole, is at tab 12 in your bundle. It is a question
 24 & answer with then Assistant Chief Constable Buck.
 25 I am adducing this first really because it bears on

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1 evidence that the jury have already heard about what
 2 guidance may have been given to police officers at the
 3 time of the attacks in November 1974.
 4 It is [INQ004503]. This is the first sheet. If you
 5 would just go to the second page, please.
 6 The jury will see at the top there that this is
 7 a meeting held on Monday 19 May 1975. The person
 8 speaking to Mr Buck is not named, but his or her
 9 initials are given as "DS," and "MB" is Maurice Buck,
 10 the Assistant Chief Constable.
 11 He is being interviewed generally about the force's
 12 response to the bomb threats and indeed the bomb
 13 incidents that have taken place from late 1972/1973
 14 onwards, right to the time of the bombs on the night of
 15 21 November 1974.
 16 The particular bit I would like to look at
 17 specifically is on --
 18 THE CORONER: Do we know what sort of interview this was?
 19 Who was "DS"?
 20 MR SKELTON: No, I don't know who DS is.
 21 THE CORONER: You don't know who DS is?
 22 MR SKELTON: There are suggestions that it was a researcher
 23 for a book, and possibly the Gibson book referred to
 24 earlier. But that is not absolutely clear from the face
 25 of the document.

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1 The interview obviously occurs before the
 2 Birmingham Six had been tried, and several months after
 3 the events of November 1974.
 4 The bit I'm asking Mr Mole to adduce is a bit in the
 5 interview which relates to steps taken following the
 6 April 1974 bomb which affected the Rotunda. It relates
 7 to a card. I will ask you to look, please, on page 15
 8 electronically. If we can have that on screen, please.
 9 The interviewer is asking Mr Buck what the general
 10 feeling was among the police officers at that stage and
 11 whether or not they were unnerved at all. He gives the
 12 answer, which I will ask Mr Mole to read out, please.
 13 MR JOHNSON: Sir, sorry to interrupt, just so we know what
 14 is meant by "at that stage", I wonder if we could look
 15 at the last two lines on the previous page?
 16 MR SKELTON: He also refers -- although the full context is
 17 quite hard to ascertain -- to the attack that killed
 18 Captain Wilkinson. That was on 2 January 1974.
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. And the jury will recall in their bundle it is numbers
 21 12 and 13. There were two bombs on 2 January 1974 --
 22 sorry, Wilkinson died on 17 September 1973, but there
 23 were further bombs on 2 January 1974. Am I right in
 24 saying that?
 25 Perhaps it is worth just reminding ourselves what

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1 those bombs were, Sir, just to put Mr Buck's evidence in
 2 its full context.
 3 If you look at the jury bundle under tab 2, at
 4 page 2, number 10 is the bomb at Bilton House in
 5 Edgbaston which killed Captain Wilkinson. And then in
 6 the early January 1974 --
 7 THE CORONER: The page, sorry?
 8 MR SKELTON: Page 2, under tab 2.
 9 THE CORONER: Yes.
 10 MR SKELTON: Then further on you get into 1974, and numbers
 11 12 and 13 are two bombs that go off fairly late in the
 12 evening on 2 January 1974.
 13 Mr Buck was being asked about the effect of the
 14 bomb, which nearly killed a police officer on that
 15 occasion, and therefore on the officers generally.
 16 I think that is the full context.
 17 MR JOHNSON: Thank you.
 18 **A. Thank you.**
 19 THE CORONER: It is quite a chatty sort of discussion,
 20 is it not?
 21 MR SKELTON: It is. It is difficult to tell what the
 22 purpose of it is at times. It is quite discursive, it
 23 is fair to say, without any particular point. It is
 24 certainly not like a police interview where he's being
 25 asked about particular things. He's just being asked

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1 about his general views about the force morale and
 2 actions at the time.
 3 But this is a very small point about what the
 4 officers were given to use to help them to respond to
 5 bomb threats.
 6 **A. Thank you. So in response to the "were they unnerved by**
 7 **it all", the reply is:**
 8 **"No, I don't think they were. I think one of the**
 9 **difficulties, and I think this applies ... is to try and**
 10 **bring home to people how serious this is."**
 11 MR SKELTON: Home.
 12 **A. "Home", yes. Sorry, I struggle with some of this:**
 13 **"... to try to bring home to people how serious this**
 14 **is, what a terribly serious problem this is.**
 15 **"Later in that day we issued to every policeman**
 16 **a card telling him exactly what to do. They carried it**
 17 **around. And one of the problems was to ensure they took**
 18 **the right action. We didn't really want any heroes.**
 19 **But no, I wouldn't say they were unnerved."**
 20 Q. So, Mr Mole, we don't, I think, have a copy of the card
 21 that ACC Buck is referring to that would have been
 22 carried by the officers, it looks like after
 23 January 1974.
 24 **A. I have never seen any cards.**
 25 Q. I think you should have said "and later in the day".

1 You may have missed the "and" there, although it is fair
 2 to say again that the typing is --
 3 **A. Some of it looks to me as if it has been crossed out.**
 4 Q. Did you say "that day"?
 5 **A. Possibly.**
 6 Q. It is "later in the day".
 7 **A. Okay.**
 8 Q. So it is not absolutely clear when the card is issued,
 9 but it is sometime after 2 January 1974 it appears.
 10 **A. It appears, yes.**
 11 Q. As I say, it is important that the jury note that we
 12 don't have a copy of whatever that card said?
 13 **A. I have not seen that card, Sir, yes.**
 14 Q. Thank you. I am now going to ask you, if you would, to
 15 look at tab 3, please, which is another document that
 16 has been provided to us by the Government, the UK
 17 Government, based on its researches into what guidance
 18 might have been available in the 1970s in respect of
 19 bomb threats. This is at [INQ005107].
 20 The document has been heavily redacted to remove
 21 sensitive or irrelevant information. But you can pick
 22 up from the face of that first page that it is
 23 a general notice --
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. -- entitled:

1 "Bomb threats: consolidation into one document of
 2 the general guidance already issued to departments."
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. "Departments" in this case I think refers to Central
 5 Government departments based in Whitehall in London?
 6 **A. I believe so, from reading it.**
 7 Q. It is from a particular Civil Service department, we see
 8 at the bottom, PM5, based in Whitehall, and the date of
 9 issue is 30 April 1973.
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. It says that the scope and purpose of it is to give
 12 guidance about dealing with bomb threats.
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. And as it says in the title, to consolidate the guidance
 15 which has previously been given?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. So there is not, I think, just to be clear, any
 18 suggestion that this guidance was circulated nationally
 19 outside of government departments?
 20 **A. Not from what I have seen.**
 21 Q. There is not any suggestion, I think, that it was
 22 circulated to the Birmingham police at this
 23 time specifically?
 24 **A. Correct.**
 25 Q. Or that it would necessarily have been of general

1 application to nongovernmental,
 2 nondepartmental buildings?
 3 **A. Yes, there is no indication of that.**
 4 Q. So at its highest, I think this document gives some idea
 5 of the guidance that might have been available in
 6 London, in respect of government buildings, which may
 7 contain some basic ideas of what should happen in
 8 response to a bomb threat?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. But heavily caveatted when it comes to its application
 11 in November 1974 --
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. -- in Birmingham in particular?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Overleaf, please, to page 2. You will see the typed
 16 guidance, starting in "In more detail". It introduces
 17 first of all the warnings issued.
 18 Would you mind reading the first two sections,
 19 "Introduction", and "The Threat", please.
 20 **A. Yes:**
 21 **"Introduction. Warning of bombs is generally given**
 22 **by telephone, and most of such calls (of which the**
 23 **police receive a considerable number each day) are**
 24 **hoaxes. No risks can be taken, however, and a proper**
 25 **procedure must be gone through on every occasion.**

1 "The threat.
 2 "1. This comes in four forms.
 3 "(a), explosions in cars outside buildings.
 4 "(b) other devices placed outside buildings against
 5 walls of adjoining buildings or in ducts, fuel chutes,
 6 et cetera.
 7 "(c) letters, parcels or packages entering buildings
 8 or being placed in buildings.
 9 "(d) devices hurled through windows."
 10 Q. And paragraph 2, please.
 11 A. Okay. Thank you.
 12 "Because the bombers generally try to avoid
 13 inflicting casualties, there will normally be some
 14 warning of a threat. Thus 1(d) above would be unusual.
 15 Warning might be issued orally by telephone or by
 16 letter. Letter bombs and parcels are often delivered
 17 without any warning."
 18 Q. Thank you. If you can go through now to page 5, please,
 19 you will see a heading:
 20 "Action on receipt of threat."
 21 Again, I appreciate it is not easy to read, but if
 22 you could read the whole of that page, please.
 23 A. Yes. Thank you.
 24 "Action on receipt of threat. General.
 25 "13. When the police pass on information of

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1 a threat to buildings they will send officers to check
 2 the external areas of those buildings, and will often be
 3 willing to assist with an internal search if so
 4 requested. Security officers should make contact with
 5 these officers.
 6 "Unspecified external threat.
 7 "14. Security staffs should immediately inspect the
 8 perimeter of the buildings. And if anything (car,
 9 dustbin, package et cetera) is discovered which looks
 10 suspicious they should:
 11 "(a) if possible, contact the police party referred
 12 to in paragraph 13 above;
 13 "(b) inform local police division;
 14 "(c) decide whether part or all of the building
 15 should be evacuated.
 16 "Specified external threat.
 17 "15. When a threat is pinpointed, security staffs
 18 will need to take immediate decisions with regard to
 19 partial or total evacuation. Offices threatened should,
 20 if time permits, have windows opened, curtains/blinds
 21 drawn and doors shut. Police, in their searches, may
 22 find a bomb and immediately give instructions with
 23 regard to evacuation."
 24 "Unspecified internal threat.
 25 "16. Depending on the time factor, searches of

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1 possible hiding places for bombs should be instituted.
 2 Because some forms of evacuation might be subsequently
 3 necessary, halls, entrance lobbies, stairways and lifts
 4 should be the first areas searched. Particular
 5 attention should also be paid to service ducts, broom
 6 and mop cupboards et cetera. These should be
 7 kept locked.
 8 "If anything suspicious is found, partial evacuation
 9 should take place and the police should be informed.
 10 Advice on search procedures is at appendix 4 attached.
 11 "Specified internal threat.
 12 "17. Once the search procedures have been
 13 identified, a bomb or suspicious object action will be
 14 taken immediately to implement evacuation procedures, to
 15 the extent that all people in the threatened area should
 16 be moved away from the danger area.
 17 "The degree of movement necessary will depend on the
 18 structure of the building concerned."
 19 Q. May we go over to page 6, please. Please continue
 20 reading the section "All threats" and then to
 21 "Alarm Systems".
 22 A. Do you wish "Alarm Systems" to be read as well, Sir?
 23 Q. Yes, please.
 24 A. Thank you:
 25 "All threats.

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1 "18. Although reaction to threats will vary from
 2 building to building, the following principles apply to
 3 all threats:
 4 "(a) where movement of personnel is involved it
 5 should be controlled and, unless advised by the police,
 6 the order 'All outside' should be avoided.
 7 "(b), every effort should be made to pass
 8 information on threats and action being taken to all
 9 personnel by authorised personnel only.
 10 "(c) news of stand-down on an alert must be passed
 11 rapidly, with any additional information about the
 12 outcome of the threat.
 13 "(d). I assume that is "Comments should
 14 consider ..."
 15 I'm not sure.
 16 Q. It is hard to tell, actually?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 "... should consider whether any special extra
 19 vigilance is necessary when there is a specific threat
 20 which does not directly affect their building."
 21 "Alarm systems.
 22 "19. These vary between departments and buildings,
 23 but even where the fire alarm is the only method of
 24 alerting staffs of a bomb threat, the principle should
 25 be to get staffs to rallying points, where authorised

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<p>1 personnel can then brief them as to what is to be done. 2 Current fire drills which adopt the 'All out' principle 3 might have to be reviewed in light of this. 4 "20. Each department and building thereof must have 5 an audible alarm system." 6 Q. Thank you. 7 After that, I think there is a short section about 8 safety areas, which is where people will be taken to 9 outside of the building? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. You referred, I think, to appendix 4 previously, rather 12 than A? 13 A. Right, thank you. 14 Q. May I ask you to look at appendix 4, please, on page 19. 15 Again, while appreciating it is not an easy task because 16 of the typing, may I ask you just to read through that 17 page, please? 18 A. Yes, certainly. 19 Q. It is called "Search procedures in the event of a bomb 20 threat". 21 A. Thank you. 22 "1. It is impossible to lay down hard-and-fast 23 rules for search procedures, as circumstances and 24 buildings differ. The measures listed below are 25 suggested for consideration by those who are charged</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 "5. If the responsible officer does not wish the 2 inhabitants to become generally aware of the threat 3 (usually because the threat is assumed as a hoax), he 4 and his staff will have to conduct the search 5 themselves. The system is unreliable in areas with 6 which the security staff are unfamiliar, and it gives 7 only superficial coverage. However, it may be adequate 8 to cover areas to which the public have easy access: 9 eg halls, stairways, lifts, toilets et cetera. 10 "6. If a decision not to evacuate is taken, but the 11 threat made known, occupants of each room or work area 12 should be required to search that area as they are the 13 persons most likely to find something suspicious. The 14 security staff should concentrate on the 15 unoccupied areas. 16 "7. In cases where evacuation is necessary, and 17 a full search required, the search force may be divided 18 into parties, e.g. 19 "Exterior search party. 20 "Public area search party. 21 "Detailed room search party. 22 "The detailed room search party should have the 23 greatest number of searchers." 24 Q. Thank you. That was all I was proposing you read. 25 I am asked to ask you to look at page 2, please, if</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 with organising search procedures following 2 a bomb threat. 3 "2. Only persons appointed for the purpose by the 4 security officer should participate in the search 5 operations, and any search procedures used by security 6 officers should first have been discussed with the 7 local police. 8 "3. All searches must be systematic, thorough and 9 orderly. And obviously if the threat message has 10 identified the site of the bomb the search should begin 11 there. If the site is not disclosed, the security 12 officer must decide in what order the various parts of 13 the building are to be searched, taking into account the 14 areas of the greatest risk to personnel and to 15 the structure. 16 "Where applicable, areas to which the public have 17 access must receive close attention. It is in these 18 that the bomb may well have been placed. 19 "4. The method of searching may often depend on 20 whether a decision to evacuate the building or not has 21 been taken or whether the responsible officer wishes the 22 inhabitants of the building to become generally aware of 23 the threat or not. Search procedures will also depend 24 on whether the threat message has identified the site of 25 the bomb or not.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 I can have that on screen, at the bottom. 2 This was a page you previously looked at the top 3 half of. 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. You see at the bottom there is a heading "Information on 6 the threat"? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Would you mind reading that out for us as well, please. 9 Paragraph 5. 10 A. Sir: 11 "Information on the threat. 12 "5. The police are the most likely to receive the 13 first warning of a bomb threat, normally via the 999 14 emergency call system in the information room at 15 New Scotland Yard, from where it is immediately passed 16 to the local divisional station (e.g Cannon Row for the 17 Whitehall/Parliament Square area). They are responsible 18 for taking appropriate action, including, where 19 necessary, warning the occupants of the buildings 20 affected in the threatened area and giving suitable 21 advice based on the positiveness of the warning. 22 "However, threats or warns are frequently received 23 by the Post Office and also might be passed direct to 24 the department or building concerned. Instructions to 25 telephone switchboard operators should contain the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

1 **essence of appendix 3 attached."**
 2 Q. Could you continue into the next paragraph, and have
 3 that on screen as well, please?
 4 **A. "The contact officer in the building who receives the**
 5 **warning is then responsible for further decisions on**
 6 **what action/reactions should be taken on the warning.**
 7 **When a threat or warning is received direct, local**
 8 **police divisions should be informed, either direct or by**
 9 **emergency 999 call.**
 10 **"Advice on assessing the genuineness of a threat is**
 11 **contained in appendix 3."**
 12 Q. Just for completeness, if you could complete that
 13 section at paragraph 7, please.
 14 **A. "7. It is also important that any threat of real**
 15 **significance (and certainly one in which positive**
 16 **action, such as total or partial evacuation, proves**
 17 **necessary) should be reported to the**
 18 **establishment officer.**
 19 **"The incident should then be reported to the CSD,**
 20 **head of PM5 division, Extension 1669, so that senior**
 21 **officials and Ministers can be informed."**
 22 Q. Thank you.
 23 I am asked to look at appendix 3 on page 16, please.
 24 If you could highlight the top of it, Henry.
 25 Thank you.

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1 If you could read out that heading, please, and then
 2 read paragraphs 1 and 2, under the heading
 3 "The Problem".
 4 **A. "Note on action which may be taken on in the event of**
 5 **bomb threats telephoned directly to government officers**
 6 **(ie not received from the police).**
 7 **"The Problem:**
 8 **"1. The problem is to decide whether the threat,**
 9 **usually anonymous, is genuine or a hoax, and in the case**
 10 **of messages assessed as genuine, to devise the**
 11 **procedures for evacuation and counter-action to be**
 12 **followed after the receipt of the call.**
 13 **"No hard and fast rules can be laid down for dealing**
 14 **with the problem, as each message, situation and**
 15 **building will differ."**
 16 Q. Thank you. And picking that up again.
 17 **A. "And the measures listed below are suggestions and not**
 18 **firm recommendations, nor are they a complete list of**
 19 **the possible procedures."**
 20 **Thank you for your help.**
 21 Q. Thank you.
 22 If you go back to the main page, we then see some
 23 sections that we have no need to read but it is useful
 24 to know are contained in this appendix, about advice to
 25 telephone operators.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Focusing really on eliciting information and recording
 3 it accurately and communicating that accurately,
 4 including the caller's accent, demeanour et cetera.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Overleaf on page 2 -- 17 electronically -- you see
 7 another heading:
 8 "Assessing of the genuineness or otherwise of
 9 threats." And then guidance on that.
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. And finally there is a summary on page 18, which is
 12 worth reading in full, please. It is paragraph 10 and
 13 there are six numbered points. It is entitled:
 14 "Summary of action stages on receipt of
 15 telephoned threat."
 16 **A. Yes. Thank you.**
 17 **"10:**
 18 **"1. Bomb threat received by telephone operator.**
 19 **"2. Telephone operator alerts supervisor.**
 20 **"3. Telephone operator employs 'keep caller**
 21 **talking' technique.**
 22 **"4. Telephone operator reports call details**
 23 **immediately to security officer (and only thereafter to**
 24 **supervisor).**
 25 **"5. Security officer contacts local police.**

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1 **"6. Security officer initiates action to**
 2 **search/evacuate the building, keeping his superior**
 3 **informed of the result."**
 4 **Thank you.**
 5 Q. And when you read "search evacuate", it was
 6 "search/evacuate".
 7 **A. Yes. Sorry, yes.**
 8 Q. Thank you.
 9 Unless anyone has any additions to that document,
 10 I will move on to the next, under tab 15, please.
 11 I am going to try to introduce this document as best
 12 I can, Mr Mole. You have had the opportunity to read
 13 it, I think?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. It is at [INQ005084].
 16 It starts off with what is entitled "Note for file".
 17 The date you can see overleaf, a little bit unclearly,
 18 is May 1974. So several months before the attacks
 19 in Birmingham?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. This is a document which has been provided to us by the
 22 Security Service, MI5.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. And it relates to a presentation in respect of the
 25 Office of National Savings. So another sort of

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1 government office?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. And a presentation that purports to give guidance
 4 similarly to the governmental departmental guidance that
 5 we saw initially, that I have taken you to --
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. -- which is guidance on how to deal with bomb threats.
 8 **A. Yes, correct.**
 9 Q. That, I think, is as much as we can say about the
 10 document. But I will ask you to look at page 3 to start
 11 with, just to introduce what this document is.
 12 It may be worth your reading out, please, just the
 13 first page, starting with "Bomb threats", please.
 14 **A. "This short presentation is designed to show the central**
 15 **ingredients of the problems posed by bomb threats at**
 16 **your place of employment. To show you how to respond,**
 17 **for the safety not only of yourself but of all your**
 18 **colleagues, if a bomb incident occurs. What you will**
 19 **see and hear is not necessarily confidential, but do be**
 20 **extremely careful where and how you talk about it.**
 21 **You will realise that the problem is itself serious**
 22 **enough without adding to it by encouraging hoaxers who**
 23 **cause such disruption and distress.**
 24 **"Recent events have provided security services with**
 25 **ample experience on which to base countermeasures,**

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1 **though you will be aware that there can be no total**
 2 **safeguard against violence. In preparing plans to cope**
 3 **with this type of emergency, we have taken full**
 4 **advantage of the guidance available from government**
 5 **sources."**
 6 Q. Thank you. And would you mind going on to the next
 7 page, electronic page 4, and just reading that first
 8 paragraph as well, which really completes the
 9 introduction to the document.
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Thank you.
 12 **A. "Officers in the Department for National Savings who**
 13 **have security responsibilities are supplied with**
 14 **up-to-date information on the subject. The whole**
 15 **question of bombs and bomb threats is exceedingly**
 16 **complex, and it is quite unrealistic to look for and to**
 17 **expect a simple answer to be demonstrated. So we have**
 18 **tried to select the salient features and to offer advice**
 19 **meaningful to you in your work situation."**
 20 Q. Thank you. I am going to try to focus now on some
 21 aspects to deal with this search/evacuation issue --
 22 THE CORONER: Does this seem to be directed to staff at the
 23 Office of National Savings?
 24 MR SKELTON: It does, and drawing upon guidance more
 25 generally available within government. So again it

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1 comes with the very strong caveat that it is not being
 2 suggested that this was guidance that was used actively
 3 by West Midlands Police or any other government body or
 4 local government body in Birmingham at the time. But it
 5 does give a flavour or the guidance generally available
 6 nationally in 1974.
 7 Mr Mole, I am going to ask you to go forward,
 8 please, to page 9, where the presentation is picking up
 9 the question of searching and evacuation. And just to
 10 put this in context, this is comes at the end of a long
 11 passage of advice on how to deal with the caller who
 12 makes the threat, and then how to find and locate the
 13 actual bomb within the building within which it is said
 14 to be located.
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Would you mind starting to read at the bit entitled --
 17 THE CORONER: Can we go back to page 8 --
 18 MR SKELTON: Yes, of course.
 19 THE CORONER: -- because advice is being given to the
 20 telephone operator --
 21 MR SKELTON: Yes.
 22 THE CORONER: -- as to what sort of information you could
 23 try to get from the caller.
 24 MR SKELTON: Yes.
 25 THE CORONER: "Do not replace the telephone receiver".

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1 MR SKELTON: Shall I ask Mr Mole to read from there to the
 2 next page?
 3 THE CORONER: Yes.
 4 MR SKELTON: Do you see that, Mr Mole?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Do you want to start from the very top of the page:
 7 "A member of staff who receives a bomb threat ..."
 8 and then continue overleaf to page to 7, please.
 9 **A. Certainly.**
 10 **"A member of staff who receives a bomb threat should**
 11 **keep calm and obtain as much information as possible.**
 12 **Make a note of the time, and keep the caller in**
 13 **conversation while efforts are made by colleagues to**
 14 **trace the call. Do not replace the telephone receiver**
 15 **[underlined]. Ask: where precisely is the bomb? When**
 16 **will it go off? What does it look like? Is it**
 17 **explosive or incendiary? If it is explosive, what kind?**
 18 **"Note the sex of the caller, his or her probable**
 19 **age, any pronounced accent or speech characteristic.**
 20 **Was the caller in a state of tension? Do you think he**
 21 **was drunk or under the influence of drugs? Did the call**
 22 **appear to come from a call box (distinguishable by the**
 23 **sound of the 'pay-tone' to phone operators)? Did the**
 24 **caller seem to be reading from a prepared script?"**
 25 Q. Over to page 9, please.

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1 A. Thank you.
 2 "Pass the information immediately to Stores and
 3 Buildings Branch by phone (extension 2222) or in person
 4 if that is quicker.
 5 "At this stage, teams of volunteer searchers may be
 6 asked to act. Searchers will only be required to use
 7 their eyes and are not expected to take any
 8 additional risks.
 9 "The most suitable and effective people to look for
 10 bombs in complex buildings such as ours are those who
 11 work there, for after all it is only they who know what
 12 should be there. That must include you. You know what
 13 should and what should not be there.
 14 "You can cast your eyes around when you are working
 15 and there is a strong chance that you will notice the
 16 unusual object or a very ordinary and normal object in
 17 what seems to you to be entirely the wrong place.
 18 "It is not a special duty of the police to search
 19 government premises or any other premises, trying to
 20 find potential bombs. Do not expect them to do it, for
 21 even when they do assist they find it very difficult to
 22 decide what to look for and where to look. The police
 23 will, however, advise. And we, in common with all of
 24 the public, can rely on their unstinting help. They
 25 will send for the bomb specialists if that should prove

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1 to be necessary. It is for each of us to make what
 2 contribution we can, in our own personal interests.
 3 Whether or not you have any special bomb duty to
 4 perform, do use your eyes and report what you
 5 have seen."
 6 Do you wish me to continue?
 7 Q. Yes, please do.
 8 A. "Your management, not the police, will have to make the
 9 vital decision about whether or not to evacuate the
 10 premises, and that decision has to be based on all
 11 available information about the incident.
 12 "The volunteer search teams, who will have had
 13 additional advice and instruction, will quickly look
 14 around their allocated areas for any strange or unusual
 15 objects or any apparently normal objects in unexpected
 16 places. If any such object is observed it must not be
 17 touched. In particular it is essential not to:
 18 "Pull out or break a fuse connected with the object.
 19 "Pull out or cut any wires running to it.
 20 "The questions to be asked are:
 21 "Should the object be here?
 22 "Who owns it?
 23 "How did it get here?
 24 "When did it come?"
 25 "If these questions can't be answered

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1 satisfactorily, and the object could be a bomb, the
 2 search team will:
 3 "Report the facts to S & BB."
 4 Q. That is Stores and Buildings Branch that we heard
 5 about earlier.
 6 A. Thank you very much.
 7 "Report the facts to [Stores and Buildings Branch]
 8 who will tell the senior officer on the site. Warn
 9 colleagues in the immediate vicinity and, with them,
 10 taking immediate personal belongings, proceed to the
 11 emergency assembly area as soon as possible.
 12 "If there is no suspicious object in the room, staff
 13 are required to stay there until they receive specific
 14 instructions. In those circumstances, staff must keep
 15 as far away from windows as possible.
 16 "Although the possibility of a bomb being placed in
 17 an office or workroom cannot be excluded, there may be
 18 more likely situations."
 19 Q. You can stop there. Thank you. After that we get
 20 a list of possible areas where bombs could be located?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Could you turn forward to page 14 in the electronic
 23 version, please.
 24 There is a long section dealing with particular
 25 references to the buildings concerned with

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1 this presentation?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Which is not relevant. It is clearly something to do
 4 with the Office of National Savings.
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. But picking it up right at the bottom of that page, you
 7 see the final sentence:
 8 "Do not imagine that the only source of action ..."
 9 Do you see that?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Would you mind picking that up, please, and reading
 12 through from page 14 through to the conclusion on
 13 page 15.
 14 A. "Do not imagine that the only course of action following
 15 a bomb threat is to evacuate the building. This may be
 16 the least advisable thing to do, unless or until a bomb
 17 has been positively located. It may well be safer for
 18 you to remain at your point of duty (away from a window
 19 or even under an office table) than to make your way
 20 through circulation areas and entrance halls and risk
 21 meeting with a devastating explosion."
 22 Do you wish me to continue?
 23 Q. Yes, please.
 24 A. "Because of this, when there is a bomb alert, do not
 25 expect that an instruction to leave the building will

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<p>1 automatically follow. Evacuation may not be at all the 2 right response. The most likely spot for a bomb to be 3 placed is where access is easily and normally gained by 4 people, so congregating in the main entrance is to 5 be avoided. 6 "Throughout an incident, control rests upon the 7 senior officer on site. He will personally initiate and 8 conduct the emergency procedure. And S and BB staff, in 9 their special role as custodians of the building, will 10 not act directly on his instructions." 11 Q. Would you continue to page 16 and just read down to the 12 bit starting "At MSB Glasgow". That first long 13 paragraph. Thank you. 14 A. "As that officer must take the vital decision whether or 15 not to evacuate all or part of the building, he must 16 have all the information he can possibly obtain about 17 what is happening in the building. For that reason, it 18 will be necessary for S & BB to be informed as/when each 19 area has been satisfactorily examined. 20 "During an emergency, the use of the telephone for 21 purposes not connected with it must at all costs be 22 avoided. A heavy responsibility lies upon your 23 management, but you can be assured that the safety of 24 every member of staff, regardless of grade, is the 25 paramount consideration."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 you. I will give you the INQ reference for it. It is 2 [INQ004860]. 3 This document again comes with a caveat that it 4 post-dates the attacks on 21 November 1974. I am going 5 to read out myself the covering letter which comes with 6 the guidance, if I may. 7 It is a letter from a GL Angel, who is a civil 8 servant, one assumes, at the Home Office, dated 9 22 October 1975. It is to the Chief Officer of Police. 10 So it looks on the face of it, Mr Mole, like this is 11 a letter which would have gone to the Chief Constables 12 around the country. 13 A. Yes, possibly. 14 Q. It is the Chief Officer of Police. But there is not an 15 overarching Chief Officer of Police in the UK; there are 16 just a series of chief officers in charge of their 17 relevant constabularies? 18 A. That is correct. 19 Q. It says: 20 "Dear Sir. 21 "We have been considering how best to respond to 22 requests from members of the public (especially owners 23 or managers of property) for guidance about measures 24 they can take to minimise the risk of bomb attacks and 25 to cope with the situation if a bomb explodes on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 Q. Thank you. Just to finish, please, on page 18, the 2 whole of that page, please, starting "To recap". 3 A. Thank you. 4 Q. "To recap, then: 5 "The possibility of there being a bomb in the 6 building is remote. If a bomb threat is made, present 7 experience shows that it may well be a hoax. 8 "Management has access to all necessary information 9 on the subject and has made appropriate arrangements. 10 "You can help by being alert, keeping the building 11 tidy and being conversant with the 12 emergency instructions. 13 "The personal safety of the staff is the overriding 14 consideration when management decides whether or not to 15 evacuate the building. Evacuation is not necessarily 16 the safest or the most sensible response to the threat. 17 "Finally, once again, treat the whole subject with 18 discretion. Do not encourage the hoaxer." 19 Q. Thank you, Mr Mole. 20 I think that concludes what I was proposing to 21 adduce from that document, unless there are other areas 22 that may be relevant. 23 Thank you. 24 The last document I would like you to look at is 25 under tab 13, please, in the bundle you have in front of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 their property. 2 "Members of the public will generally look to the 3 police for this sort of advice. Chief Officers of 4 Police may find it helpful therefore to have available 5 the material in the annex attached. This summarises and 6 codifies the guidance which has already been made 7 available in one form or another by many police forces 8 as a result of the bomb attacks last year. 9 "The guidance each inquirer will vary 10 according to the type of building for which he is 11 responsible and the precautions he is able and willing 12 to take. No one leaflet can be appropriate by itself. 13 "This guidance has therefore been prepared with 14 a view to providing material for discussion between the 15 crime prevention officer and the inquirer or following 16 up on such a discussion rather than for indiscriminate 17 distribution, but it is for chief officers to decide how 18 much use to make of it." 19 "Yours faithfully, GL Angel." 20 So that is the introduction to this document. And 21 within it one will find specific guidance or a specific 22 document from West Midlands Police. It is that document 23 which I would like you to look at, please, first of all. 24 It can be found at page 11 in the electronic copy. 25 As previously, I am going to ask you to look at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

1 particular passages. But if others would like me to
 2 lead you through particular passages in addition to the
 3 ones I identify, then they will indicate it to me.
 4 Can I first ask you just to read out the first
 5 heading, and then the first two sections down to
 6 paragraph 3.
 7 **A. Yes. Thank you.**
 8 **"West Midlands Police.**
 9 **"The protection against bomb or incendiary attack of**
 10 **buildings to which the public have access.**
 11 **"Aim.**
 12 **"1. The aim is to prevent bomb or incendiary**
 13 **attacks or, when this is not possible, to minimise their**
 14 **effects in buildings to which members of the public must**
 15 **have access. This must be done without imposing**
 16 **unacceptable restrictions on them, and the occupier must**
 17 **weigh the seriousness of the threat against the need to**
 18 **maintain business as usual, and decide the extent to**
 19 **which countermeasures should be adopted.**
 20 **"2. The measures listed below are commonsense**
 21 **suggestions and are not firm recommendations applicable**
 22 **in all cases. Some measures, eg intruder alarms, guard**
 23 **dogs, being expensive, may be applicable only at times**
 24 **when the threat is high."**
 25 Q. Would you read the next heading and paragraph, please.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 **"Security responsibilities.**
 3 **"3. A member of the staff should be appointed as**
 4 **security officer to coordinate all aspects of security,**
 5 **ensure that countermeasures are taken and encourage**
 6 **security awareness and vigilance among the staff.**
 7 **"He should be of sufficient seniority to command the**
 8 **respect of the staff and ensure that the necessary**
 9 **measures are implemented. Responsibilities for**
 10 **particular aspects of security, e.g lock-up drill (see**
 11 **paragraph 12) should be clearly established."**
 12 Q. The guidance or document then goes on to address survey
 13 of buildings --
 14 **A. Yes, correct.**
 15 Q. -- including physical security measures which may be
 16 considered in respect of the surrounding area, the
 17 external building face, fire or explosive hazards and
 18 vital facilities?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Paragraph 5 is under the heading "Restriction of access
 21 by the public. Paragraph 6, "The secure area", and
 22 paragraph 7, "The public area".
 23 **A. Correct.**
 24 Q. Going overleaf, the next heading is "Flying glass".
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. And advice is given in respect of that.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Now, "Security plans". Would you mind picking up the
 4 document in your reading at that stage, please, and
 5 reading the section "Security plans", "Communications",
 6 "Evacuation" and "Package bombs and bomb hoaxes".
 7 So the rest of that page.
 8 **A. Thank you.**
 9 **Starting at "Security plans":**
 10 **"12. A lock-up drill should ensure that no**
 11 **unauthorised persons remain in the building after**
 12 **working hours. Plans for action in the event of a fire**
 13 **or receipt of a bomb-threat warning are essential and**
 14 **should be rehearsed. In times of threat, stores should**
 15 **only be accepted from recognised sources, and**
 16 **precautions observed on entering the building at opening**
 17 **times if there is evidence of intrusion during**
 18 **the night.**
 19 **"Communications.**
 20 **"13. Alarm buttons, or preferably alarm strips,**
 21 **which can be operated unobtrusively, maybe installed in**
 22 **the public area to ring in a manned control point from**
 23 **which the police and fire authorities can be telephoned.**
 24 **"Evacuation.**
 25 **"The responsibility for an evacuation and/or search**

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1 **is the employer's.**
 2 **"14. A search party should be organised, each**
 3 **person having a particular area to search. They should**
 4 **then report directly to the person co-ordinating the**
 5 **search, carry out the search and report the result.**
 6 **"Do not touch any suspicious or unaccountable**
 7 **objects. The police will take control of the situation**
 8 **and advise accordingly.**
 9 **"Planning in advance is the best course of action.**
 10 **And if any efficient 'self help' searching and, if**
 11 **necessary, evacuation plan is prepared, much valuable**
 12 **time will be saved.**
 13 **"Persons who are required to evacuate the buildings**
 14 **should take their personal belonging with them.**
 15 **"No hard-and-fast rules can be laid down, but it is**
 16 **hoped that the advice offered will assist.**
 17 **"A person should be nominated in each office or**
 18 **department who is familiar with the day-to-day**
 19 **appearance and contents of the office or department, in**
 20 **order that any suspect parcel or package can be brought**
 21 **to attention."**
 22 Q. You can probably stop there, Mr Mole.
 23 **A. Thank you.**
 24 Q. Unless others say there is more to be read from that
 25 document, I will not ask you to read the section on

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<p>1 "Package bombs and bomb hoaxes".</p> <p>2 It may be that others will pick up and ask you some</p> <p>3 questions about it.</p> <p>4 Can I just again, though, go back to the covering</p> <p>5 letter, and just strike a note of caution that it is not</p> <p>6 clear whether or not any guidance of this type was in</p> <p>7 place prior to and on the day of the November 1974</p> <p>8 attacks. But it is clear that this guidance was</p> <p>9 available afterwards, and certainly by October 1975.</p> <p>10 A. Correct.</p> <p>11 Q. Can I ask you to look at a further document appended to</p> <p>12 the letter from the Home Office. This starts, I think,</p> <p>13 on page 14, please, with a compliments slip from</p> <p>14 a Metropolitan Police superintendent?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Then beneath that what we have is guidance analogous,</p> <p>17 I think, to the West Midlands Police document from the</p> <p>18 MPS at the time.</p> <p>19 This is a longer, more discursive document, so I'm</p> <p>20 not going to ask you to read all of it. But could</p> <p>21 I just ask you to look at the next page, please,</p> <p>22 entitled "Bomb threat: plan, don't panic".</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Would you mind reading just that first page, please?</p> <p>25 A. The first page, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 "To make the plan work there must be one person in</p> <p>2 charge, the emergency coordinator."</p> <p>3 Q. I'm going to ask you now to go further through the</p> <p>4 documents. In the early stages there is advice given,</p> <p>5 as we have seen in other documents, about how to deal</p> <p>6 with the call in which the warning is given?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. But the section I would like you to start looking at,</p> <p>9 please, on page 19, is number 4: "Threat appraisal".</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. If you could read that page, please.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 "4. Threat appraisal.</p> <p>14 "When an emergency call comes in, the coordinator</p> <p>15 must get all the information. Ask:</p> <p>16 "Time of the call?</p> <p>17 "When is the bomb set for?</p> <p>18 "Where is it?</p> <p>19 "What does it look like?</p> <p>20 "Who called? Was it a man? Woman? Child?</p> <p>21 "Any accent?</p> <p>22 "What was the background sound? Traffic? Radio or</p> <p>23 TV playing? Factory sounds? Children laughing?"</p> <p>24 "There are several quick steps that have to be made:</p> <p>25 "Call police. Give them all information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 Q. Yes, please.</p> <p>2 A. Yes. It is entitled "A programme to combat the</p> <p>3 bomb threat":</p> <p>4 "1. Introduction.</p> <p>5 "Clearly, any intimation, no matter how vague, that</p> <p>6 an explosive device has been planted must be regarded as</p> <p>7 a threat until investigation and subsequent events prove</p> <p>8 otherwise.</p> <p>9 "Your staff and premises are vulnerable. Your best</p> <p>10 defence is a plan, carefully evolved to fit your</p> <p>11 organisation. It should overlay, be part of, your</p> <p>12 general planning for fire, flood or other emergency.</p> <p>13 "Just as anyone can have a fire, anyone can get</p> <p>14 a threat. And it's not just switchboards. With 'direct</p> <p>15 dialling in', calls come directly to an office or</p> <p>16 individual and anyone can suddenly be talking to</p> <p>17 a terrorist. How he or she reacts and how the</p> <p>18 organisation responds is the key to preservation of life</p> <p>19 and property.</p> <p>20 "Basically, the plan is simple: get all the</p> <p>21 information you can from the threatener, contact police,</p> <p>22 appraise the threat, search the premises and grounds.</p> <p>23 If you suspect or find a real bomb, get the people out</p> <p>24 of the danger area. It sounds simple, and it can be, if</p> <p>25 you are prepared.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 Coordinate the call with your security department, if</p> <p>2 you have one. Give the search crew any data that you</p> <p>3 have on bomb location and time available.</p> <p>4 "Start the search. Arrange for someone to meet the</p> <p>5 officers and bring them directly to the</p> <p>6 emergency coordinator.</p> <p>7 "Now you can take a longer look at the threat.</p> <p>8 Evaluate its potential for harm. If the voice is</p> <p>9 juvenile, with others laughing in the background, it's</p> <p>10 probably a nuisance call, but worth a search. If it is</p> <p>11 an adult, one who indicates some knowledge of your</p> <p>12 premises, giving a time or location, you should</p> <p>13 consider evacuation.</p> <p>14 "As you might imagine, there is a broad spectrum of</p> <p>15 threats (some even written), ranging from a few</p> <p>16 whispered words to an elaborate, informed message.</p> <p>17 Avoid handling written threats. Preserve ..."</p> <p>18 Then it is illegible. I can't read that.</p> <p>19 Q. "[Something] threat has to be appraised. And the ..."</p> <p>20 It might be "individual".</p> <p>21 Would you mind going overleaf, please.</p> <p>22 A. "... its sinister potential judged and decision made</p> <p>23 regarding evacuation. The majority of calls are made to</p> <p>24 disrupt your operation. They want to see the people</p> <p>25 pour out, hear the sirens wail. They may be across the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

1 street watching. If you run, they have gained their aim
 2 and their mission is a success.
 3 "Remember, the motive for many bomb threats is
 4 revenge. An employee, a disgruntled customer, are the
 5 most likely callers, followed by pranksters. The
 6 likelihood of a threat being accompanied by a bomb
 7 'plant' is remote, but it happens.
 8 "Your decision can be a tough one, balancing lost
 9 time, business disruption, the chance of panic, against
 10 a personal injury, death, property destruction and
 11 a blast.
 12 "The police can assist you. They may have
 13 additional background on your caller and give you more
 14 information to help in your decision-making. But it
 15 will eventually be your decision. You have to be ready
 16 to make it without the luxury of an extended time period
 17 for consideration."
 18 Q. Thank you.
 19 The next section, section 5, is about the search
 20 crew. And guidance is given on how to go about trying
 21 to look for a suspected device.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. I would like to pick up the guidance, please, on page 24
 24 where it comes to a section on evacuation.
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Would you start reading that section, please.
 2 A. "6. Evacuation:
 3 "Again, a plan is needed and evacuation routes
 4 should be posted prominently. This is really no
 5 different from a fire drill or other emergency
 6 evacuation. But your workforce must be sure to take all
 7 personal belongings with them. A handbag, an attaché
 8 case, left behind and unidentified, can pose a nasty
 9 problem for the searchers and the bomb experts.
 10 "Today's rule of thumb is to get people at least
 11 300 feet away from the suspected object. Since you
 12 might have adverse weather, there should be some plan to
 13 have them sheltered. Don't leave your personnel milling
 14 in the streets. They could be struck by flying glass or
 15 debris. Move them out a safe distance."
 16 Q. Thank you. Then overleaf, please.
 17 A. "Some organisations give all the employees the option of
 18 leaving if there is a serious bomb threat, while
 19 a search is underway. Conversely, some portions of your
 20 work may have to be manned even during an evacuation.
 21 Depending on your particular requirements, polices must
 22 be established well in advance of a crisis. You will
 23 have to specify: who can go, who must go, who must stay.
 24 "How do you get the people out?
 25 "(a) PA announcement. It has to be urgent but not

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1 hysterical. Everyone is familiar with the term "fire
 2 drill". Prepare an announcement ready for use, but you
 3 may have to modify it on the spot. Certain exits will
 4 not be usable if they are in close proximity to
 5 the 'find'.
 6 "(b), Telephone cascade. You call several
 7 departments. They, in turn, call several, et cetera,
 8 until all are notified. Generally, supervisors of those
 9 departments will notify their people verbally and help
 10 clear the area.
 11 "Search teams can help with the evacuation and check
 12 to be sure that everyone is out. Someone should be
 13 stationed in the evacuation zone to explain the
 14 mysterious circumstances. All the evacuees should stay
 15 together and they must be prevented from re-entering the
 16 building. Police and security staff can help here by
 17 covering exits, keeping out everyone except
 18 emergency crews.
 19 "If your business is on multiple floors, clear three
 20 floors first: the one on which the object is found, the
 21 one below and the one above."
 22 Q. Thank you. I think you can stop there.
 23 And it is right also, for reference -- and I will
 24 not take you to these because I don't think they will
 25 add anything to the ones we have seen -- but there is

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1 also some guidance from Paddington Green, which I think
 2 is a police station in London, is that right?
 3 A. Yes, that is correct.
 4 Q. And also some advice from Leicester Constabulary, which
 5 is in a very similar format to that from West Midlands
 6 Police which we have already seen.
 7 A. Yes. That's correct.
 8 Q. But again, I think, with the exception of the
 9 Paddington Green advice, the date of the advise given is
 10 not clear, the Paddington Green advice being
 11 2 January 1975.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. That includes, in particular, the Metropolitan Police
 14 document, the West Midlands Police document, the
 15 Leicestershire Constabulary document, and the
 16 Home Office letter which I took you to.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 MR SKELTON: Thank you.
 19 That is all I was preparing, Sir, to lead Mr Mole
 20 through. I am not asking him any questions to evaluate
 21 the document. It is simply a neutral introduction.
 22 THE CORONER: Thank you.
 23 MR SKELTON: Thank you.
 24 Questions on behalf of the FAMILIES represented by KRW LAW
 25 MR MORGAN: Thank you, Mr Mole.

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<p>1 There are a few excerpts I would like you to read. 2 Could you go to page 4, please, Mr Mole. 3 THE CORONER: Of which document? 4 MR MORGAN: The document we are in at the minute. 5 I apologise. [INQ004860]. If you just go back to 6 page 4. 7 A. I am here. 8 Q. To assist everyone, I think it is helpful to say that 9 this is a document entitled, on page 2, "Protection 10 against bomb attacks." 11 Paragraph 4, entitled "Contingency planning". Could 12 I please ask you to read paragraphs 5(a) and 13 5(b), please. 14 A. Yes, certainly. 15 Q. I am sorry, 5(a) and (d). 16 A. 5(a) and (d). Thank you. 17 "Contingency planning. 18 "5. In drawing up contingency plans to deal with 19 emergency situations you should consider: 20 (a) all information available relating to the 21 building itself, such as its structural features 22 and location. 23 And (d): 24 "What evacuation options are available and what 25 procedures need to be organised and practised."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 own chance to get vital information. Anyone who might 2 get the call must be aware of the phone procedure." 3 Q. Thank you. Page 24, please, paragraph 6. 4 THE CORONER: That has been read. 5 MR MORGAN: That has been read. 6 THE CORONER: Yes. 7 MR MORGAN: It is one I have made a note of. I apologise. 8 Page 25. 9 THE CORONER: Also read. 10 A. Yes. 11 MR MORGAN: Then that is it. Thank you very much. 12 THE CORONER: Thank you. 13 Mr Johnson. 14 Questions on behalf of WEST MIDLANDS POLICE 15 MR JOHNSON: Sir, five minutes. 16 THE CORONER: Yes. 17 MR JOHNSON: I just want to look, first of all, at one of 18 the documents we have already looked at, and then 19 separately, very briefly, identify some 20 additional documents. 21 The document we have already looked at is 22 [INQ005107], which is one of the government documents, 23 which Mr Skelton rightly caveatted as being a general 24 guidance document from government rather than a specific 25 West Midlands Police document.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 MR MORGAN: Thank you. Could you go to page 7, please. It 2 is paragraph 16. I'm not sure if this has been read. 3 If it has, I apologise. 4 THE CORONER: It has not. 5 MR MORGAN: Okay. 6 Paragraph 16, please, Mr Mole. 7 A. Certainly. 8 "16. In the event of evacuation, no one remaining 9 should stay closer than 300 feet from the suspected 10 object. Those outside the building should be evacuated 11 to an assembly point a safe distance away, since there 12 will be a danger from flying glass or debris." 13 Q. Thank you. 14 Now, page 16. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Paragraph 3, entitled "The call". 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Could you read the first paragraph, underneath "The 19 call", please. 20 A. Certainly. 21 "3. The call. 22 "Even experienced switchboard operators accustomed 23 to sifting questionable calls have been known to crumble 24 completely when the word 'bomb' comes in. The phone 25 call will be your only contact with the terrorist, your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. If we could go to page 5, please, I just want to pick 3 out the references to evacuation. 4 So we have the heading here: 5 "Action on receipt of threat." 6 Is that right? At the top. 7 THE CORONER: The whole page has been read out. But that 8 doesn't stop your question. 9 MR JOHNSON: Thank you, Sir. 10 It has all been read out. I just want to focus on 11 evacuation and the circumstances in which there are 12 references to evacuation. 13 Paragraph 13 has been read out. I don't think there 14 is any reference to evacuation there. 15 Paragraph 14(c) refers to a need to decide whether 16 part or all of the building should be evacuated. 17 Do you see that? 18 A. Yes, that is correct. 19 Q. And that arises -- is this right -- if we look at 14: 20 where security staff should immediately inspect the 21 perimeter and, if anything is discovered which looks 22 suspicious, they should then take those actions, which 23 include deciding whether to evacuate part or all of the 24 building. Is that right? 25 A. Yes, that is correct.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 Q. Then paragraph 15, last sentence: 2 "Police, in their searches, may find a bomb and 3 immediately give instructions with regard 4 to evacuation." 5 So again there we see the sequence of searching, 6 finding and evacuation. Is that right? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Paragraph 16, last two sentences, please, Henry. 9 This is the "Unspecified internal threat". 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Last two sentences: 12 "Same sequence: if anything suspicious is found, 13 partial evacuation should take place." 14 So same sequence: search, find, evacuate? 15 A. That is correct. 16 Q. Lastly, "Specified internal threat." 17 Henry, if we can go down one inch. Thank you. 18 Paragraph 17: 19 "Once the search procedures have identified a bomb 20 or suspicious object, action will be taken immediately 21 to implement evacuation procedure." 22 So the same sequence again, is that right? 23 A. Correct. 24 Q. Then very briefly, as I appreciate the time, the jury 25 have heard evidence --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 you the sorts of things that existed. This is going to 2 be very brief, to show you not the contents of documents 3 but just the sort of documents that existed. 4 First, can we have, please, [INQ005020]. Should it 5 be triple 0? Is this not going to work? 6 All right, could we try [INQ005014]? 7 No, I don't think this is going to work, Sir. It 8 needs to be done, but I can deal with it another way. 9 But thank you very much. 10 MR SKELTON: No re-examination, thank you. 11 THE CORONER: No. 12 Thank you very much, Mr Mole. 13 A. Thank you, sir. 14 THE CORONER: Members of the jury, I'm just going to have 15 a word with counsel about timing. So if you would like 16 to withdraw. I am not going to sit much longer. But if 17 you would like to withdraw first. 18 (4.35 pm) 19 Discussion (in the absence of the jury) 20 (In the presence of the jury) 21 (4.37 pm) 22 THE CORONER: Thank you for coming back, members of the 23 jury. I just wished to discuss one or two things with 24 counsel about the timing. 25 At this stage in an Inquest, certainly one of this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 THE CORONER: Can I just pause there for a moment. 2 According to these documents, subject to how much 3 relevance they have for our purposes, the evacuation 4 procedure is normally shown to be the responsibility of 5 the employer, or the building? 6 A. Yes, normally. 7 Q. Normally, but not always? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. And subject to the advice of the police? 10 A. Yes. I think it indicates if things are found that the 11 police may advise. But it is the responsibility of the 12 employer, generally, in the documents. 13 THE CORONER: Yes. 14 MR JOHNSON: Yes, Sir. 15 A different topic, very quickly, Mr Mole. 16 The jury have heard evidence from police officers 17 who said that force orders were regularly issued. There 18 has been reference to Part 1 orders. 19 Were you aware that one of the searches that has 20 taken place for the purposes of these Inquests was 21 searches for documents that might be in the West 22 Midlands Police museum? 23 A. I was not aware. 24 Q. You were not aware of that. All right. There is 25 a limit to how far I can take this. But just to show</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 length and importance, there comes a stage, after the 2 evidence and before my summing up to you, giving you 3 directions of law and summarising the evidence, where 4 counsel make their submissions to me as to what I should 5 leave to you for your consideration. 6 Now, that is going to include something called 7 a questionnaire, which will ask you specific questions. 8 And I will give you advice and guidance about that. 9 So that is one of the areas where counsel and I will 10 have a discussion tomorrow. 11 So just to be on the safe side, I am not going to 12 invite you back tomorrow. I'm sorry it is another day, 13 but it does mean that on Wednesday morning we can finish 14 off any small pieces of evidence, and they will be tiny, 15 as the evidence in effect has now very nearly come to 16 an end. 17 So on Wednesday, after that is completed, I hope 18 I will be able to commence my summing up. 19 So I am going to ask you to come back on Wednesday 20 morning at 10.00 am. If that timing changes for any 21 reason, you will receive a call tomorrow evening. But 22 it should be 10 o'clock. 23 So until then, please do not discuss the case with 24 anybody. And that becomes particularly important now at 25 this stage, this late stage. Nor do any research.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

1 Wednesday morning. Thank you very much.
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3 Discussion (in the absence of the jury)
4 (4.42 pm)
5 (The Inquest adjourned until 10.00 am
6 on Tuesday 2 April 2019)
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