

OPUS 2

INTERNATIONAL

Inquests arising from the deaths in the Westminster Terror Attack of 22 March
2017

Day 4

September 13, 2018

Opus 2 International - Official Court Reporters

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1 Thursday, 13 September 2018
 2 (10.15 am)
 3 (Proceedings delayed)
 4 (10.26 am)
 5 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning, Mr Hough.
 6 MR HOUGH: Good morning, sir. We have tested the link to
 7 Bucharest and we understand it's working.
 8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good.
 9 MR HOUGH: The first witness today is Andrei Burnaz.
 10 MR ANDREI NICUSOR BURNAZ (Sworn)
 11 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning, Mr Burnaz.
 12 A. Good morning.
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: If you wish to sit, please do.
 14 A. Okay.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: If there are any words that are used in
 16 English that you don't understand, let us know and we'll
 17 do our best to help you with them; all right?
 18 A. Okay.
 19 Examination by MR HOUGH QC
 20 MR HOUGH: Could you give your full name to the court,
 21 please?
 22 A. Andrei Nicusor Burnaz.
 23 Q. Mr Burnaz, you understand I ask questions first on
 24 behalf of the Coroner and then there may be some
 25 questions from others. You understand also that you are

1

1 here to give evidence about the events of 22 March last
 2 year on Westminster Bridge. You made a witness
 3 statement about those six days after the date, and you
 4 may refer to it.
 5 By way of background, is this right, you're from
 6 Romania, and Andreea Cristea was your girlfriend?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. On 22 March 2017, were you in London for a holiday?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And I think on that day you had arranged to meet someone
 11 at the London Eye on the south bank at about 2.30 in the
 12 afternoon?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. I think you and Andreea arrived in the Westminster area
 15 early and visited Westminster Abbey.
 16 A. Westminster Abbey, of course.
 17 Q. And in your statement you say that you were there
 18 between 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm?
 19 A. Something like this, yes.
 20 Q. After leaving the Abbey, did you then begin walking
 21 across Westminster Bridge from the Palace of Westminster
 22 side towards the south bank side?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. As you walked across the bridge, how busy was it with
 25 other pedestrians?

2

1 A. It was very busy, very crowded on the both sides of the
 2 bridge.
 3 Q. Did you stop at any point on the bridge with Andreea?
 4 A. We stopped a little bit to take some more pictures
 5 because we was also on the day before, but the weather
 6 was not so good, so we thought that on that day the
 7 weather was nicer and to take some more pictures.
 8 Q. May we put on screen a photograph that you marked for
 9 the police, {WS0384/9}. If we can zoom in on the area
 10 of the bridge if possible.
 11 Mr Burnaz, can you identify where you stopped on the
 12 bridge?
 13 A. Yes, where the mark -- where the X it is marked.
 14 Q. So looking from the Palace of Westminster side,
 15 that's --
 16 A. On the right way.
 17 Q. About halfway down on the right?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Leave that on screen, please.
 20 I think you took photos, the two of you, of Big Ben
 21 on the north bank and the London Eye on the south bank;
 22 is that right?
 23 A. Yes, correct.
 24 Q. Now, before the attack took place, where were you and
 25 Andreea standing in relation to the pavement and

3

1 the road?
 2 A. I was on the right part of the pavement and she was,
 3 I think, 40 centimetres in the left of me, in the left
 4 side of me. So I think I was on the edge, on the right
 5 part, and she was somewhere in the middle of the
 6 pavement.
 7 Q. Which direction were you facing before the attack
 8 happened?
 9 A. The London Eye, to the river.
 10 Q. So you were facing towards the south bank?
 11 A. To the river. Towards London Eye.
 12 Q. And which direction was Andreea facing?
 13 A. Also, because she stopped to -- we stopped together to
 14 take some more pictures for the London Eye.
 15 Q. How long were you standing there with Andreea from the
 16 time you stopped, until the time that something terrible
 17 happened?
 18 A. Not more than two minutes, I think. Two or three
 19 minutes maximum.
 20 Q. Now, can we put on screen {DC5196.2/14}. Now, this is
 21 an image which we understand was taken from Andreea's
 22 phone and was a photograph she took just moments before
 23 being struck by the vehicle, and it shows, I think, that
 24 she was towards the edge of the pavement looking towards
 25 the London Eye as you have described her?

4

1 A. Correct.
 2 Q. We can take that off screen, please. How did you first
 3 become aware that something out of the ordinary was
 4 happening?
 5 A. It was very busy, very crowded at the part, of that side
 6 of the bridge, but suddenly I heard some screaming and
 7 some noises in front of me. And after that a loud
 8 bumping. I heard that something hit something, I don't
 9 know, and after that in the same time, people were
 10 screaming.
 11 Q. So that's what you heard and that's what first drew your
 12 attention.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. What did you see or hear next after that?
 15 A. I saw in front of me, I saw a car zigzagging between the
 16 pavement and the cars that were stopped for the traffic
 17 lights. I couldn't realise what was happening or what
 18 would happen, but after that I also -- I also heard the
 19 screamings, another bumping, and I saw the car come in
 20 towards us. It was in the same second, let's say. It
 21 was very quick, everything was very quick, and also in
 22 the same -- in the same time, the same second, I felt
 23 a burning -- a burning sensation on my left foot, and
 24 another banging, I think that the car hit, probably,
 25 Andreea.

5

1 Q. So the first sight you had was the vehicle zigzagging
 2 between the pavement and the road?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Do you remember where it was positioned as regards
 5 pavement and road when you first saw it?
 6 A. I think I was in the same spot where I was before.
 7 Q. I think you describe it in your statement as being half
 8 on and half off the pavement; does that ring a bell?
 9 A. Yes, that's -- I saw the left part of the car was on the
 10 pavement and the right part was on the road.
 11 Q. I think you recall also the front of the car seemed to
 12 be damaged?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You say you felt a burning on your left foot, which is
 15 I think as the vehicle passed over it. Were you able to
 16 react in any way during that split second when you saw
 17 the vehicle?
 18 A. No, it was very quick.
 19 Q. After the vehicle had passed, what could you see around
 20 you?
 21 A. After the vehicle passed, I looked in the -- on the left
 22 side of me to search for Andreea, because I didn't know
 23 what happened, but I couldn't see her, so I turned my
 24 head backwards to see the car and to see if it will stop
 25 it, or something like this. But nothing of this

6

1 happened, so I start searching for Andreea and I start
 2 running over the bridge.
 3 Q. Where did you look for her first?
 4 A. I looked in my left side, because I know that -- I knew
 5 that last time when I saw her it was there -- she was
 6 there, so I looked in my left part, in my left side.
 7 Q. When you didn't see her there on the pavement beside
 8 you, where did you look after that?
 9 A. Sorry?
 10 Q. When you didn't see her on the pavement beside you,
 11 where did you look after that?
 12 A. I looked in my -- I turned my head to the back, and
 13 after that also my front, left side, I went to the both
 14 sides of the bridge, I start running around, but
 15 I couldn't see her.
 16 After that I was to -- I start running towards the
 17 car to see what happened because I thought that she was
 18 struck by the car and she was stuck underneath the car
 19 or something.
 20 Q. So first of all you looked around you and on both sides
 21 of the bridge. You then began going after the car --
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. -- towards Parliament Square?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. As you went, did you continue to look for her?

7

1 A. Of course.
 2 Q. And did you see other casualties as you ran along?
 3 A. There were plenty people on the pavement, some of those
 4 were covered with blood and there were pools of blood
 5 everywhere.
 6 Q. Did you reach as far as the Palace of Westminster where
 7 we know the vehicle had collided with the railings?
 8 A. Yes, I arrived there, I walked -- I ran to there because
 9 after -- two or three minutes after the incident, after
 10 the car struck us, I saw plenty of police officers armed
 11 with machine guns.
 12 So I ran and I tried to explain him what happened,
 13 and I tried to explain to him that I could not find my
 14 girlfriend, and he only start yelling, "Go back, go
 15 back, clear the area", and I couldn't do anything, so
 16 I turned back to the spot that I was struck, and ...
 17 Q. Just pause there a second. When you reached
 18 Parliament Square, or near Parliament Square, and had
 19 that conversation with the police officer --
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. -- in your statement you say that you told the officer
 22 that you thought Andreea might be in the river?
 23 A. Of course.
 24 Q. And that, presumably, was because you couldn't see her
 25 anywhere else?

8

1 A. Yes, because I couldn't find her and I thought that
2 because of the car hit my left, my left foot and she was
3 in my left side, I thought that the car hit her.
4 Q. The officers were saying to clear the area.
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. And is this fair, at the time, that there were many
7 people milling around and many of them trying to talk to
8 the police officers?
9 A. Yes, there were some people trying to talk with him,
10 because they wanted to know what happened and to inform
11 him, maybe, what happened.
12 Q. After you had had that exchange with the officer, where
13 did you go?
14 A. I turned back to the spot from the middle of the bridge
15 and I started again to look around for Andreea.
16 Q. Did you try to call her on your phone?
17 A. I tried to call her on the phone. Her phone start
18 ringing and I thought that this is a positive thing, but
19 I found her phone and her glasses in a pool of blood,
20 covered with blood.
21 Q. And I think you found them close to where you had been
22 standing when the vehicle went past?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Did you again look over into the river?
25 A. Yes, on the both sides.

9

1 Q. After looking around desperately in this way, did you
2 then call Andreea's family?
3 A. Straightaway after I found her phone I called Andreea's
4 sister, Magda, to inform her what happened, and to
5 inform her that I cannot find Andreea, and I don't know
6 what happened, where she is. I thought that she's in
7 the river.
8 Q. And you continued your search after that?
9 A. Of course, for a couple of minutes. Because nobody --
10 nobody didn't do anything about this so I tried to --
11 I thought that maybe it will be better to jump in the
12 river to search for her, but I didn't.
13 Q. We've seen and heard from others that at this point the
14 bridge was beginning to fill up with police officers and
15 other emergency service personnel; is that right?
16 A. The bridge was filled with police officers, with armed
17 police officers. The area was covered with one, two
18 helicopters, police boats, fire-fighting boats,
19 everything. So I think this was after -- maximum
20 10 minutes after the impact.
21 Q. I think over this period you also made further calls to
22 Andreea's family; is that right?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And a little --
25 A. I also called my mother to inform her what happened.

10

1 Q. And then did a time come when you spoke to another
2 police officer?
3 A. It was police officer -- there were many police officers
4 but I went to one that was on the other part of the
5 bridge near the Hilton Hotel, or Marriott, where it is
6 there, to inform her what happened and what I think,
7 because nobody take action about nothing, about my
8 girlfriend. And I informed her -- I'm informed her that
9 I think Andreea was hit by the car and she's in the
10 water right now.
11 She didn't do anything about this, just take my
12 birthday date and some information about me.
13 Q. Now, was that conversation with the female officer on
14 the south bank --
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. -- near the London Eye side?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. What time did that conversation take place?
19 A. I think 15 minutes after the impact.
20 Q. You say in your statement that you were able to check
21 that time from the time of a text that you sent at
22 around the same time?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And did you remain there in the South Bank area for some
25 time before you were taken to a nearby hotel?

11

1 A. Yes. I was sitting right there because I wanted to
2 inform another police officer about what happened, and
3 I tried to explain to the second one, but after I tried
4 to explain to the second one, the police lady officer
5 stopped and trying to -- she pressed the button of the
6 radio and informed her other colleagues about what
7 happened, about what I said, "I think my girlfriend is
8 in the water". So that was the first time when somebody
9 took action about this.
10 Q. Of course, you didn't know at that time that people were
11 doing something about retrieving Andreea?
12 A. Yes, I didn't.
13 Q. After you had had that discussion with the female
14 officer, about 15 minutes after the incident, and she
15 had passed on the message on her radio, were you then
16 taken away by police to a place where you could wait?
17 A. After that the police lady officer, she used to stay,
18 I think, for one hour or something like this on a bench
19 near the side with me, one hour, one and a half hour,
20 maybe, and after that we went inside the Marriott Hotel,
21 or Hilton, because inside of it there were plenty of
22 injured people, so they were treated by paramedics. We
23 went inside, in a conference room, and we waited for,
24 I think, half an hour, maybe 45 minutes, and after that
25 a paramedic came and asked me how I'm feeling. He tried

12

1 to consult me and she only gave me paracetamol and
 2 that's it. She said that I have to go to King's College
 3 Hospital for treatment, or something, for x-ray.
 4 Q. While you were at the hotel, did you receive a call from
 5 Andreea's sister?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. What did she tell you?
 8 A. She said that she called for the embassy and they tried
 9 to do all their best for finding her, and she said that
 10 she will inform me about this.
 11 Q. And did she later tell you that Andreea had been taken
 12 to hospital?
 13 A. Yes. First time she said that they found Andreea and
 14 she's in St Thomas' Hospital, I think, the one from near
 15 the bridge. But it was uncertain, this information. So
 16 I spoke with the police lady officer and I told him that
 17 if she can go there or do we ask her colleagues to go
 18 there to check if she is really there.
 19 Q. You had been told that you should go to hospital because
 20 you had suffered injury. You were, I think, yourself
 21 taken to King's College Hospital, as was suggested?
 22 A. Yes, I was, with an ambulance.
 23 Q. And were you informed while there that Andreea had been
 24 moved, or was at the Royal London Hospital?
 25 A. The Royal London Hospital, yes.

13

1 Q. After you had received medical assessment, were you
 2 taken to the Royal London Hospital where Andreea was
 3 being cared for?
 4 A. Yes, I was taken there by two officers.
 5 Q. And I think when there you were told of her condition?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Mr Burnaz, is there anything else you would like to say
 8 about the events which you lived through that day?
 9 A. No.
 10 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are my questions.
 11 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
 12 MR PATTERSON: Mr Burnaz, I ask questions on behalf of the
 13 family of Andreea. Could we have the CCTV compilation,
 14 please, that we looked at with Mr Osland. I would like
 15 your help, please, if you can give us some help, with
 16 positions on the bridge, and if we look at some CCTV
 17 footage, I don't know if you have seen this before; have
 18 you?
 19 A. I saw something.
 20 Q. Yes. So there are recordings that show some of your
 21 movements across the bridge?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 (Video played in court)
 24 Q. Pausing it there, please. We can see you with --
 25 I think you've got a baseball cap on; yes?

14

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And we can see Andreea to your left. She's wearing her
 3 glasses?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And you told us about how later the glasses were found.
 6 She had a backpack over her shoulders, didn't she?
 7 A. Yes, an olive one, yes.
 8 Q. And an umbrella on her wrist; yes?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. If we play on, please, and perhaps the operator, as soon
 11 as we get to the second clip, pause it immediately once
 12 we've got the second clip.
 13 Pausing there. She was wearing, we know,
 14 light-coloured trousers, and that helps us to pick her
 15 out on the pavement there; do you see in the distance on
 16 the pavement?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. You are a little ahead of her at that stage, but she's
 19 there on the pavement and in a moment I'll ask for the
 20 footage to be played on, but if you just look closely at
 21 her, she has her hand raised and appears to be taking
 22 a photograph with her phone at that stage; is that
 23 correct?
 24 A. Yes, correct.
 25 Q. And if we play on, please. Pause. Did you see her hand

15

1 was up, she's stationary, her hand comes down and then
 2 she resumes walking. Is that right: she was taking
 3 a picture?
 4 A. Correct.
 5 Q. And if we look, she's quite close to the lamppost that
 6 we can see on the wall of the bridge, perhaps with the
 7 cursor we could just highlight the lamppost. Do you
 8 see?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You see where the cursor is, and in a moment we get
 11 a side view of the bridge and we know that that's one of
 12 the legs, or pillars of the bridge, as one arch ends and
 13 the next arch begins; do you understand?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And if we go to graphics, please, the graphics bundle,
 16 {DC7960/46}, just so that we can see the position that
 17 you were on the bridge at that stage, so that you
 18 understand, Mr Burnaz, the police have had plans drawn
 19 up with as much precision as is possible, to identify
 20 where you were, and if you look at the bottom left of
 21 this plan, the approximate location of the photograph
 22 that was taken is marked in yellow, and again, perhaps
 23 with the cursor if we can show where I'm talking about;
 24 do you see?
 25 A. Yes.

16

1 Q. So it's near that leg of the bridge and the lamppost
2 that we looked at, and at the top right there is the
3 image that you have looked at already that was taken on
4 her phone, later recovered from her phone, showing the
5 London Eye in the background.
6 As we can see, Mr Burnaz, it's about 54 metres from
7 that point where she was standing and taking the
8 photograph, to the point of impact, again, if the cursor
9 could be used, please, the bottom right of the plan; do
10 you see that?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. We know that the photograph was taken at 14.39, and for
13 any of the lawyers who want to check that, it's witness
14 statement {WS0056H/2}, so we have the metadata, the
15 details on the phone, the picture was taken at 14.39.
16 Then if we go back, please, to clip number 2, and
17 the video footage, and if we carry on, please, playing
18 it from where we were, and then pause. We see her
19 walking along from that position where the picture was
20 taken near the lamppost, carrying on along the bridge;
21 yes?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And we see you ahead of her, again, we can pick out your
24 baseball cap. About, what do you think, perhaps
25 something like -- some metres ahead of her; 10 metres,

17

1 perhaps?
2 A. Maximum, probably.
3 Q. 8 metres? What would you say?
4 A. 8 to 10 maximum.
5 Q. Yes.
6 Now, we know from other footage that she went into
7 the water at 14.40.21, and we have, I think, three
8 different clips in total, all of which suggest that that
9 was the time she entered the water, so it seems,
10 Mr Burnaz, that there was about a minute that went by
11 and then we had the impact.
12 Now, during that period as she walked along those
13 54 metres or so, were you still that distance apart or
14 did there come a time when you came together; can you
15 remember?
16 A. We came together.
17 Q. And so what happened; had you carried on walking or had
18 you stopped? What can you remember? Do you have
19 a clear recollection now?
20 A. I think I stopped for a little bit, for a couple of
21 seconds maybe, to wait for her, and after that we start
22 walking together.
23 Q. Right. Then as we get to the point of impact, did there
24 come a time when either of you stopped, or were you
25 still walking?

18

1 A. I think we continued walking. I cannot remember
2 exactly.
3 Q. No other pictures were found on her phone, so do you
4 think that there was any further attempt by her to take
5 a picture, or not?
6 A. Yes, I think after the last one, after the last picture
7 that you showed, we start walking and I cannot remember
8 if we -- in the time of the impact that we were walking
9 or if we were stopped for taking pictures.
10 Q. You simply can't remember one way or the other?
11 A. No, I cannot remember.
12 Q. You said that you thought you were about 40 centimetres
13 apart, you closer to the wall, her to the left; is that?
14 A. To the left, yes.
15 Q. Were you level with each other or was one of you ahead
16 of the other; can you help with that?
17 A. Maybe not in the same line, but, let's say,
18 1 square metre, something like this.
19 Q. Yes. And who was where?
20 A. I cannot remember. Maybe her.
21 Q. So you think maybe you were a little ahead of her, or --
22 A. I think --
23 Q. -- or behind her, or what?
24 A. -- she was a little bit ahead of me.
25 Q. A little ahead of you. Was she still facing forwards,

19

1 as you would be --
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. -- walking along?
4 Later that day when you were speaking to a police
5 officer, you said that you had been holding Andreea's
6 hand at the moment of impact. Do you remember saying
7 that?
8 A. Before the impact, I think.
9 Q. At the point of impact were you holding her hand?
10 A. Maybe. Or no, it was impossible, because she was
11 a couple of centimetres, 50, or something, nearby.
12 Q. Yes. And this is a statement of Matthew Murrant, for
13 any lawyers who want to follow this, this is a police
14 officer who spoke to you a little later:
15 "While talking to Andrei he told you that he was
16 stood with his girlfriend holding her hand and [that] he
17 felt the car hit foot and that he turned round and
18 his girlfriend had gone into the river."
19 That's what that police officer recorded you as
20 saying. First of all, did you say that to the officer
21 later that day?
22 A. Maybe.
23 Q. And, secondly, is that accurate, or not?
24 A. I was in shock so I cannot remember exactly. Maybe
25 I said to her that I -- that Andreea was near me, and

20

1 maybe we held hands together, but I cannot remember.
 2 Q. Yes. And another witness who spoke with you, a woman
 3 called Yasmin Rehman, if anyone, again, wants to check
 4 her statement, who spoke with you in a van when there
 5 was a policewoman, a female officer, you have referred
 6 to a female officer:
 7 "He told the policewoman he had been holding his
 8 girlfriend's hand on the bridge when a car had run over
 9 his foot and his girlfriend had just disappeared."
 10 Again, do you think you said that on that occasion
 11 in the presence of one other member of the public, or
 12 one other casualty?
 13 A. Yes, so maybe in that second we were very close to each
 14 other, or trying to take our hands together.
 15 Q. But you don't think you were holding hands at that
 16 stage?
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. You've described that in the split second that you saw
 19 the car, there was nothing you could do?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. And certainly you couldn't get your foot out of the way?
 22 A. It was very, very fast, so everything happened in
 23 a split of the second.
 24 Q. And when you looked, Andreea had gone, so you didn't
 25 actually see the impact on her; is that right?

21

1 A. No.
 2 Q. And you've described your frantic efforts searching for
 3 her, trying to find out where she was?
 4 A. Of course.
 5 Q. Did you yourself ever look over the side of the bridge?
 6 A. Over the side, of the both sides of the bridge.
 7 Q. And couldn't see her?
 8 A. No. Maybe it was because of the current of the water.
 9 Q. We know that within about two minutes she had been
 10 secured by a boat hook, held by somebody on a boat,
 11 a little beyond the bridge. You didn't see anything
 12 like that --
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. -- happening down below on that side of the bridge?
 15 A. I didn't see anything about this.
 16 Q. And you've explained how you found her phone, spoke with
 17 her sister Magda, and the family on more than one
 18 occasion?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And ultimately you -- after you received your
 21 treatment -- were able to go and see her at the
 22 hospital?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 MR PATTERSON: Mr Burnaz, thank you very much for coming
 25 along and thank you very much for the assistance you've

22

1 been able to provide to the family in knowing a little
 2 more about those final minutes before the impact. Thank
 3 you.
 4 MR HOUGH: No questions from anyone else, Mr Burnaz. Thank
 5 you very much for giving evidence.
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you for coming, Mr Burnaz. Thank
 7 you.
 8 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Michael Brown.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 10 MR MICHAEL ASHLEY BROWN (Sworn)
 11 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning, Mr Brown.
 12 A. Good morning.
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: If you wish to sit, please do so, make
 14 yourself comfortable.
 15 A. Thank you.
 16 THE CHIEF CORONER: We'll provide you with a glass of water.
 17 Can I make one request, Mr Brown, there is a microphone,
 18 which will help amplify your voice. Speak nice and loud
 19 and clearly so we can all hear.
 20 A. Thank you.
 21 Examination by MR HOUGH QC
 22 MR HOUGH: Could you give your full name to the court,
 23 please?
 24 A. Michael Ashley Brown.
 25 Q. Mr Brown, you know that I am asking questions first on

23

1 behalf of the Coroner and there may be some questions
 2 from others after me. You understand you're here to
 3 give evidence about the events of 22 March last year on
 4 Westminster Bridge?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You made a number of witness statements close to the
 7 time, and you may refer to them. If I refer to one, it
 8 will be the long statement of seven pages.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. On 22 March last year were you working in Central
 11 London?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. I think at the time of the events with which we are
 14 concerned you were driving home?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. What kind of vehicle were you driving?
 17 A. A Citroen Berlingo.
 18 Q. It is a van?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And what colour?
 21 A. White.
 22 Q. Did your route take you across Westminster Bridge?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Was that driving from the Parliament side towards the
 25 south bank, St Thomas' Hospital side?

24

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. How was the traffic on the bridge that afternoon?
 3 A. There was a little bit of traffic, but average, normal,
 4 everyday traffic.
 5 Q. Where had you reached on the bridge when you became
 6 aware of something very unusual happening?
 7 A. I'd say it was nearly halfway, halfway across the bridge
 8 heading south.
 9 Q. Were you stationary or moving when you noticed
 10 something?
 11 A. I was stationary first and then I'd just pulled off in
 12 the traffic going along about 10 miles an hour.
 13 Q. What first drew your attention to something happening at
 14 the side of the road?
 15 A. I heard a loud bang but I didn't realise what it was,
 16 I just thought something had hit a bus, because of the
 17 buses on the bridge, so I thought something had crashed
 18 into the bus.
 19 Q. From where was the bang coming?
 20 A. In front of me to my right-hand side.
 21 Q. Did you look in the direction of the bang?
 22 A. Sorry?
 23 Q. Did you look in the direction of the bang?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. What did you see?

25

1 A. I saw a vehicle on the pavement driving forward on the
 2 pavement side, the left-hand side.
 3 Q. So on the opposite side of the road --
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. -- coming in the opposite direction to you?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. What type of vehicle was it that you noticed?
 8 A. I don't know what the make of -- I couldn't tell you
 9 what the make and model was. It was just a 4x4,
 10 silver/dark-coloured.
 11 Q. I think at one point you were able to identify part of
 12 the registration number?
 13 A. Yes, that was EK66.
 14 Q. At what point did you identify that?
 15 A. That was when somebody had brought the plate back, after
 16 it came off the vehicle, and somebody brought it back up
 17 the road.
 18 Q. So that was later on in the story?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. You say that the car was going along the pavement. What
 21 was happening to people on the pavement?
 22 A. It was hitting people as it drove along the pavement,
 23 people were being flung everywhere, across the road.
 24 Q. Among the people you saw being hit and "flung
 25 everywhere" as you put it, did you see, or did your

26

1 attention focus on anyone in particular?
 2 A. Yes, I saw the vehicle hit a lady. She went about
 3 10 feet in the air. As she came down, she went straight
 4 over the side and into the Thames.
 5 Q. So she was thrown, you say, into the air?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. You describe it in your statement as "like
 8 a somersault".
 9 A. Yes, she did somer -- she spun over and then she came
 10 down and went straight into the Thames.
 11 Q. Can you recall where she had been on the pavement before
 12 the vehicle had struck her?
 13 A. I'm not too sure.
 14 Q. How clear was your view towards her when you saw her?
 15 Was it obstructed by any traffic or --
 16 A. Nothing in front of me, no.
 17 Q. May we have on screen a photograph {AV0055/22}. There
 18 must be a mistake with the reference. We'll address
 19 that later.
 20 In response to what you had seen, what did you do?
 21 A. At first I didn't register what was happening. I turned
 22 my van round, done an U-turn, and then parked up on the
 23 opposite side, on the left-hand side facing Parliament,
 24 parked up, jumped out, ran to the side of the bridge,
 25 looked over. I couldn't see her. I then ran to the

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1 other side of the road, still couldn't see her. I then
 2 ran back to my van, grabbed my phone, started dialling
 3 999, ran back to the bridge. I still couldn't see her
 4 so I then ran back across the road. At that time there
 5 I'm on the phone to the police, dialling 999, explained
 6 what's happened. I then saw her floating in the Thames,
 7 face-down.
 8 Q. Let's take that in stages if we may. You turned your
 9 van in an U-turn and stopped it, parking up on the
 10 opposite side of the road from you?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. So the same side as the woman had gone over?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You first of all looked over the parapet into the
 15 water --
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. -- where you'd seen her thrown over?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. How long did you look for her there?
 20 A. 10, 15 seconds.
 21 Q. You then started your 999 call because you couldn't see
 22 her?
 23 A. At first when I looked over the first parapet, I didn't
 24 see her. I then ran across the road, because the Thames
 25 was flowing, so I ran across to see if I saw her on the

28

1 other side, I didn't see her. I then ran back to my
 2 vehicle to grab my phone.
 3 Q. I think you have been able to time the call on your
 4 phone?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And what time was it?
 7 A. That was about ...
 8 Q. It is page 6 of your statement, timed at 2.41, right at
 9 the top of page 6 of your long statement. You checked
 10 your phone and the call was timed at 2.41 pm.
 11 A. 2.41.
 12 Q. Yes. As you were continuing that call, did a time come
 13 when you were looking over the bridge and you did see
 14 something?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Which side was that?
 17 A. That was on the -- I'm parked on the left-hand side
 18 facing Parliament, we're on the opposite side of
 19 the road now, facing away from Big Ben.
 20 Q. So you were on the opposite side from the Big Ben side?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And what did you see in the river below?
 23 A. I saw the woman floating face-down in the water and
 24 there was a pool of blood around her. I then started --
 25 there was a boat to my left. I just --

29

1 Q. Just pause there, please. Just take it in stages, if we
 2 may. You saw the woman floating in the water face-down?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You saw blood around her head?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Was she moving?
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. Can you remember her direction and how she was
 9 positioned in the water?
 10 A. Just arms out, floating.
 11 Q. You recall -- you say in your statement that her feet
 12 were closest to the bridge?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Could you see her stationary or was the current visibly
 15 carrying her?
 16 A. The current was carrying her.
 17 Q. In what direction?
 18 A. I believe it was downstream, towards -- that would have
 19 been Lambeth Bridge.
 20 Q. And you were about to say that you saw one or more boats
 21 in the water nearby?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And what sort of boat was it?
 24 A. It was a Clipper, like a passenger boat, that go up and
 25 down the Thames with the people.

30

1 Q. What was it doing when you first saw it?
 2 A. It was just starting to pull out.
 3 Q. Just pulling away from a pier?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. You are, I think, still on the 999 call at this time?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. What did you do at that stage?
 8 A. I was then shouting -- because the boat was just pulling
 9 out, there was a gentleman at the front of the boat,
 10 I started shouting and screaming to get his attention.
 11 Q. Were you successful in gaining the attention of anyone
 12 on the boat?
 13 A. Yes, yes.
 14 Q. What happened? Who acknowledged you?
 15 A. Sorry?
 16 Q. Did anyone acknowledge you?
 17 A. Yes, he acknowledged me, yes.
 18 Q. Was anyone brought who seemed to have a position of
 19 responsibility on the boat?
 20 A. Sorry?
 21 Q. Was anyone brought who seem to have a position of
 22 responsibility?
 23 A. I believe so, yes.
 24 Q. The photograph I was trying to bring up earlier, for
 25 which I got the reference wrong, was {AV0057/22}. Now,

31

1 this was the scene on the bridge in the moments before
 2 you made your U-turn across the road. If we look just
 3 to the right-hand side of the long pillar or lamppost
 4 that's in the foreground and we bring the cursor up
 5 towards Portcullis House, can we see a white van there?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Is that your van?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. So that's where you had been driving before you did your
 10 U-turn?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. I think we've actually seen some footage on which your
 13 U-turn appears. You can bring that down, please, now.
 14 May we now look at another photograph, {PH0417/1}.
 15 Can we rotate it, please. Now, this is a photograph
 16 taken later in the sequence of events. If we put the
 17 cursor on the screen about two-thirds of the way up and
 18 move to the left, please, can we see a white van that's
 19 parked up on the Parliament side of the bridge?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. That, I think, is your van as well, isn't it?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And looking at the side of the bridge closest to us, can
 24 we see a large passenger vessel on this side?
 25 A. Yes.

32

1 Q. Is that the boat to which you signalled?
 2 A. I believe so.
 3 Q. That's the Millennium Clipper cruise boat. We can leave
 4 that on screen, please.
 5 After you had shouted down and been acknowledged, do
 6 you recall seeing anything else happening below you?
 7 A. I saw the -- I don't know what boat it was, but there
 8 was a little boat as well that pulled up next to the
 9 side of the bigger boat.
 10 Q. So you saw a little boat coming --
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. -- towards the larger boat?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. We know that the little boat we see over on the right
 15 with the orange cabin on it is the Fireflash London Fire
 16 Brigade boat; is that the boat that you saw?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. So you saw that approaching the larger boat. Did you
 19 see anything else?
 20 A. No, but I'd then run back across the road, trying to
 21 help other people on the other side of the road.
 22 Q. So you had passed the message on --
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. -- and then you'd decided to go to the assistance of
 25 others?

33

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. You went back, as you say, towards the side where your
 3 van was parked?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. What was the scene there?
 6 A. Carnage. A lot of people lying down injured, a lot of
 7 people screaming. There was a group of, I think, three
 8 or four Chinese people that had been hit. Further down
 9 there was another two guys lying down on the road that
 10 had been hit.
 11 Q. Did you give some assistance to those people who were
 12 apparently injured?
 13 A. I tried to speak -- to help the Chinese couple but they
 14 didn't speak any English so I couldn't help. They
 15 couldn't understand me, I couldn't understand them.
 16 Q. Did you become aware at a time of doctors and nurses
 17 beginning to arrive on the bridge?
 18 A. Yes. Yes. I was still on the phone when I first saw
 19 the nurses and doctors running across the bridge.
 20 Q. And while on the bridge I think you saw a number of
 21 other, more seriously injured --
 22 A. Yes, yes.
 23 Q. -- casualties, including the lady under the bus?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. For all of the sequence of events that you have

34

1 described from the time you picked up your phone, you
 2 were on the emergency call, weren't you?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. May we briefly look at the transcript of that? We heard
 5 some of it yesterday, it's {DC5213/1}. If we look after
 6 you have been connected you said that there was a major
 7 accident on Westminster Bridge.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. You referred to at least 20 people knocked over.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. You then said "There's a woman in the water drowning"?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Then after a few moments you said you were trying to get
 14 some attention from a boat?
 15 A. Yes, that's when I shouted down to the boat.
 16 Q. Then a couple of minutes later while answering
 17 a question about where you were, you said that the woman
 18 had been spotted in the Thames?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Then the next comment you made was:
 21 "They're gonna, they're gonna fish her out."
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Can you remember what led you to say they were going to
 24 fish her out?
 25 A. Because she was starting to go under, she was starting

35

1 to go under and coming back up, and then because I saw
 2 the boats I thought they would get her out.
 3 Q. So you didn't see them actually doing anything to fish
 4 her out --
 5 A. No, no.
 6 Q. -- you assumed that had happened?
 7 A. No, no, I just presumed.
 8 Q. And then you referred again to about 20--odd people
 9 having been run over?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much, Mr Brown, thank you for all
 12 your evidence and your help that day.
 13 A. You're welcome.
 14 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
 15 MR PATTERSON: Mr Brown, I ask questions on behalf of the
 16 family of the young woman who you saw going over into
 17 the river.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And can I make it plain that on their behalf, I would
 20 like to express their immense gratitude for the efforts
 21 that you made to draw attention --
 22 A. No problem.
 23 Q. -- to what had happened and to get her help.
 24 A few details, if I may, please. We saw the
 25 photographs of where your car was.

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1 A. Could you just give me two minutes, please?
 2 MR PATTERSON: Yes, of course.
 3 THE CHIEF CORONER: Absolutely. Would you like a short
 4 break?
 5 A. Yes, please.
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Patterson, I think what we'll do is
 7 we'll just take a short break.
 8 MR PATTERSON: Yes. I won't be lengthy.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: No. It may be that we don't need to
 10 leave, but we'll just give Mr Brown a few minutes.
 11 (Pause).
 12 A. Thank you, sorry.
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: That's quite all right, Mr Brown,
 14 there's no need to apologise at all. I know that
 15 Mr Patterson only has a few questions for you.
 16 MR PATTERSON: I will be as quick as I can, Mr Brown.
 17 A. No problem.
 18 Q. Just two areas, really, I need your help with.
 19 A. Yes, no problem.
 20 Q. We saw the photographs of your car and you had explained
 21 that you were driving towards the south bank, saw what
 22 you saw, turned round and parked up?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. You had a very clear and good view of what happened?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. In your statement you estimated that you were something
 2 like 12 to 15 feet away --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- from the woman that you saw?
 5 A. It was literally opposite me. I'm on this side and it
 6 was literally opposite me it happened.
 7 Q. Looking through your driver's window to your right?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. No obstacles?
 10 A. No, nothing at all.
 11 Q. You could see her at least 10 feet into the air is what
 12 you have consistently said as to the height that she was
 13 thrown?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. As to where she was at the point of impact, in your
 16 statement that was given on the day, the 22nd, this is
 17 the three-page statement, you said at the top of page 2:
 18 "I saw her standing by the barrier near the water,
 19 and the car hit her and she spun into the air."
 20 So you were saying that she was by the barrier in
 21 that statement?
 22 A. Yes, she was near enough to the -- to the iron railings
 23 on the bridge.
 24 Q. Close to the railings?
 25 A. Yes, yes.

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1 Q. So from what you could see, not by the kerb or in the
 2 middle of the pavement or anything like that, but next
 3 to the railings; is that right?
 4 A. I believe she next to the railings. I believe -- I do
 5 believe so she was by the railings.
 6 Q. Did you see anyone next to her or near her at that point
 7 when you saw her and the impact?
 8 A. Basically I wasn't really paying that much attention.
 9 I saw the vehicle coming across the bridge and hitting
 10 people. It wasn't registering what was happening. So
 11 I was just carrying on driving straight and then as
 12 I saw it got closer, I turned my head and looked and
 13 that's when I saw the vehicle hit her and she -- go up
 14 in the air.
 15 Q. Do you have any recollection of there being somebody
 16 next to her, or can you not say?
 17 A. I believe there was. I do believe there was.
 18 Q. But whether there was more than one, or ...?
 19 A. I don't know.
 20 Q. I would like us to, if the operator could load the
 21 compilation in relation to Andreea, we have the
 22 recording where you speak over your phone. We've looked
 23 at the transcript, but I would just like to play, with
 24 you, now a little bit and just ask for your help as to
 25 what was going on at that point. We know that she went

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1 into the water at 14.40, we have that time from three
 2 different pieces of footage. We know that you rang at
 3 14.41, you've told us, so within about a minute you're
 4 on the phone trying to get her help; is that right?
 5 A. Yes. Yes.
 6 Q. So if the operator could just bring us forward in the
 7 compilation to the point where we have the audio
 8 recording played.
 9 (Audio CAD 4731 played in court)
 10 Pause there. We can hear the sense of urgency in
 11 your voice, Mr Brown; do you agree?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And we hear the language you used. You told us that you
 14 presumed that when they'd spotted her in the water they
 15 were going to fish her out and get her out of the water?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And at this stage it's very soon after she's gone into
 18 the water; is that right?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And you told us that you drew her presence in the river
 21 to the attention of someone on the boat?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. You were shouting at them?
 24 A. Yes, I was shouting and screaming.
 25 Q. What sort of words were you screaming at them?

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1 A. I was just shouting -- I was just screaming, trying to
 2 get their attention. I was just shouting about --
 3 I can't remember what I was shouting but I was screaming
 4 just to try and get some attention.
 5 Q. And were you gesturing?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. You're raising your hands now. And you said there was
 8 an acknowledgment back at you?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. What sort of acknowledgment; was there a hand raised?
 11 A. Yes, a hand was raised and he walked to the front of the
 12 boat and looked over.
 13 Q. So at that stage what did you think was going to happen?
 14 A. He -- they were going to save her.
 15 Q. And you had done what you had set out to do?
 16 A. Well, I could have done. Well, yes, basically. If
 17 I could have done, I would have done more.
 18 Q. And presumably you knew that time was of the essence in
 19 order to get her out of the water as quickly as
 20 possible; is that right?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And you even considered at one stage yourself jumping
 23 into the river?
 24 A. I can't swim.
 25 Q. The thought went through your mind?

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1 A. It would put us both in danger so I changed my mind.
 2 Q. We're grateful that you did change your mind, Mr Brown.
 3 Getting her out of the water appears to have been your
 4 main concern; is that right?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. In everything that you did?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 MR PATTERSON: Mr Brown, can I repeat what I said: thank you
 9 for what you did.
 10 A. You ain't got to thank me, it's just something that just
 11 come natural to me to do. You haven't got to thank me.
 12 MR HOUGH: No further questions. Thank you very much,
 13 Mr Brown, for your evidence.
 14 A. You're welcome.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Brown, can I echo what's been said.
 16 Thank you first of all for coming along, I appreciate
 17 it's difficult sometimes having to relive these
 18 incidents, but also thank you for everything you did on
 19 the day.
 20 A. You're welcome.
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much.
 22 A. Thank you very much.
 23 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Danny Cooper.
 24 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 25 Mr Hough, I was going to suggest when we take our

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1 break, I don't know if now might be the right time to do
 2 it or whether after this witness. I was slightly
 3 non-plussed by the clock in front of me which has
 4 stopped at 11.07, but it is in fact 11.35.
 5 MR HOUGH: I'm aware. In that case, we could take our
 6 break.
 7 THE CHIEF CORONER: Shall we take our break there?
 8 MR HOUGH: We have a very full day of evidence so if all the
 9 advocates can be back within the 15 minutes.
 10 THE CHIEF CORONER: Absolutely. We will start on the dot of
 11 11.50.
 12 (11.34 am)
 13 (A short break)
 14 (11.52 am)
 15 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Danny Cooper.
 16 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 17 MR DANNY COOPER (Affirmed)
 18 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Cooper, if you would like to sit
 19 please do so. Make yourself comfortable.
 20 Examination by MR HOUGH QC
 21 MR HOUGH: Could you give your full name to the court,
 22 please?
 23 A. It's Danny Cooper.
 24 Q. Mr Cooper, you know I am asking questions first on
 25 behalf of the Coroner and then there will be questions

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1 from others.
 2 You are here to give evidence, you know, about the
 3 events of 22 March last year near Westminster Bridge?
 4 A. That's correct.
 5 Q. You may refer to your witness statement, dated 3 April,
 6 if you wish.
 7 What was your job in March 2017?
 8 A. I was the -- I was a captain at City Cruises. On the
 9 day of the event, I was a mate on board.
 10 Q. How long had you been working for City Cruises and
 11 specifically as a captain?
 12 A. Approximately 12 -- 11,12 years.
 13 Q. Did you have any qualifications relevant to that role?
 14 A. Yes, I've got a fully endorsed boatmasters' licence.
 15 Q. What were your duties in that post?
 16 A. Just to navigate the vessel, deal with passengers,
 17 boarding on and off.
 18 Q. To be clear, the type of vessel we're concerned with is
 19 a large passenger vessel, travelling up and down the
 20 Thames.
 21 On 22 March last year, what time of day did you
 22 start your duties? I think you put it at 9.15 in your
 23 witness statement?
 24 A. Yes, approximately 9.15.
 25 Q. Were you working with a fellow captain on that date?

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1 A. I was, yes, Gordon Markley.
 2 Q. Were there other crew on board?
 3 A. Yes, cabin crew.
 4 Q. I think three of them.
 5 A. Three of them.
 6 Q. I think you are aware that City Cruises had a number of
 7 procedures, documented procedures for various
 8 situations?
 9 A. That's correct.
 10 Q. Can we bring up {DC8012/1}, please. Now, this is one of
 11 the procedures, and it's the "Man overboard" procedure.
 12 Was that one that you were familiar with?
 13 A. It is, sir, yes.
 14 Q. And this was the procedure, was it, to be followed in
 15 the event of somebody going over the side of the boat?
 16 A. That's correct.
 17 Q. And it involved an eight-stage procedure: releasing
 18 a lifebuoy, making contact with VTS; what was VTS?
 19 A. They are the governing body for the river, they control
 20 the traffic.
 21 Q. Informing the captain. That's the captain of the
 22 vessel?
 23 A. Correct.
 24 Q. Then going to rescue position, deploying a grab net or
 25 an MOB ladder; what are they?

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1 A. A man overboard ladder attaches to the side of the boat,
 2 you drop it down, somebody will climb up it. The same
 3 with the scramble net: throw them over the side of the
 4 boat and, again, somebody would climb up the side.
 5 Q. So they would only be of any use as equipment for
 6 somebody who was conscious and able to climb up?
 7 A. That's correct.
 8 Q. And then there were procedures for what would happen
 9 after the person was on board?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Now, we've reviewed the City Cruises procedures, I don't
 12 think there was a specific procedure for finding
 13 somebody who is in the water unconscious?
 14 A. Not that I recall in the book, no.
 15 Q. Is that a situation, finding someone in the water
 16 unconscious not from your boat, something that you had
 17 ever come across as a captain in your 12 years
 18 previously?
 19 A. I had done previously, yes.
 20 Q. On those occasions -- first of all, how many occasions
 21 have you come across that?
 22 A. Actually going out to assist and keep hold of the body
 23 once, and I've seen it happen another two or three
 24 times.
 25 Q. Had you seen what had been done to get people who are

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1 unconscious onto the side of boats?
 2 A. Yes, just smaller boats are used, the assistance of
 3 other vessels that we've got around us on the river,
 4 emergency services.
 5 Q. Had you had any experience of getting an unconscious
 6 person onto the side of a boat of your kind?
 7 A. No, sir. No.
 8 Q. Now, we've seen footage showing the Millennium Cruises
 9 clipper boat. The sides are quite high out of the
 10 water.
 11 A. Mm-hm.
 12 Q. Had you received any training or guidance, or did you
 13 have any experience in how to get an unconscious person
 14 up the side of a boat like that?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. Thank you very much. We can take that document off the
 17 screen now.
 18 Now, on the morning of 22 March 2017, you've told us
 19 that you started work at 9.15 am and I think, according
 20 to your statement, you had done a number of trips in
 21 both directions on the river --
 22 A. That's correct.
 23 Q. -- before the events with which we're concerned? Is it
 24 right to say that your boat followed a fixed timetable
 25 for its journeys up and down the Thames?

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1 A. That's correct.
 2 Q. After a trip to Greenwich that day, did you come up the
 3 river to Westminster Pier, arriving there at about 2.30
 4 in the afternoon?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 Q. When was your next scheduled time for leaving that pier?
 7 A. 2.40.
 8 Q. 2.40 pm. May we bring up the general plan that we have,
 9 {MPS0004/1}, and if we can look towards the top part of
 10 the page, above the -- to the north of the bridge, do we
 11 see Westminster Pier there marked as a long, grey
 12 rectangle?
 13 A. That's it.
 14 Q. Leave that on screen for the moment, if we may.
 15 Westminster Pier, as we see, is just parallel to
 16 Victoria Embankment. Your boat, can you tell us where
 17 it was positioned on the pier and in what direction,
 18 before it set off that afternoon?
 19 A. We was on the end of the pier closest to the bridge, and
 20 we was facing the bridge.
 21 Q. Pointing towards the bridge. Did you set off, as
 22 planned, at 2.40 pm?
 23 A. We did, yes.
 24 Q. At that point when you set off, were you aware of
 25 anything untoward?

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1 A. No, completely oblivious to anything.
 2 Q. What direction did you set off in, and what, if any,
 3 manoeuvre did you make?
 4 A. We'd left the pier, started turning slightly to port,
 5 which would be the left side, and then the tide will
 6 assist you round and push the boat as you come away, so
 7 we came out to the left and started turning.
 8 Q. Looking at the plan, you were setting off south, in
 9 a southerly direction, but turning towards the east?
 10 A. That's correct, yes.
 11 Q. So that you were turning to the left and the right side
 12 of the boat would be presented to Westminster Bridge as
 13 you turned?
 14 A. That's correct.
 15 Q. Where were you in the boat as this manoeuvre was taking
 16 place?
 17 A. I was at the helm, driving.
 18 Q. That would have been in the wheelhouse, would it --
 19 A. In the wheelhouse.
 20 Q. -- that we saw on the plan. And that was above the
 21 passenger deck level?
 22 A. That's correct.
 23 Q. How far were you from the pier when you noticed anything
 24 out of the ordinary?
 25 A. It would be a few metres.

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1 Q. What did you see?
 2 A. 5 or 10 metres off the pier. We could see what looked
 3 like some garbage or a pile of bags coming through the
 4 3 arch of the bridge.
 5 Q. So just focusing on the plan, number 3 arch is number 3
 6 arch from which direction, please?
 7 A. Number 3 arch is the third arch along from the north
 8 shore.
 9 Q. So it's the arch where we see the words
 10 "Andreea Cristea" --
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. -- marking the bridge. You say that you saw coming
 13 through that arch, or span, something which you
 14 initially thought was some debris of some kind?
 15 A. That's correct.
 16 Q. Did anything then happen to change your understanding of
 17 what you were seeing?
 18 A. Yes. As we -- me and Gordon questioned it and then we
 19 could hear shouting coming from the bridge. As we
 20 looked up, it was Mr Brown looking down at us, waving
 21 and screaming.
 22 Q. Could you hear what he was shouting or saying?
 23 A. I believe he was shouting that there's someone in the
 24 water.
 25 Q. How was he shouting it?

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1 A. Screaming.
 2 Q. So obviously with a sense of urgency?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. What did you and Mr Markley then decide to do?
 5 A. So it was still, I maybe thought under the impression
 6 that it was debris, but we thought we would go and
 7 retrieve -- well not retrieve, but collect or hold, try
 8 and get a hold of what it was and as we got closer it
 9 was quite clear that it was a body.
 10 Q. So you decided that you would do something to get hold
 11 of whatever was in the water?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. Did you discuss with Mr Markley what you ought to do at
 14 that stage?
 15 A. No, I just kind of just fell into action. I was driving
 16 the boat anyway, we was turning into that direction.
 17 Gordon had already run down the stairs, I believe, at
 18 the time and grabbed the -- what we call the boat hook.
 19 Q. Did you remain in the wheelhouse as the manoeuvre was
 20 taking place?
 21 A. I believe I went out onto the -- we've got controls on
 22 the outside, open air, you can retain a really good
 23 visual.
 24 Q. So you moved out of the wheelhouse itself but on the
 25 same level?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. To some controls on the outside of the boat?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You say that gave you a good view?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. What could you see from that perspective?
 7 A. As we was getting closer I could see it was clearly
 8 a body, there was a -- well, a coat, I wasn't sure it
 9 was a body as of yet, but we could see clothing and
 10 a backpack.
 11 Q. What was the movement of the tide and what, if anything,
 12 was its effect on the body?
 13 A. It was pushing the body downstream and in turn was then
 14 pushing the boat downstream as well.
 15 Q. So that the action of the tide was carrying the body in
 16 a northerly direction, as we're looking at the plan?
 17 A. Easterly. Away from the bridge.
 18 Q. The Thames in this position is actually running
 19 north-south.
 20 A. Sorry, yes, just west or east of the river, yes.
 21 Q. And the same tide was pushing the boat in that direction
 22 as well?
 23 A. That's correct.
 24 Q. While you were manoeuvring the boat, did you see
 25 Mr Markley doing anything?

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1 A. Yes, he'd gone down to get the boat hook, and positioned
2 his self into where we was approaching the body.
3 Q. So the front of the boat was moving closer to the body
4 in the water?
5 A. That's correct.
6 Q. And Mr Markley was --
7 A. It was more the side, the side of the boat which the
8 tide was pushing on.
9 Q. So Mr Markley was positioning himself on the side of the
10 boat near to that?
11 A. That's correct.
12 Q. Did you see what he did over the moments that followed?
13 A. I don't recall, no. I thought he was just standing
14 there waiting, but I'm not too sure.
15 Q. As you neared the body, did you see him doing anything
16 more?
17 A. No, sir.
18 Q. In your witness statement, you make reference to a call
19 coming out; do you recall that?
20 A. That's correct, yes.
21 Q. It's at the bottom of page 2. Can you describe that
22 call, please?
23 A. It was from another vessel that had put out a pan pan
24 message to notify other vessels that somebody was in the
25 water. This was actually before I'd gone out onto the

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1 wing, I believe, because I heard it inside.
2 Q. So before you went out onto the wing --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- you got this message?
5 A. We heard the message, it was probably a few seconds
6 after Mr Brown had been shouting.
7 Q. So this was confirming that it was a body in the water?
8 A. That's correct.
9 Q. And by the time you were out on the wing, manoeuvring
10 the vessel more precisely, and getting close to the
11 body, you knew that it was a body from that message?
12 A. Well just -- no, it wasn't clear that it was a body. It
13 just -- it had gone out that it could be a body, or
14 a person in the water.
15 Q. Now, did you see Gordon then doing anything on the side
16 of the boat?
17 A. No. He run to the back, that's where the boat hook is
18 stored, at the back of the boat and then come back
19 forward.
20 Q. After he had come back forward, did he do anything with
21 the boat hook?
22 A. Only when we approached the body in the river, he would
23 have made an attempt to hook it.
24 Q. As you approached, you say he did what?
25 A. He would have made an attempt to hook the body.

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1 Q. Did you say "would have"; did you actually see --
2 A. Or he did. He did. Yes, he did.
3 Q. Were you able to see him over the side of the boat as he
4 was doing this?
5 A. Yes, I can. Yes, I can see him. He's directly beneath
6 me.
7 Q. Did you exchange any words with him as he was doing all
8 of this?
9 A. Not that I recall.
10 Q. Were you aware of any decision being made by Gordon
11 about what he should do?
12 A. I did, I think at one point I looked down, as Gordon
13 moved the body through the water, a lot of blood filled
14 the water around her. As I looked down, I said, like --
15 I think I just said "I wouldn't move her too much" but
16 as I say, we didn't know -- we presumed it was a body.
17 By this point I didn't know how long she'd been in the
18 water for, I didn't know it was hours or days, I didn't
19 really know that it was going to be minutes.
20 So as Gordon pulled it, I said: I wouldn't move her
21 too much, there was a lot of blood filling the water,
22 and I didn't -- it's physically impossible to actually
23 pull somebody up with a boat hook. The natural reaction
24 is to pull and tug. By him doing that, I thought
25 possibly just bits of the body would have been coming

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1 up.
2 Q. Gordon was obviously positioned on the side of the boat
3 which we saw, and we'll see again, was raised out of the
4 water by some feet. He had a boat hook, and we'll look
5 at that later when we call him to give evidence. Why do
6 you say it was impossible, or would have been impossible
7 for someone in his position to use the boat hook to get
8 somebody out of the water?
9 A. That's just -- there's too much of a gap, physically
10 impossible. The boat hook doesn't really allow you to
11 lift because you've got not much room to move around as
12 you actually use it. It's just ...
13 Q. So the process of trying to lever a body, or a person,
14 onto the boat using the boat hook alone you don't think
15 would have been feasible?
16 A. Definitely not.
17 Q. You say you told Gordon, or indicated to him, that he
18 shouldn't move her very much. What was your thinking
19 behind that? Why did you think it would be a bad thing
20 to do?
21 A. Just that there was a lot of people sitting around the
22 edges of the boat that could see. As I say, we presumed
23 it was a body that had been in the water for a long
24 time, and by pulling on that dead body that's been in
25 water it's going to just fall apart, if you like, which

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1 wouldn't be nice for anyone involved, the children
 2 sitting downstairs.
 3 Q. Did it occur to you that, given Mr Brown's shouts, and
 4 the message over the radio, it was possible this might
 5 be somebody who had only just gone into the water?
 6 A. No. No.
 7 Q. Did you see any other vessels near you or nearing you at
 8 that point?
 9 A. I believe coming up, coming towards us from downriver
 10 there was the fire boat. There might have been a Thames
 11 Clipper in front of us as well.
 12 Q. Where was the fire boat going?
 13 A. I don't know. He was coming towards -- whether or not
 14 he was coming to assist at the time, I'm not too sure.
 15 Q. How long did it take to reach a position close to your
 16 vessel?
 17 A. Not long at all. Not long at all. I would have said
 18 under a minute.
 19 Q. As that boat came towards yours, what happened next?
 20 A. I think they manoeuvred their boat to come and collect
 21 the body. They had their boat hook as well and there
 22 was a transfer.
 23 Q. So they manoeuvred their boat. There had to be
 24 a specific manoeuvre, did there, to get them close to
 25 yours?

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1 A. I can't remember where they came in now. I believe they
 2 come round to the side of us at first and then travelled
 3 back round the other way. I'm not too sure if that was
 4 because it was easier for them to -- they had a piece of
 5 equipment, I believe it's called a Jacob's cradle that
 6 sits in the river for collecting bodies, you can roll
 7 them onto the deck. I think they had that set up.
 8 Q. Now, you say that there was a transfer. Can you just
 9 describe what that transfer involved, what physically
 10 happened?
 11 A. Just Gordon tried moving the body over to them and they
 12 took the body with their boat hook closer to their
 13 vessel.
 14 Q. Now, you said they had a piece of equipment, I think
 15 it's called a Jason's Cradle, actually --
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. -- on the side of their boat. We know that that looks
 18 like a piece of netting but it can be used to literally
 19 roll something up the side of the boat; is that right?
 20 A. That's correct, yes.
 21 Q. Can you recall how long the operation took to first of
 22 all transfer the person in the water and then to
 23 retrieve her onto the fire boat?
 24 A. I don't know, no. Sorry.
 25 No, I don't, sorry.

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1 Q. You say in your witness statement that the transfer took
 2 place in seconds and that they then placed the casualty
 3 in the net cradle. That's page 3, second paragraph.
 4 A. Yes, I thought within under a minute that they had come
 5 over to us with the actual transfer and again, I am not
 6 too sure.
 7 Q. Where did the boat go from there?
 8 A. The fire boat carried on to, I believe, the lifeboat
 9 station, which is just below Waterloo Bridge.
 10 Q. At what speed? Not precisely.
 11 A. Oh, fast. Fast. We crossed over to Waterloo Pier,
 12 beneath the London Eye.
 13 Q. I think shortly after the Fireflash boat had departed
 14 a police boat approached yours; do you recall that?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. What was the reason for that?
 17 A. Gordon had collected a certificate of some sort that he
 18 had on board, I think he'd called the police boat to let
 19 them know that he had it. It was a -- I'm not too sure,
 20 it was some sort of police -- a certificate, with
 21 somebody's name on, and he thought it might have been
 22 ID, might help the police ID the body in the water.
 23 Q. After that transfer had been made, did your boat then
 24 continue on its scheduled route with its passengers?
 25 A. We did, yes.

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1 Q. May we now look at a plan which was prepared by the
 2 police which Mr Crossley produced on Monday, {WS1535B/2}
 3 Now, Mr Cooper, this plan shows as yellow dots the
 4 traces of your vessel as it first of all began as
 5 Westminster Pier, made its turn, and headed towards the
 6 position where ultimately the transfer that you have
 7 described took place; does that accord with your
 8 understanding of how your vessel was moving?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And the red dots show the track, or are intended to show
 11 the track of the Fireflash boat moving across to you and
 12 then heading downriver.
 13 As you have described already, as you were turning
 14 in the track of yellow dots that we see on the plan, the
 15 right side of your vessel would have been facing towards
 16 Westminster Bridge?
 17 A. That's correct.
 18 Q. May we now look at some photographs from your vessel,
 19 and just have your assistance with what's happening at
 20 each stage. First of all {AV0037/3}. Now, the times
 21 are one hour ahead, so this is 14.41. This is a point
 22 in time when the person in the water had just come into
 23 view, and we saw the body circled. We can see it just
 24 to the right of the windscreen wiper on this photograph.
 25 Is it right that by this stage you had moved out onto

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1 the wing on the right of this wheelhouse --
 2 A. That's correct.
 3 Q. -- in order to manoeuvre the vessel more precisely?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Then next shot {AV0037/4}, we see here the camera
 6 looking out of the right, or starboard side of the boat.
 7 This appears to be when the boat was turning, with
 8 Westminster Bridge visible on its right side, and that's
 9 14.41.50.
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. Then the next image, please {AV0037/6}. This is
 12 14.41.55, Mr Markley is seen on this shot going to get
 13 the boat hook, and this is a camera pointing out to the
 14 right side. You would have been effectively directly
 15 above?
 16 A. Yes, a little bit further back.
 17 Q. And then next shot, please, {AV0037/7}, that's
 18 Mr Markley going towards the back of the vessel to get
 19 the boat hook, and you would have been above and to the
 20 right as we're looking at this image?
 21 A. Yes, he's gone past me.
 22 Q. Then {AV0037/8}, he's coming back down the boat,
 23 14.42.13. Then {AV0037/10}, we now see at 14.42.18,
 24 your vessel is coming close to the body -- what we know
 25 is the body in the water.

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1 Then {AV0037/12}, Mr Markley by the side of the boat
 2 at 15.42.24, and then {AV0037/14}, it's now 14.42.32
 3 with the body now close to the vessel, and then
 4 {AV0037/16}, please, it's now 14.42.52 and Mr Markley
 5 has his boat hook into the water.
 6 Then {AV0037/18}, do you see him in the same
 7 position at 14.43.35. If we look to the left of the
 8 photograph beyond him, we can see that the Fireflash is
 9 now in view through the windows; yes?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Then {AV0037/22}, do we see here the perspective from
 12 the right-hand side front camera with Mr Markley
 13 transferring Andreea towards the Fireflash? That's the
 14 transfer you saw, is it?
 15 A. That's correct.
 16 Q. Then {AV0037/24}, please. A few seconds later, Andreea
 17 by the side of the Fireflash.
 18 We would now like to look at a few photographs from
 19 a slightly different perspective. This is {PH0049/1}.
 20 Does this show us an image of Mr Markley at the front of
 21 the boat with his boat hook?
 22 A. That's correct.
 23 Q. And I think we can see you with the controls at the top
 24 left-hand corner of the photograph?
 25 A. That's right.

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1 Q. Then the next shot, {PH0050/1}, do we see here the
 2 Fireflash vessel as it comes close to yours?
 3 A. Yes, that's correct.
 4 Q. And {PH0052/1}, and {PH0055/1}.
 5 Now, it appears that what's happened is that the
 6 Fireflash has moved past your vessel before it
 7 manoeuvres backwards?
 8 A. That's correct.
 9 Q. And {PH0057/1}, please. It's now out of view, it's
 10 moved fully past, and the next shot, {PH0058/1},
 11 {PH0062/1}. Then {PH0063/1}. {PH0064/1}. So it
 12 appears from that sequence of shots, and I think that's
 13 the correct chronological sequence --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- that Fireflash has gone past your vessel and then
 16 manoeuvred back towards it?
 17 A. Yes, the only thing I can presume that is just sheerly
 18 because of the tide, because the tide was leaving.
 19 Q. You've answered my next question, why do you think that
 20 would be happening? And that's because of the action of
 21 the tide.
 22 When performing a manoeuvre like that, is there any
 23 difficulty or danger about it?
 24 A. Well, there is. Obviously now at the moment, the way
 25 that we're sitting, the tide is constantly pushing us

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1 forward. It's actually come out and retrieved the body,
 2 there was no other, really, way to turn the boat other
 3 than the way we did.
 4 Q. May we have {PH0085/1}. Sorry, {PH0090/1}. Now, this
 5 is a different perspective, but this is, I think, after
 6 Fireflash has brought Andreea alongside.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And {PH0094/1}. They're continuing to manoeuvre her
 9 alongside the vessel, and we'll hear from Mr Wolfe of
 10 the boat about that.
 11 Then {PH0114/1}. It now appears that Andreea has
 12 been retrieved from the water, and {PH0124/1}, we can
 13 now see, I think, the fire boat going at speed through
 14 the water. So whereas before we couldn't see the water
 15 thrown up behind it, now we can.
 16 Then finally, {PH0417/1}. Can we rotate that
 17 clockwise. Does that show your vessel, I think with the
 18 front pointing towards the viewer?
 19 A. That's correct, yes.
 20 Q. So has it made its turn at that stage?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Are you able to identify at what point in the sequence
 23 of events this photo shows?
 24 A. I'd say that's after -- after the fire boat's got her.
 25 Q. After it's got Andreea?

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1 A. Yes. It seems to be heading off in that direction.
 2 Q. Thank you very much. We can take that off the screen
 3 now.
 4 Now, we established on the basis of the footage
 5 yesterday that Mr Markley hooked Andreea's clothing at
 6 14.42.39. The Fireflash came into view a minute later,
 7 14.43.30.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And that the transfer took place at 14.44.27, so
 10 a minute after that. Can you recall from the time that
 11 Mr Markley hooked Andreea's clothing, was the Fireflash
 12 in view at that point?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Mr Cooper, if you were asked whether it would have been
 15 possible to get Andreea out of the water more quickly or
 16 more safely, what would your answer be?
 17 A. In the conditions and circumstances, no.
 18 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are my questions.
 19 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
 20 MR PATTERSON: Mr Cooper, I ask questions on behalf of the
 21 family of the woman who was in the water,
 22 Andreea Cristea.
 23 You've told us that you heard shouting "There's
 24 someone in the water", and you said that there was
 25 clearly a sense of urgency in the voice, and we know it

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1 was Mr Brown up on the bridge; yes?
 2 A. Correct.
 3 Q. You've told us that you were moored at the bridge—end of
 4 that pier; yes?
 5 A. That's correct.
 6 Q. So there you are in the wheelhouse, and you can look
 7 through your window up to the bridge in front of you,
 8 and you saw him and you heard him; is that right?
 9 A. That's correct.
 10 Q. Now, we know that she had just entered the water.
 11 I don't know if you were in court earlier for the
 12 evidence of Mr Brown; were you?
 13 A. Yes, I was, sorry.
 14 Q. Yes. So she'd gone into the water at 14.40. He's on
 15 the phone at 41, we heard. He's shouting and gesturing
 16 from the bridge above, and presumably you saw him —
 17 A. We saw him, yes.
 18 Q. — gesturing with his arms, did you?
 19 A. Yes, with his arms, and very loud.
 20 Q. Perhaps the operator could prepare the compilation clip
 21 of the footage from the City Cruises — from your boat.
 22 You said that it was just after hearing those words from
 23 up on the bridge that you also had the call coming in,
 24 "pan pan pan", which means what?
 25 A. I believe it's just an attention call for somebody

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1 that's in danger.
 2 Q. Right. And "pan pan pan" means that any vessel that can
 3 assist —
 4 A. Any vessel can hear that, yes.
 5 Q. Right. So it's an emergency call when you hear "pan pan
 6 pan"?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. So you knew at that point that this was clearly
 9 an urgent and an emergency scenario?
 10 A. Yes, yes.
 11 Q. And you told us that you had heard the word "someone" in
 12 the water from Mr Brown from the bridge, you told us
 13 that the call "pan pan pan" referred to person in the
 14 water, so in two ways you have learned that it is
 15 a person as opposed to what you initially thought might
 16 be, I think you used the word "garbage".
 17 A. Yes, debris. Yes, I mean pan pans go out for dead
 18 bodies as well.
 19 Q. Yes.
 20 A. They do get used for a dead body.
 21 Q. Yes.
 22 A. Sometimes it could be a false alarm.
 23 Q. Yes. But in two different ways you'd been informed
 24 person?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Right. Hopefully the operator has the footage ready.
 2 Can we begin with the images from within the wheelhouse,
 3 please, and this is the only time where we have an audio
 4 track as well as a video track; have you seen this
 5 before, Mr Cooper?
 6 A. I haven't, no.
 7 Q. So if we could start it, please. And it may be the
 8 volume needs to be raised, we had this yesterday but the
 9 volume was very low, and I want to focus on the words
 10 that we can hear.
 11 (Video played in court)
 12 Just pausing there. You to the right, Mr Markley to
 13 the left; is that correct?
 14 A. That's correct.
 15 Q. The bridge we can see through the windows in front of
 16 you, we can see just how close you are to that leg of
 17 the bridge; yes?
 18 A. Correct.
 19 Q. And if we focus, please, on what we can hear, I'm going
 20 to ask —
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: I think technically we're just going to
 22 try and improve the volume.
 23 MR PATTERSON: I'm grateful.
 24 Mr Cooper, if we can just focus on what we can hear,
 25 and if we play it now, please.

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1 (Video played in court)
 2 Can we pause it there. I don't know why it's so
 3 low, can we raise the volume higher? That's the
 4 maximum, I'm told.
 5 Anyway, hopefully you were able to hear, Mr Cooper,
 6 voices, plural, shouting about a person in the water?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Yes?
 9 A. That's correct.
 10 Q. So there's the "pan pan pan" recording that comes in
 11 referring to a person, there's Mr Brown talking about
 12 someone, and there are voices plural. Were they other
 13 people up on the bridge or were they passengers in
 14 your --
 15 A. No, it would have been passengers behind us.
 16 Q. So from three sources you have the message reaching you
 17 that there's a person in the water; yes?
 18 A. Yes. That's correct.
 19 Q. Yes. And did we hear Mr Markley saying at one stage
 20 that he didn't know if it was a wind-up?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Was there anything that suggested to you that there was
 23 some sort of wind-up taking place involving all these
 24 different sources of information?
 25 A. Well I don't think at this time we had heard the pan pan

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1 message.
 2 Q. It came a little later?
 3 A. I think it came after. Yeah, we've had it before,
 4 people are screaming off of bridges and it's been
 5 absolutely nothing and they'll be videoing it on their
 6 phones and things like that. But, so yeah, he said it
 7 then, he said "I think it's a wind-up". I mean, he
 8 still went out and investigated and took it ...
 9 Q. Yes. And so you saw what was coming through under the
 10 arch of the bridge in the water. You said that you saw
 11 that quite quickly; yes?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. So we know that Andreea had only just gone into the
 14 water and we know that Gordon hooked her at 14.42.39, so
 15 about two minutes after she had entered the water; yes?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And if we could see {PH0062/1}, we've looked at a number
 18 of stills and we've looked at a number of moving images,
 19 but he was holding her in that position that we see
 20 there in that still; that's right, isn't it?
 21 A. That's correct.
 22 Q. And he was holding her face-down in the water in that
 23 position, wasn't he?
 24 A. That's correct.
 25 Q. And I think you were able to see that she had a tattoo

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1 on her back; you were able to see that?
 2 A. Yes, I think it was her lower back, yes.
 3 Q. On her lower back. So it was obvious that it was
 4 a person, and was it obvious that it was a female, that
 5 it was a woman?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. And I think you agree that Gordon didn't try to get the
 8 person out of the water. Did you suggest that he might
 9 at least try to get her out?
 10 A. No. No. It's physically impossible to do. You can't
 11 pull somebody up from that distance. And then at the
 12 same time we didn't know what sort of condition the body
 13 was in. If Gordon had started pulling, he may well have
 14 pulled up a dismembered body, pieces, and you really
 15 don't know what sort of condition they was in.
 16 Q. You see, you said earlier when answering questions that
 17 you assumed that she'd been in the water for a long
 18 time.
 19 A. That's what we initially thought.
 20 Q. Why did you assume she'd been in the water for a long
 21 time?
 22 A. Just because the only bodies I've ever seen that have
 23 been face-down and unconscious, unresponsive, have been
 24 in there for a few days.
 25 Q. But you were right by the bridge on top of which there

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1 was somebody shouting and gesticulating. Did it not
 2 occur to you that perhaps the most likely explanation
 3 was that she'd just fallen from that very bridge?
 4 A. No, definitely not. No. I mean, the tide pushes bodies
 5 up and down all day long, nobody sees them. Initial
 6 reaction really would have been somebody's seen the body
 7 on the other side of the bridge and they've come over to
 8 tell us on this side.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Patterson, before we leave that
 10 photograph, can I just ask one question, just to clarify
 11 one thing?
 12 MR PATTERSON: Yes.
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: You said earlier on, the expression you
 14 used was "too much of a gap". You said it was
 15 "physically impossible to pull someone out of the water,
 16 there was too much of a gap."
 17 A. Sorry, the distance between --
 18 THE CHIEF CORONER: Now we've got the side-on view, what did
 19 you mean by that?
 20 A. The distance between the waterline to our deck is just
 21 over five feet.
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes, thank you.
 23 MR PATTERSON: You said you saw blood. Did the blood not
 24 suggest that perhaps there had been a very recent impact
 25 or injury?

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1 A. No, I mean -- I actually thought that maybe the body had
2 been hit by a propeller from a pub boat further down or
3 further upriver.
4 Q. But you will agree, I'm sure, Mr Cooper, that time is of
5 the essence, isn't it --
6 A. Oh, of course.
7 Q. -- if somebody falls into the river.
8 A. Definitely.
9 Q. And there's a risk of drowning and the increased
10 problems from hypothermia on a cold day in March?
11 A. That's correct.
12 Q. So why did you make the assumption that it must be
13 somebody who had been there for a long time as opposed
14 to somebody in respect of whom you simply didn't know
15 for how long she'd been there?
16 A. Just because of how unresponsive she was. If somebody's
17 fallen in, is starting to get cold, there's a lot of
18 splashing, there's a lot of noise, and with this there
19 was nothing.
20 Q. You'll agree that even if there's no movement, of course
21 that doesn't for one moment mean that the person must be
22 dead and that with first aid and resuscitation, people
23 in the river can survive. You obviously know that; yes?
24 A. The attempt not to move her out of the water is just
25 purely because we didn't want pieces of a body coming

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1 up. There's no way that Gordon could have pulled her up
2 anyway to administer first aid. But a natural reaction
3 if you have a boat hook and a body on there is to start
4 yanking. It's not going to achieve anything until the
5 person can be put somewhere where they can be
6 administered first aid.
7 Q. I think you are first aid trained; is that right?
8 A. I was at the time, yes.
9 Q. Mr Markley was first aid trained at the time?
10 A. That's correct.
11 Q. You were assisted by no fewer than three others on the
12 boat?
13 A. That's correct.
14 Q. Who have had safety training as well; is that right?
15 A. Correct.
16 Q. You've been trained in maritime safety?
17 A. Correct.
18 Q. That includes the effects of prolonged immersion in the
19 water, doesn't it?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. So you were alive to the fact that the longer somebody
22 remains immersed, the greater the impact that will have
23 on their health?
24 A. That's correct.
25 Q. And you've had training in what to do in emergency

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1 situations, such as when somebody goes overboard and
2 needs to be brought back onto the vessel. You are
3 tested on this by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; is
4 that right?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. All of that is covered in order that you can have your
7 licence, your boatman's licence?
8 A. That's correct.
9 Q. Boatmasters' licence, forgive me.
10 So did you give any consideration to trying to get
11 her up to give her resuscitation?
12 A. It wouldn't -- we wouldn't have been able to get her up.
13 It's not doable.
14 Q. If you had been able to get her up, you could have given
15 her resuscitation, yes? You are trained and able to do
16 so?
17 A. That's correct, yes.
18 Q. We looked at the extract from your employer's manual,
19 the City Cruises manual, which deals with the situation
20 where if there's a man overboard you should recover the
21 person and give them first aid, so for that situation
22 the thrust of the manual and its guidance is to get them
23 onto the boat and to give them first aid.
24 A. Is also solely based on a conscious casualty that wants
25 to get out, and, you know ...

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1 Q. And so you're saying, are you, that if somebody is
2 moving, you'll get them out and resuscitate.
3 A. No, they --
4 Q. But if they're not moving, you won't get them out and
5 try to resuscitate?
6 A. No, if they're moving, they can help themselves out.
7 There's no way you can pull somebody up. If they are
8 moving, a man overboard ladder or a scramble net would
9 have come down over the side of the boat, it's on the
10 deck ready to throw, and they will pull themselves up.
11 Q. So all of this in either situation involves no efforts
12 by the crew to help the person up?
13 A. That was our efforts. This was our best effort to -- we
14 didn't intend to go out there and retrieve a body. We
15 went out there to stop a body disappearing for days.
16 Q. My suggestion is that if you had wanted to get her out,
17 Mr Markley, assisted if necessary by one of the other
18 members of the crew, could have physically brought her
19 up out of the water with that 15-foot pole.
20 A. He's got a window directly behind him. It's not
21 possible.
22 Q. My suggestion is that the hook is sufficient to grab the
23 person and pull them up, if need be with the assistance
24 of a second person; do you agree?
25 A. No.

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1 Q. This was a young woman, only 5 foot 5 in height, of slim
2 build, weighing only 11 stone. Are you really suggested
3 that she couldn't have been lifted by one or two men?
4 A. Definitely not.
5 Q. Did you consider at the very least asking Gordon to
6 raise her face out of the water, even by a matter of
7 inches?
8 A. I don't recall.
9 Q. There would have been nothing preventing him at the very
10 least doing that to try and see if the person was alive.
11 A. I'm not -- once the boat hook's there if you let go you
12 run the risk of losing the body.
13 Q. Mr Cooper, there was nothing stopping her being lifted
14 even by a matter of inches to see if she was alive and
15 lift her face out of the water, was there?
16 A. Like I say, I don't know.
17 Q. You don't know?
18 A. I don't, no, I don't.
19 Q. What was stopping at least that from happening?
20 A. I don't know. I was -- at this point I've gone inside,
21 Gordon's at the front, I'm inside. I'm now relaying to
22 the cabin crew downstairs to get people away from the
23 windows.
24 Q. Forgive me. We saw you out on the wing at one stage --
25 A. Yes, yes.

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1 Q. -- and you were able to see from there what Gordon was
2 doing. I'll ask my question --
3 A. I didn't see him move the hook off of her or anything.
4 Q. I'll ask my question again: what would have prevented
5 her from being lifted up, at least by a few inches, to
6 get her face out of the water?
7 A. Sheer weight and awkwardness, I suppose. It's just
8 a very awkward position to be in.
9 Q. But you didn't think even to try?
10 A. I was driving the boat.
11 Q. Or to suggest that he should try?
12 A. No.
13 Q. Who had responsibility on the boat?
14 A. The captain.
15 Q. And who was the captain?
16 A. Gordon was the captain that day.
17 Q. So he had responsibility rather than you, is that right?
18 A. Would have been, yes.
19 Q. Even though you were the captain that day, you told us?
20 A. No, I was the mate on board that day.
21 Q. You were the mate that day --
22 A. Correct.
23 Q. -- so he was the captain. Because when that was done,
24 several minutes later, when the fire boat team took her
25 out of the water, she began breathing very quickly.

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1 Were you aware of that?
2 A. The first time that I actually realised that she may
3 have been alive was when we see her in the fire boat and
4 they was performing CPR.
5 Q. Do you agree that by doing nothing to get her out when
6 she was first hooked that that meant that she spent
7 several more minutes face-down in the water?
8 A. They were several minutes that she would have been in
9 the water anyway if we had not attended.
10 Q. No, the timings are clear, Mr Cooper. If she had been
11 lifted from the water when first hooked by Mr Markley,
12 she would have had about two minutes in total in the
13 water.
14 A. It wasn't possible to lift --
15 Q. When she was finally brought out after the decision not
16 to try to lift her out of the water it was something
17 like a total of over five minutes that she remained
18 immersed.
19 A. If another smaller vessel had been there sooner, any
20 emergency service or one of the Thames RIBs, a much
21 smaller vessel, then she would have been pulled out
22 sooner.
23 Q. At one stage after he first hooked Andreea, but before
24 he transferred the body over to the fire boat,
25 Mr Markley removed the certificate from the water.

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1 A. As I say, I can't recall when that happened, was it at
2 the beginning or the end, actually, but at some point it
3 did happen.
4 Q. Let's just clarify when it was, because my suggestion is
5 that it was in the middle of all of this that he dealt
6 with the certificate. On the footage, please, could we
7 go to about eight minutes into the footage. Hopefully
8 that will help the operator to find it.
9 (Video played in court)
10 We have a view, Mr Cooper, through the window, of
11 the moment when Mr Markley removes the certificate. And
12 if we remember that she's hooked at 42 minutes past,
13 she's transferred at 44 minutes past, in between at 43
14 minutes past we have the removal of the certificate from
15 the water.
16 Here we are, over at the right, there it is. Were
17 you able to see that? And if we look at the time,
18 15.43.51. So that's in the middle of the activity with
19 Andreea when she's being held down on the end of the
20 hook by Mr Markley.
21 So are you able to help us with how it was that he
22 was able to hold her for the minutes that he did, but at
23 one stage was able to use that same hook to get a piece
24 of paper out of the water?
25 A. He let the hook go and done the -- got the certificate.

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1 Q. So he had secured her and then he let her go to get
2 a piece of paper, is that what you're saying?
3 A. That's looks -- yes, that looks right.
4 Q. And how was she secured when he released her?
5 A. Well, she wasn't.
6 Q. So she was, what, just released and left floating while
7 he got a piece of paper?
8 A. It seemed that way.
9 Q. And you saw that?
10 A. I don't recall seeing it. I know that he got the bit
11 of --
12 Q. Well, you referred to it in your witness statement, at
13 page 3. You thought it looked like an official
14 certificate of some sort, you said?
15 A. Yes, I saw the certificate after. It was in the
16 wheelbox with us, in the bridge with us.
17 Q. "I saw him reach in the water with the hook and pull out
18 a bit of paper."
19 Is what you said in your statement at page 3; yes?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. Did you not say to him: Gordon, what are you doing with
22 the body?
23 A. No.
24 Q. Which was obviously of more importance than a piece of
25 paper, no?

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1 A. That's correct.
2 Q. With the benefit of hindsight, Mr Cooper, do you agree
3 now that, in all the circumstances, the more appropriate
4 course of action would have been immediately to get
5 Gordon to try and get that person out of the water as
6 a matter of urgency?
7 A. Of course. But it is just physically impossible.
8 Q. And to at least try. But you never tried?
9 A. We never tried.
10 MR PATTERSON: Those are all my questions.
11 MR HOUGH: Thank you, Mr Cooper. No further questions.
12 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed for coming.
13 A. Thank you.
14 MR HOUGH: Sir, our next witness is Mr Markley. I'm aware
15 that we're seven minutes away from the lunch break.
16 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
17 MR HOUGH: I'm also aware that we're slightly behind
18 schedule so that we'll have to, in order to fit in the
19 doctors, probably either have a shorter lunch or no
20 break or a late sitting.
21 THE CHIEF CORONER: What I am going to suggest is we will
22 rise now, Mr Hough, and we will endeavour to sit,
23 please, at 1.50. So we will shorten the lunch hour.
24 We will endeavour to sit again at 1.50.
25 (12.53 pm)

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1 (The Luncheon Adjournment)
2 (1.50 pm)
3 MR HOUGH: Mr Markley, please.
4 MR GORDON ROBERT MARKLEY (Sworn)
5 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Markley, if you would like to sit,
6 please do.
7 A. Thank you.
8 Examination by MR HOUGH QC
9 MR HOUGH: Would you give your full name to the court,
10 please?
11 A. It's Gordon Robert Markley.
12 Q. Mr Markley, you know, I think, that I ask questions
13 first on behalf of the Coroner, and there will be
14 questions then from others. You understand also,
15 I think, that you are here to give evidence about the
16 events of 22 March 2017 on the river near
17 Westminster Bridge.
18 A. That's correct.
19 Q. You have made a witness statement dated 3 April 2017,
20 and please feel free to refer to it if you wish.
21 What was your profession in March 2017?
22 A. I was captain of the Millennium of Peace working for
23 City Cruises.
24 Q. If you can try to keep your voice up, this room doesn't
25 have the best acoustics, I am afraid.

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1 THE CHIEF CORONER: The microphone will help. That's it.
2 MR HOUGH: How long had you been a captain on the Thames?
3 A. For over 20 years now, since 1985.
4 Q. What qualifications do you have, or did you have
5 in March 2017 which are relevant to that post?
6 A. I hold a Thames Waterman's licence, which is also
7 referred to as a boatman's licence.
8 Q. You were working at the time for City Cruises.
9 A. Mm-hm.
10 Q. And that company, I believe, had standard procedures for
11 various sorts of emergency.
12 A. That's correct.
13 Q. May we have on screen, as we did with Mr Cooper, the man
14 overboard procedure, {DC8012/1}. Now, this is one of
15 those procedures that's coming up on screen at the
16 moment, Mr Markley. Do you see that the procedure
17 identifies a series of steps to be taken in the event of
18 somebody going overboard?
19 A. That's correct.
20 Q. Were you familiar with this procedure at the time of the
21 events we're concerned with?
22 A. That's correct.
23 Q. Now, one of the aspects of the procedure says:
24 "Go to rescue position, deploy grab net/MOB [man
25 overboard] ladder".

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1 A. That's correct.
 2 Q. Can you briefly describe what a grab net and a man
 3 overboard ladder are and what they do?
 4 A. We've got a rope net, which you can lower over the side
 5 of a vessel, which would enable a person to cling to,
 6 and a ladder, there's also a ladder which you can hang
 7 over the side, supported onto the boat, which you could
 8 assemble yourself, go down into the water level to
 9 retrieve a person, and these are on all the vessels.
 10 Q. Now, you refer to the ladder as being something which
 11 you, as the crew, could descend; is that right?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. Did you have a grab net or a man overboard ladder on
 14 your vessel of which you were the captain in March 2017?
 15 A. It was on board, yes.
 16 Q. Thank you. If we can take that off screen now, please.
 17 On 22 March 2017 you, I think, were on duty?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And you were the captain of the Millennium Clipper
 20 cruise boat?
 21 A. Of the -- sorry, the boat's called the Millennium
 22 Diamond.
 23 Q. I'm sorry, the Millennium Diamond cruise boat.
 24 In that capacity you had responsibilities for
 25 manoeuvring the boat at times?

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1 A. Yes, correct.
 2 Q. And also generally looking after the boat and the
 3 passengers on board?
 4 A. That's correct.
 5 Q. We've heard that your and Mr Cooper's duties on that day
 6 started at 9.15 in the morning.
 7 A. That's correct.
 8 Q. And that Mr Cooper was your fellow crew member in the
 9 bridge on the boat that day?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. What was the difference between your two roles that day,
 12 if there was any?
 13 A. I'm the senior captain of the boat that day. We're both
 14 licensed men, which -- we can both navigate the boat,
 15 and in case of an incident arising, we're both qualified
 16 to be at the helm of the vessel, that's basically the
 17 position of it. But on the heading of the ship's log
 18 that day it would have been my name above Danny's.
 19 Q. Because you were the more senior captain?
 20 A. That's correct.
 21 Q. I believe there were three cabin crew on board as well,
 22 with you?
 23 A. That's correct.
 24 Q. Now, according to Mr Cooper's evidence, you had done
 25 a number of trips in both directions on the river before

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1 the events with which we are concerned; is that right?
 2 A. That's right, yes.
 3 Q. Now, we've also heard that your boat followed a fixed
 4 timetable for its journeys, and that your last trip
 5 before the events we're concerned with had been a trip
 6 to Greenwich, after which you had come back up river to
 7 Westminster Pier?
 8 A. That's correct.
 9 Q. We've heard that you arrived there, either at 2.30 pm,
 10 or perhaps a little before that?
 11 A. Round that time, yes.
 12 Q. What was your next scheduled time for leaving the pier
 13 that day?
 14 A. 14.40.
 15 Q. If we can bring up our main plan, {MPS0004/1}, you will
 16 see on the screen a plan with the River Thames here
 17 running north-south, and Westminster Pier over to the
 18 west side of the river; can you see that?
 19 You said that your boat was scheduled to set off
 20 from the pier at 2.40 pm that day; did you set off on
 21 time?
 22 A. At precisely 2.40, yes.
 23 Q. What direction did you initially pilot the boat?
 24 A. The vessel was facing the bridge. Due to the flow of
 25 the tide the procedure is to turn the boat around and

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1 then to proceed to our next scheduled pier, which would
 2 have been Waterloo, the London Eye. So we're going to
 3 turn the boat to proceed across the river.
 4 Q. So that, just to be clear, your vessel, we have heard,
 5 was pointing due south, as we're looking at the plan,
 6 initially, and it was turning in front of the bridge so
 7 that it could head in a more northerly direction?
 8 A. It's actually -- the bearing of this river, that's
 9 upstream of this, that's west.
 10 Q. Yes.
 11 A. And downriver is east. Across to the London Eye would
 12 be south, and across to Big Ben, that's north.
 13 Q. From your perspective you were going to be turning left
 14 and the right-hand side, the starboard side of the
 15 vessel was going to be facing the bridge during that
 16 time?
 17 A. That's correct.
 18 Q. And for the initial part of that manoeuvre, were you in
 19 the bridge?
 20 A. I had -- Danny Cooper had manoeuvred the vessel away
 21 from the pier. I had unfastened the ropes. I went up
 22 onto the bridge. As we was turning, that's when we
 23 was -- we heard the person shouting from the bridge. We
 24 was -- our attention was drawn to something and then
 25 that's when we realised there was someone in the river,

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1 and we jumped into action, as we say.
 2 Q. Do you recall where your vessel was when you heard
 3 somebody shouting that there was someone in the river?
 4 A. We was turning, so our starboard side would now be
 5 facing to the bridge.
 6 Q. At that point when you heard that being shouted, what
 7 did you do?
 8 A. We spotted something coming down under the bridge, and
 9 I ran down onto the deck to grab a device, which we call
 10 a hitcher, a boat hook, to try and get hold of the body
 11 in the water, and to give assistance.
 12 Q. I think we have a boat hook in court. I wonder if it
 13 could be brought forward.
 14 Now, Mr Markley, I should say this is not the
 15 boat hook that you used on that day, it's rather
 16 shorter. It's about two-thirds of the length of the one
 17 that you were using, but in general form, is the
 18 boat hook that you were using of that kind?
 19 A. Exactly the same, yes.
 20 Q. And so if we imagine that you were using a boat hook
 21 that would have been about one and a half times the
 22 length, and therefore about one and a half times the
 23 weight, would that be right?
 24 A. Yes, correct.
 25 MR HOUGH: Sir, I don't know if you would like to feel the

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1 weight of it?
 2 THE CHIEF CORONER: I would quite like to, myself, just to
 3 get gauge of the weight. It is probably easier if I go
 4 to the boat hook rather than the boat hook to me.
 5 (Pause).
 6 Thank you.
 7 MR HOUGH: I think that can be put to one side. Thank you
 8 very much.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Just before that goes, so far as the top
 10 is concerned, the actual hook itself, Mr Hough, is that
 11 as it would have been on the longer one?
 12 MR HOUGH: We'll ask Mr Markley.
 13 A. That's correct.
 14 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 15 MR HOUGH: And, Mr Markley, why did you get this hitcher?
 16 What was your purpose in doing so?
 17 A. When I see the body coming through the bridge, we was
 18 unaware of the situation that had arisen on the bridge,
 19 and we just presumed it was a body in the river. So my
 20 first instinct was to get hold of this body rather than
 21 it being floating off with the tide, so we'd got some
 22 control of it, been able to hold it, and then pass it on
 23 to relevant emergency services.
 24 Q. Now --
 25 A. There was --

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1 Q. Just pause there a second. You say when you saw it
 2 floating from under the bridge you thought this was
 3 a body in the river. Did you form any immediate
 4 assumption about whether the person was alive or dead?
 5 A. I would have presumed that this was -- there was no sign
 6 of life. It was just a body floating.
 7 Q. How common or uncommon is it for you to come across
 8 bodies in the river?
 9 A. It's not every day, but I've experienced it many times.
 10 Q. In your experience, what proportion of the time are
 11 those dead bodies and what proportion of the time are
 12 they people who are still alive?
 13 A. Well, I've been fortunate to save lives but in them
 14 cases we have seen movement and given assistance, thrown
 15 lifebelts to people. But in this case there was no sign
 16 of life until -- well, the body had got quite close to
 17 me, which I was able to grab hold of some material, and
 18 we could see there was a lot of blood coming from part
 19 of the body. This -- when we realised there was
 20 something more on there but there was still no sign of
 21 life. So I just wanted to do what we could.
 22 Q. So let's take this in stages. As the body was floating
 23 towards your vessel, you began to see more clearly that
 24 there was blood near it?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Did you see whether the body was showing any signs of
 2 life or movement as it got closer?
 3 A. No, none at all.
 4 Q. You had heard somebody shouting that there was somebody
 5 in the water; yes?
 6 A. That's correct, yes.
 7 Q. Did that give you any impression as to whether the
 8 person in the water might be alive?
 9 A. No, there was no ...
 10 Q. As you got the hitcher, we have seen on footage, and
 11 we'll see on some photographs in a moment, that you went
 12 to the back of the vessel, along the side, and then came
 13 to the front again.
 14 A. That's correct.
 15 Q. And as you reached the front of the vessel and the body
 16 came close, what did you think you ought to do with your
 17 boat hook?
 18 A. Well, I was just -- first of all, just to grab the part
 19 of the clothing to hold the body near the boat, because
 20 the reason why we'd come from one end to the other end
 21 is one, that's where the hitcher is stored on the boat,
 22 and it's also what Captain Cooper was doing is
 23 positioning the boat so we're away from the propellers
 24 of the boat. That's part of the training we do. When
 25 we manoeuvre a boat near a person, you'd always keep the

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1 propeller away from the body. That's the last thing you
2 would want to do.

3 Q. So while you were working with your boat hook, Mr Cooper
4 was trying to manoeuvre the boat so as not to catch the
5 body with the propeller?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Did the motion of the tide have any effect on the ease
8 or difficulty of Mr Cooper's operations manoeuvring the
9 vessel?

10 A. It would have done, yes.

11 Q. In what way?

12 A. The flow of the tide is pushing the boat away from the
13 body, so Captain Cooper has had to manoeuvre the boat to
14 get it near to the body for me to get hold of it, and
15 with a vessel of that size and to manoeuvre it in the
16 way he did, he's done a great job, which is not ...

17 Q. So a challenging manoeuvre, you are saying, for him to
18 bring the vessel close to the body without coming into
19 contact --

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. -- or risking damaging it?

22 A. That's right.

23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Hough, we can see the size of the
24 boat on the photographs and on the CCTV, the film
25 coverage we've got, but do we have a length and

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1 a breadth of the boat? I know we've got plans that
2 probably set it out.

3 MR HOUGH: I think we do in the plans. (Pause).
4 Sir, we have checked the plan and unfortunately it
5 doesn't have --

6 THE CHIEF CORONER: A scale.

7 MR HOUGH: -- measurements on it.

8 A. Would you like me to give you a brief -- a rough
9 estimation?

10 MR HOUGH: Give us a rough estimate.

11 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes, that would be very helpful.

12 A. The width of the boat is 14 metres and the length of the
13 boat is 33 metres.

14 MR HOUGH: That's very helpful. Thank you very much.
15 Now, as you said, you decided to put your boat hook
16 on the body. What part did you place your boat hook on?

17 A. There was a -- she was wearing -- there was a rucksack
18 which I could see floating, and I put it round one of
19 the straps of the rucksack.

20 Q. Did you then do anything with your boat hook?

21 A. Just pulled the body towards the side of the boat to
22 hold it there, awaiting assistance.

23 Q. Did you consider at that point the possibility of using
24 your boat hook to lift the person out of the water and
25 bring her onto your boat?

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1 A. No, my personal opinion would be to leave her there in
2 that position rather than causing any further injuries.

3 Q. Why did you think that doing something with the
4 boat hook to remove her from the water might cause
5 further injuries?

6 A. Lifting the weight of a body could cause further, maybe
7 spinal injury, neck injury, anything like that.

8 Q. In giving that answer, you are suggesting that you
9 thought she might still be alive. Had you reached that
10 view by that stage?

11 A. I was still presuming it was a dead body, but as it got
12 a lot closer there was still, as I say, there was a vast
13 amount of blood swirling around the body, which
14 I thought was unusual. But within, as you can see with
15 all your evidence that's been gained, this was all in
16 a matter -- over and done with in, I think, about
17 a minute.

18 Q. Now, you have indicated, then, that as the body came
19 closer, you began to harbour doubts about whether this
20 was a dead body and you thought it might be somebody who
21 was still alive?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Was there any way that you in your position, with the
24 boat hook that you had, could have got that person onto
25 the boat safely -- and I mean safely for you as well as

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1 the person in the water?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Can you just explain, it may be obvious to you, but
4 explain to us why you don't think that could have been
5 done with the boat hook?

6 A. Possibly the clothing would have torn, the piece of
7 strapping on the rucksack might have torn. If I had
8 lifted the body from the water onto the side of this
9 boat, it's approximately a metre and a half lift, and to
10 pick a body of that weight up that far, I'd be, I think
11 it would have caused more damage.

12 Q. We know that Andreea was a little over 11 stone in
13 weight, plus, of course, she would have been wearing
14 water-logged clothing. Is that a weight which you think
15 you would have been comfortably able to lift on your own
16 with a boat hook in that way?

17 A. Not with a boat hook.

18 Q. From a position of five feet or so above the water?

19 A. No, not with a boat hook, no.

20 Q. So you were waiting there for assistance; did you see
21 any sign of assistance coming?

22 A. Immediately.

23 Q. From which direction and what sort of assistance?

24 A. So off to our starboard side there was a police launch,
25 and then a fire launch as well was in assistance within

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1 seconds.
 2 Q. Did either of those approach?
 3 A. Sorry?
 4 Q. Did either of those approach over the seconds and
 5 minutes?
 6 A. Both vessels approached, yes.
 7 Q. What, if anything, did you and those vessels do to
 8 remove the person from the water?
 9 A. So we ushered the fire launch in towards us, and
 10 I instructed I was going to walk the body to the front
 11 of the boat, once again, keeping away from the
 12 propellers of the vessel, and then we proceeded to hand
 13 -- releasing the boat hook from the strapping on her
 14 rucksack and passed the body a matter of 10 feet to the
 15 fire launch, where the crew was waiting with apparatus
 16 immediately to get her on board.
 17 Q. What did you see them do once you had pushed the person
 18 across towards their vessel?
 19 A. They had a device overboard already, like a rolling
 20 cradle, which the body would have floated into, and then
 21 immediately whisked out the water onto the deck of the
 22 boat, and they was away.
 23 Q. What was the length of time, as far as you can recall,
 24 between them getting the person over to the side of
 25 their boat and bringing them up in the cradle?

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1 A. From myself releasing the boat hook and them getting the
 2 body on board their launch, I would say 20 seconds.
 3 Q. And what -- can you recall what the time was then
 4 between that happening and the fire launch setting off?
 5 A. We're talking now maybe 2.45, 2.44.
 6 Q. But I mean the time between when they got the person on
 7 board and when they set off; can you recall the distance
 8 of time?
 9 A. They was gone immediately. They had already called a --
 10 they're going to go to a designated pier to hand the
 11 body over to further emergency services.
 12 Q. Now, in the period between when you had hooked the
 13 person in the water and when you had transferred that
 14 person to the fire boat, we've seen in footage that you
 15 were seen to hook a document out of the water, which we
 16 know is a certificate; do you recall that happening?
 17 A. Yes, I recall, yes.
 18 Q. And can you explain why you did that at that time?
 19 A. I was just about to release Andreea, pass her to the
 20 fire launch, when it looked like this certificate had
 21 come out of her rucksack, and I believe I might have
 22 still had hold of the strap of her coat, and I quickly
 23 released her, sort of harpooned the certificate, flicked
 24 it onto the deck, and still had time to get back hold of
 25 her -- the strap, and pass her over to the fire launch.

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1 Q. Did that operation of flicking up that certificate delay
 2 or impede in any way what you were doing with the person
 3 in the water?
 4 A. Not in the -- the current which was still -- the ebb
 5 tide was still taking the body towards the fire launch,
 6 which was a matter of feet away.
 7 Q. Which is where you wanted it to be?
 8 A. That's correct.
 9 Q. And shortly after this, did the police launch approach
 10 yours and take delivery of that certificate you had
 11 whisked out of the water?
 12 A. We ushered them alongside, they came alongside, and
 13 I handed it over to them.
 14 Q. Thereafter, did your vessel continue on its scheduled
 15 route with its passengers?
 16 A. That's correct. We went to Waterloo Pier, London Eye,
 17 we embarked more passengers and then proceeded
 18 downstream.
 19 Q. Can we look at some more report forms you completed on
 20 the day as to what happened. The first is {WS5118/3}.
 21 Now, this is a report form you completed, as we see on
 22 the day of the incident, and you -- the way you describe
 23 it is:
 24 "We were leaving Westminster Pier ..."
 25 And at 14.40 hours you swung the Diamond to port but

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1 you saw and heard people shouting from the bridge and
 2 pointing to the water. You then write this:
 3 "We then saw a body floating through No. 3 arch of
 4 the bridge. I used the boat hook to pull the body
 5 alongside the vessel and noticed blood in the water from
 6 the body. There was no movement so I presumed the
 7 person was dead. Moments after this the fire boat ...
 8 came and retrieved the body and left at high speed."
 9 So that was the explanation you gave on the day.
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. And the next page, please, {WS5118/4}, another incident
 12 reporting form which you completed, again referring to
 13 using the boat hook to pull the body alongside,
 14 starboard side, and again saying that you took the body
 15 to be dead?
 16 A. That's correct.
 17 Q. The reason I've shown those is that you have said that
 18 when you saw the blood you thought that the person might
 19 be alive. Was it, however, your view that the person
 20 was probably not alive?
 21 A. There was no sign of life. There was no movement.
 22 Q. We can take that down, please.
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Just before we -- the last line on that
 24 document, Mr Hough, gave another reason as to why the
 25 body wasn't retrieved?

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1 MR HOUGH: Yes, we'll read that out as well. You also
 2 wrote:
 3 "I didn't attempt to retrieve the body as it
 4 appeared dead/bloodied and we had a boat full of
 5 children."
 6 Just explain why the -- again, it may be obvious --
 7 but why the children in the boat was a relevant factor?
 8 A. To bring a body on the boat with that amount of
 9 passengers on board would have been rather distressing,
 10 and to -- as I said, to try and retrieve the body with
 11 a boat hook on myself while my other crew member is
 12 manoeuvring the boat, it would be endangering my own
 13 life, and then if something happened to me, if I went
 14 into the water, I'd now be leaving the boat with my
 15 colleague on board -- not on his own because there are
 16 other crew members on board, so that's why I didn't try
 17 to get into the water to retrieve the body.
 18 Q. Now, may we look briefly at some CCTV photos from
 19 cameras on your vessel.
 20 First of all, {AV0037/16}. This is [14].42.52,
 21 looking from the inside of the vessel. We see that you
 22 have hooked the person in the water and we know from the
 23 footage that you had hooked her at 14.42.39, about 12 or
 24 13 seconds before this; can you see that?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. So that's you over to the left. Then if we can take up
 2 {AV0037/18}, this is showing the scene about a minute
 3 later, about a minute after you had hooked the person in
 4 the water, and do we see that the Fireflash boat has
 5 come into view as you've described on the left of the
 6 screen?
 7 A. That's correct.
 8 Q. Then if we take up the next shot, {AV0037/19}, this is
 9 15.43.48, and this is the time I think we see your
 10 boat hook hooking the certificate out of the water in
 11 the way you've described.
 12 A. I can see that.
 13 Q. Then {AV0037/22} showing that at 14.44.28 you were
 14 transferring the person to the Fireflash.
 15 A. That's correct.
 16 Q. And do those times accord with your recollection of the
 17 times that you had your boat hook on the person?
 18 A. Well, that's what's on the camera there, but in the
 19 event of this happened in my own mind, I thought it was
 20 a lot shorter time period.
 21 Q. It all seemed to go very quickly. If we could take that
 22 off screen, please.
 23 If I asked you now whether it would have been
 24 possible to handle any of this more quickly while still
 25 keeping your boat from striking the person in the water,

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1 and keeping the two boats, yours and the fire launch,
 2 from colliding with each other, what would you say?
 3 A. Couldn't have done that no quicker.
 4 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are my questions.
 5 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
 6 MR PATTERSON: Mr Markley, I ask questions on behalf of the
 7 family of Andreea Cristea, the young woman in the water.
 8 On that last point, the boat was being helmed at the
 9 time all of this was going on by Mr Cooper, your
 10 colleague; that's right, isn't it?
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. And so he was able to deal with the manoeuvring of the
 13 boat while you were dealing with Andreea in the water?
 14 A. That's correct.
 15 Q. And the propellers that might cause any danger or
 16 damage, were they at the stern, at the rear of the
 17 vessel?
 18 A. They were at the opposite end of the vessel, yes.
 19 Q. Right, so many, many metres away from where you were
 20 with Andreea near the front of this, did you say,
 21 33-metre long boat?
 22 A. That's correct.
 23 Q. Now, can I be clear about this, the reason you say today
 24 for not trying to get her out of the water was: one,
 25 that you feared that you would injure her?

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1 A. Mm-hm.
 2 Q. Would you agree with me that that's not an explanation
 3 you have ever given before in any of your three written
 4 accounts of what happened?
 5 A. I was never asked. I've sort of been asked to write
 6 a statement of what happened, not what I could do.
 7 Q. Let's look at it then, please. Can we see {WS5118/3}.
 8 On the very day itself you were required to give your
 9 employers this account in this form. You can see the
 10 date, 22 March towards the bottom right; do you see
 11 that?
 12 A. Mm-hm.
 13 Q. And at the very end of that account, in relation to why
 14 you didn't attempt to pull the body on board -- perhaps
 15 the cursor could be used to highlight where
 16 I'm referring, further down, please, further down,
 17 please. Further down please. Yes:
 18 "I didn't attempt to pull the body aboard as ..."
 19 Then you give the explanations, and nowhere there do
 20 you say anything about you feared that you might injure
 21 the person in the water; do you agree?
 22 A. When I wrote this statement I had presumed that the body
 23 was a dead body. It wasn't until later on we'd been
 24 informed that the lady had been taken to hospital and
 25 was still alive. I didn't know -- when I have written

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1 this statement out later in the day, I was still unaware
 2 of that. So that's, as I say, there was -- I presumed
 3 this was a dead body.
 4 Q. Yes. And so when you say today that you feared that you
 5 would cause injuries to the person, and that that was
 6 going through your mind in terms of deciding not to try
 7 to remove her from the water, do you agree that you
 8 didn't say that when you made this account, presumably
 9 within hours of what had happened?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. And if we go on to the next page, please, at page 4,
 12 {WS5118/4}, again in another form, an incident report
 13 form, again, with the help of the cursor please, towards
 14 the bottom, when addressing the issue of why you didn't
 15 attempt to retrieve the body, no mention made there that
 16 you feared that you would cause injury to the person?
 17 Do you see that?
 18 A. I do see that, yes.
 19 Q. You agree that you didn't mention it?
 20 A. I didn't, no.
 21 Q. Is that because, in fact, that wasn't something that was
 22 going through your mind?
 23 A. That's correct.
 24 Q. And today, when you indicate that you didn't think you
 25 would be able to get her out of the water, you didn't

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1 say anything along those lines when explaining why you
 2 didn't attempt to retrieve her, did you?
 3 A. I don't think -- when I was -- when we wrote this
 4 statement out I don't think I was being asked them sort
 5 of questions, as in the context you're asking me now.
 6 We was asked to give a statement so that it's written
 7 down so we've got an account of what happened on that
 8 day.
 9 Q. Nor when you say today that you thought that it would
 10 cause danger to you if you had done so, again, that
 11 wasn't something that you relied upon on the day when
 12 giving the explanation for why you didn't attempt to
 13 retrieve her; do you agree? Do you agree that you
 14 didn't say that either, on the day?
 15 A. I didn't, no. Not on the day.
 16 Q. What you did say, however, was that you presumed she was
 17 dead.
 18 A. I presumed we was dealing with a dead body in the river.
 19 Q. Just on that, help me, please, to understand this: you
 20 indicated earlier that when she came closer to you, you
 21 believed that she might actually be alive; yes?
 22 A. In my mind I might have thought she was alive, but there
 23 was no sign of life.
 24 Q. Yes. So why were you telling your employers that you
 25 didn't do anything to get her out of the water because

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1 you presumed she was dead?
 2 A. Because there was no sign of life.
 3 Q. But, forgive me, whether there were signs of life or
 4 not, you have indicated -- you've admitted today --
 5 A. We don't bring dead bodies on board the boat.
 6 Q. -- if I could finish the question, please -- you've
 7 admitted today that you believed that she might be alive
 8 when she was there near you in the water.
 9 A. I can't answer that now. To say I think she was alive
 10 and that -- there was blood all over the body, there was
 11 blood flowing in the water. We presumed this was a dead
 12 body and -- you can see how quick things have happened
 13 here, within seconds we'd been given assistance by other
 14 craft and for me to try and start dragging that body up
 15 the side of the boat, whether alive or not, I presumed
 16 that I would be causing more injury.
 17 Q. This all began, Mr Markley, with you hearing people
 18 shouting from the bridge about there being someone in
 19 the water; yes?
 20 A. That's correct.
 21 Q. And that was just up above you as you began the
 22 manoeuvre, coming away from the pier.
 23 A. Mm-hm.
 24 Q. And there was a real sense of urgency in the voices of
 25 those people shouting down at you.

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1 A. That's correct.
 2 Q. Do you agree?
 3 You have said that you have a ladder on board the
 4 boat and that you can use the ladder for you, the crew
 5 member, to get down to the water level to help somebody
 6 out. Did you not consider using that ladder to try to
 7 get her out?
 8 A. That would be more time consuming.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Sorry, I missed that.
 10 A. That would be more time consuming. By the time I'd got
 11 the ladder, as to getting the hitcher, the body would
 12 have floated away. We're manoeuvring the boat in
 13 a position to hold it there. By the time I've gone to
 14 get the ladder and lowered that over the side, it's far
 15 quicker to retrieve -- hold the body with this long pole
 16 until further assistance has arrived.
 17 THE CHIEF CORONER: It may have been -- forgive me,
 18 Mr Patterson, it may be something that I mistakenly
 19 heard, but I think you said earlier on that you had to
 20 assemble the ladder?
 21 A. It would have to be put into a position, and it would
 22 also -- it's not for me to go down, it's also for
 23 a person to be -- to assist themselves out of the water.
 24 MR PATTERSON: Mr Markley, you went and got a boat hook and
 25 came to the front of the vessel. Could you not have

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1 gone and got a ladder and brought it to the front of the
2 vessel?
3 A. It was possible I could have done that.
4 Q. And you could have taken a few steps down to the water
5 level; yes?
6 A. By the time I'd done that -- if I had a body in the
7 river that there was a sign of life, I would have done
8 that, yes.
9 Q. Yes, but at the stage when you saw the blood and thought
10 maybe she's alive, as you've told us today in fact you
11 did --
12 A. There was no sign of life.
13 Q. -- you could have shouted to Sam or to one of the other
14 two members of the crew who were all safety-trained and
15 emergency-trained to get the ladder, couldn't you?
16 A. There was a lot of confusion on the vessel as well.
17 There was a lot of people -- passengers wondering what's
18 happening. Those other crew members on board were
19 dealing with that situation. For me to leave the deck
20 and start to go inside and taking my eye off this person
21 in the water would have been -- added more problems.
22 Q. Well, the priority is the casualty there in front of you
23 in the water; yes?
24 A. That's correct.
25 Q. And you know better than anyone that time is critical --

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1 A. Exactly, yes.
2 Q. -- when someone is in the water, especially if they've
3 only just fallen in from the bridge.
4 A. We didn't know that. I didn't know that had happened.
5 Q. Did it not occur to you that a very likely explanation
6 for all the urgent shouting from up above was that she
7 had just fallen in?
8 A. There was no clear indication of how that person had got
9 into the river. I just presumed that Mr Brown who was
10 sat here earlier was just telling me that there was
11 a body in the river. I just presumed that he had
12 spotted it off the bridge himself. We was unaware of
13 what had taken place on that bridge.
14 Q. But in your training -- you are licensed by the Maritime
15 and Coastguard Agency; yes?
16 A. Correct.
17 Q. You are first aid trained?
18 A. That's correct.
19 Q. You can resuscitate people who have been in the water?
20 A. Maybe, yes.
21 Q. Yes. You know the dangers of immersion, especially as
22 the minutes tick by, yes?
23 A. I'm trained in all them aspects and in this situation
24 that arose this afternoon, there was emergency services
25 on hand to deal with this situation. If they hadn't

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1 been there, then I would have taken these other steps.
2 Q. Did you at one stage make a death gesture towards those
3 who were on the far boat?
4 A. A what gesture, sorry?
5 Q. A death gesture?
6 A. No. I don't really follow what you mean by that.
7 Q. Well, we'll hear later from Mr Wolfe that you made
8 a gesture that he interpreted as indicating that the
9 person was dead. Some kind of gesture or movement,
10 perhaps, with your hand; did you do anything of the
11 sort?
12 A. No, I don't recall that.
13 Q. Do you agree that given her weight, of 11 stone,
14 9 pounds, and given the presence not only of yourself
15 with the hook, but also Sam and the other crew members,
16 that it would have been possible to lift her up out of
17 the water.
18 A. As I have said, if there had been no other assistance
19 around we would have taken those steps, but there was,
20 the emergency services there on hand to carry out what
21 did get carried out, far quicker than what you're
22 suggesting.
23 Q. The timing suggests that from her entering the water
24 until you hooked her, it was a little over 2 minutes in
25 total. I think it's 2 minutes and 18 seconds. By the

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1 time she was eventually removed from the water by the
2 fire boat it was something over five minutes that she
3 had been face-down immersed. Do you agree that you
4 could have, at the very least, raised her face out of
5 the water the moment you hooked her?
6 A. There was no sign of life. I didn't ... I did actually
7 see the side of the -- from about here that I could see
8 (indicates) that's where the blood was coming from, but
9 there was no sign of life, and with the emergency
10 service on hand, I just presumed it's quicker to pass
11 this on to those people which -- I don't think we could
12 have dealt with this any quicker. If I'd have been --
13 if we'd have been the only vessel in this area, then
14 I would have carried out other steps. But we had other
15 vessels to offer assistance far quicker and safer than
16 what we could have done.
17 Q. Do you agree that physically, at least, you could have
18 at least raised her a little bit so that her face was
19 out of the water in order to see whether she was
20 breathing?
21 A. There was no sign of life.
22 Q. Were you aware that as soon as she was raised out of the
23 water by the fire boat some minutes later, she did
24 immediately start breathing; were you aware of that?
25 A. I wasn't aware of that. The launch -- as soon as she

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1 was on board, they was off, rapidly.

2 Q. At the stage when you unhooked Andreea to get the
3 certificate out of the water, just help me please, why
4 were you releasing the casualty who you had secured in
5 order to get a piece of paper?

6 A. This piece of paper was actually a certificate and
7 I presumed it had come out of her rucksack and it had --
8 the emblem on it was of the Metropolitan Police, and
9 I just thought that that had some significance to
10 Andreea, and to have lost that as well, I just -- I did
11 it and I got it out the water, handed it over, and at no
12 time did we lose control of that body.

13 Q. With the benefit now, perhaps, Mr Markley, of hindsight,
14 putting yourself back into that situation, do you think
15 that perhaps, with hindsight, you might have approached
16 things slightly differently and might have, at the very
17 least, tried to raise her face to see what state she was
18 in and whether she might start breathing?

19 A. In hindsight, yes. I would love to have been able to
20 have gone down into that water and done that, but in
21 hindsight, for safety on board, we did what we thought
22 was appropriate, or I did what I thought was
23 appropriate.

24 MR PATTERSON: No more questions.

25 MR HOUGH: I have nothing more for you, Mr Markley. Thank

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1 you very much for coming to give evidence.

2 A. Thank you.

3 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you, Mr Markley. Thank you very
4 much.

5 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Thomas Wolfe.

6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.

7 MR THOMAS HEADLEY WOLFE (Affirmed)

8 Examination by MR HOUGH QC

9 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your name to the court.

10 A. Thomas Headley Wolfe.

11 Q. Mr Wolfe, you know I ask questions first on behalf of
12 the Coroner and then there may be questions from others.
13 You also know you're here to give evidence about the
14 events of 22 March 2017 in the area of
15 Westminster Bridge?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Your witness statement was made on 8 November last year,
18 and you may refer to it.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. In March 2017, what was your job?

21 A. I was the watch manager of the White Watch at
22 Kensington.

23 Q. Working for the London Fire Brigade?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. On 22 March 2017, were you on board the Lambeth fire

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1 boat, named Fireflash?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What was your reason for being on board that boat that
4 day?

5 A. My watch were carrying out a familiarisation visit on
6 the fire boat.

7 Q. What experience, if any, did you have going out on fire
8 boats before?

9 A. I hadn't. That's the first time I'd been on a fire
10 boat.

11 Q. Did you set off from Lambeth boat station that day?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What time was that?

14 A. It was approximately 2.20. I remember this because I'd
15 booked the appointment for 2 o'clock but we were running
16 late, so I was conscious of the time, so yes, we were
17 about 20 minutes late, about 2.20.

18 Q. What direction on the river did you travel from setting
19 off from Lambeth?

20 A. East.

21 Q. And I think you travelled downriver for a distance
22 before you became aware of a serious incident?

23 A. I didn't know there was a serious incident until after
24 it had all happened.

25 Q. Did a time come when the boat received an emergency

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1 call?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Where was the boat at that stage?

4 A. We'd just passed under Westminster Bridge, so maybe two,
5 three minutes past under the bridge we'd travelled.

6 Q. What was said in the course of that emergency call?

7 A. I was having a discussion with a member of the boat,
8 asking them how busy they are, how many calls they
9 received on average, and the lights came on the boat,
10 and he said: we've received an emergency call to
11 a person in the water.

12 Q. So a person in the water. Was anything said about the
13 person's condition?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Or even whether the person was alive or dead?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What was the reaction of the crew? What did they do
18 with the vessel?

19 A. They turned it round immediately and started heading
20 back towards Westminster Bridge.

21 Q. How long did it take to get back to the bridge?

22 A. Two minutes, maybe.

23 Q. I think you put it at three minutes in your statement,
24 but of that order?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. As you were approaching the bridge, did anything catch
2 your eye?
3 A. Yes, I could see the pleasure cruiser and a gentleman on
4 the back with a boat hook holding something in the water
5 as we approached. That was from about 20 metres.
6 Q. And as your boat got closer, could you see anything in
7 the water?
8 A. Yes. As -- when we got to about two metres away I could
9 see it was a female, motionless in the water, not
10 showing any signs of life.
11 Q. What was her position in the water?
12 A. Her arms were out as if floating on the surface
13 face-down in the water, but the rest of the body seemed
14 almost vertical.
15 Q. So her legs going down into the water?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. As the boat approached, what, if any, manoeuvres did the
18 crew make with the Fireflash?
19 A. Well, there was the transfer of the casualty in the
20 water from the gentleman on the pleasure cruiser to one
21 of the boat crew, and they swapped. So we had our --
22 they had their boat hook, that was swapped over, and
23 then the boat manoeuvred round, but at the time
24 I assumed this was to -- because there were a lot of
25 children on the pleasure cruiser who were all filming it

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1 and watching it, I assumed that was to move around so
2 that they could get the casualty in the cradle, but they
3 could have been fighting the tide at the time, I'm
4 unsure.
5 Q. Just in stages, first of all, as the Fireflash
6 approached the Millennium cruiser, the Millennium
7 Diamond, did the fire boat have to manoeuvre at all in
8 order to be in the correct position to retrieve the
9 person from the water?
10 A. Yes, there had some some movement so that we could get
11 close enough so they could transfer the casualty in the
12 water.
13 Q. Did you see the casualty transferred in the water?
14 A. I can't remember the actual transfer.
15 Q. Now, you then indicated that after the transfer, it
16 seemed that the fire boat moved around slightly?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And you weren't clear whether that was to move the body
19 away from the Millennium Clipper or whether it was just
20 the action of fighting the tide?
21 A. Yes, or just to manoeuvre, to get the casualty to the
22 cradle. So I've never piloted a boat so I'm unsure of
23 what he has to do to get the boat in the right position.
24 Q. Now, we can bring up a photograph which shows the cradle
25 {WS1393M/3}. Now, this is a brochure. Do we see here

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1 shown, fairly graphically, the kind of cradle that was
2 on the side of the fire boat that day?
3 A. Yes, that's correct.
4 Q. And do we see in the middle of those photographs in the
5 upper part of the page, an example of the use of one of
6 those cradles?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Thank you very much, we can take that down now.
9 After the boat had started to move around, did you
10 see the casualty being retrieved using that cradle?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Now, how long did it take from the time that the
13 casualty was brought close to your vessel to the time
14 that the cradle was used to bring her on board?
15 A. It was very quick, under a minute. 30 seconds.
16 Q. Just to be clear, because it wasn't fully heard, you
17 said: under a minute, perhaps 30 seconds?
18 A. Yes, that's correct.
19 Q. Did the boat then set off or did it wait for a while?
20 A. When the casualty was put into the cradle and they used
21 a pulley system to pull it up, as soon as it came up,
22 the casualty rolled over and then I saw signs of life.
23 So I have started attended to the casualty along with my
24 crew so I'm unsure if we left straight away or if there
25 was a delay but I was engrossed in the casualty at that

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1 time.
2 Q. So you had your crew who weren't a regular fire boat
3 crew but had first aid training?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And you set to work as soon as the casualty was brought
6 aboard, providing what aid you could?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Had you, before you started work, obtained any
9 equipment, any first aid kit?
10 A. Yes, so on the way to the call I liaised with the
11 officer in charge of the boat, because none of my crew
12 are trained, so I liaised with him and he asked us to
13 stand at the rear of the boat and we would just observe
14 what was happening and then as we approached he asked me
15 if I could pick up the immediate emergency care pack
16 from the cabin and take it to the front of the boat. So
17 I was there with, which is in effect a big first aid
18 kit.
19 Q. How close were you to the cradle when the woman was
20 being brought aboard?
21 A. A metre, a metre away.
22 Q. So you were very close when the cradle was being winched
23 up to take the person on board.
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. What did you see and hear as she was being brought onto

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1 the boat?
 2 A. The cradle is fixed at one end, so as they were using
 3 the pulley system she turned over from being face-down
 4 to face-up and there was a short cough and a spurt of
 5 water came out of her mouth.
 6 Q. How, otherwise, did she seem at that moment when you
 7 first saw her?
 8 A. She had a large head injury on the left side, on her
 9 forehead.
 10 Q. Did she seem conscious?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Once she was aboard, did you and your colleagues then
 13 set to work on your first aid?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Where was she first when you were making your efforts?
 16 A. She was on the front of the boat, on the deck, lying on
 17 her back.
 18 Q. What were the first steps you took to help her?
 19 A. I was passed a pair of scissors so I started to remove
 20 all of her clothes on her upper body so that we could
 21 put the defibrillator on and start using oxygen.
 22 So I detailed my crew, one of my firefighters,
 23 Firefighter John Doyle, to start getting the defib ready
 24 and I also detailed Firefighter Lyndon Mantle to start
 25 setting up the oxygen.

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1 Q. As you prepared the defibrillator for use, did you
 2 notice anything about her?
 3 A. Only that she had a large head injury. So I did
 4 afterwards, I checked her pupils, but this was after we
 5 made sure that she was breathing, but I did notice she
 6 had a dilated pupil.
 7 Q. As the defibrillator was turned on, did you have any
 8 difficulty in using the equipment?
 9 A. I personally didn't hear any commands from the
 10 defibrillator, because it will instruct you on what to
 11 do, but I personally didn't hear it, but the
 12 defibrillator was on the other side of the casualty to
 13 me, and there was a lot of engine noise because we were
 14 moving pretty rapidly.
 15 Q. Did that difficulty in hearing impair the first aid in
 16 any way?
 17 A. No, because while that's being set up, we then moved on
 18 to checking the airway, breathing and circulation. So a
 19 member of the fire boat crew was at the head, he was
 20 checking her breathing and I was finding a pulse, which
 21 I did. So I found a pulse and he confirmed to me that
 22 she was breathing, so we wouldn't have used the defib.
 23 I was just getting everything in place for the worst
 24 case scenario if we had to resuscitate.
 25 Q. So the defibrillator had been turned on and put into

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1 use. She was being given oxygen and the boat crew
 2 member had noticed that she was breathing?
 3 A. She hadn't been given oxygen at that stage. We have the
 4 two different methods of delivering the oxygen. There's
 5 a bag valve mask which we use for someone who is not
 6 breathing and we will breathe for them, so we squeeze a
 7 bag and it will push through oxygen in, and then we use
 8 a Hudson free flow mask and that's for someone who is
 9 breathing for themselves, and that one gives a higher
 10 rate -- a high percentage of oxygen.
 11 So as soon as I got confirmation that she was
 12 breathing, I then detailed Firefighter Mantle to change
 13 the bag valve mask to the Hudson free flow and put that
 14 on the casualty.
 15 Q. Was her pulse checked at this time?
 16 A. Yes, I had hold of her wrist pretty much the whole way
 17 and I noticed it start off as a slow, weak pulse, but as
 18 we were moving along it was gradually getting stronger
 19 and stronger.
 20 Q. Were her eyes open or closed at this time?
 21 A. They were open when she was on the boat.
 22 Q. Did you notice anything about them?
 23 A. One of her pupils was a lot larger than the other one,
 24 but I can't remember which.
 25 Q. Was there any change in her condition as the boat made

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1 its journey from the point that it had taken her on
 2 board to the time that it reached its destination?
 3 A. I was getting reports from the boat officer on the head
 4 that her breathing was getting stronger, and I had her
 5 pulse and that was getting stronger.
 6 Q. How long, so far as you can recall, passed between when
 7 she was brought onto the boat and when it set off
 8 towards the shore?
 9 A. A minute, maybe.
 10 Q. And how long did the journey take as far as you can
 11 recall from that position to --
 12 A. I don't remember, I'm really sorry.
 13 Q. In your witness statement you estimate it as being
 14 around five minutes. Did the Fireflash then go straight
 15 to the Tower Pier RNLI station?
 16 A. That's correct.
 17 Q. At that pier, was a handover made to ambulance staff who
 18 were waiting on hand?
 19 A. Yes, there was a London Ambulance Service technician on
 20 the jetty, and I informed her straightaway that she
 21 had -- the casualty had a nasty head injury and one of
 22 her pupils was a lot bigger than the other one, and
 23 I just detailed what treatment we'd given her.
 24 Q. Did you assist in the physical handover as well as the
 25 description?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. At that time, when you were doing that, did you notice
 3 any further injuries?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. You refer in your statement to having seen injuries on
 6 the left side of her body, especially towards the
 7 shoulder?
 8 A. No, I didn't see any injuries, that was information --
 9 because I think a stretcher was provided from the
 10 lifeboat station, so we put the casualty onto the
 11 stretcher and then I assisted carrying her up the jetty
 12 to the road, Victoria Embankment, where we put her into
 13 the ambulance, and I was present when the paramedic
 14 started to do his preliminary survey, so he was checking
 15 down, and then I heard him say about her left-hand side
 16 and her shoulder, that it was crushed or "mush".
 17 Q. I see. So that is something you heard, did you?
 18 A. It was something I heard. I didn't see that.
 19 Q. After that, after the woman had been taken into the
 20 ambulance, did you and your colleagues in the fire boat
 21 assist in a further search of the river?
 22 A. We did, but this was some time after. The river was on
 23 lock-down so we were at the lifeboat station for
 24 approximately an hour before there were reports of a
 25 further four persons in the water and then we assisted

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1 the fire boat just with extra sets of eyes looking as we
 2 moved up the river.
 3 Q. Did you, in fact, find any further casualties in the
 4 river that day?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. May we look briefly at some photographs of the scene and
 7 with your help, interpret them {PH0045/1}. Do we see
 8 here a photo of the fire rescue boat as it is initially
 9 approaching the Millennium Diamond? Can you go to
 10 {PH0052/1} Do you recall this as the scene as the fire
 11 boat first came close to the Millennium Diamond?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Where were you on the boat at this point?
 14 A. I think I'm actually going into the back of the cab to
 15 get the IEC pack out.
 16 Q. So that's you we can see at the back of the orange cab.
 17 A. Yes, and you can just see the -- I've got the red
 18 lifejacket on, you can just see the top of that, so
 19 I think that's me.
 20 Q. {PH0055/1}. At this point we know that the fire boat
 21 was manoeuvring back towards the Millennium Diamond.
 22 Again, are you able to say where you were at this time?
 23 A. I'm not in shot there so I assume that I'm at the front
 24 of the boat.
 25 Q. {PH0064/1}. This is the handover that you have

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1 described. Are you in shot or would you have been at
 2 the other end of the boat?
 3 A. No, I'm in shot. I'm between the -- I'm in the middle.
 4 Q. You are the person with the red lifejacket we can see
 5 who would have been looking as a direct onlooker on that
 6 transfer?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. {PH0068/1}. So do we now see you looking over the side
 9 of the boat as the transfer is taking place?
 10 A. Yes, so it looks like the transfer has happened and
 11 I'm looking after the boat. I'm just there really to
 12 offer the boat officer if he needs any assistance.
 13 Q. {PH0072/1}. Once again, we see you next to the person
 14 wielding the boat hook, and that person seems to be
 15 manoeuvring the casualty along the side of the boat?
 16 A. Yes, that's correct.
 17 Q. Is that the Jason's Cradle that we see over to the right
 18 of shot?
 19 A. That's correct.
 20 Q. {PH0092/1}. From a slightly different perspective, or
 21 angle, perhaps, is this the moment when you were
 22 describing the boat appearing to move, perhaps to fight
 23 the tide?
 24 A. I'm not sure. I can't tell where we are there. But
 25 I know the captain of the boat was having to manoeuvre

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1 a lot, I assume the tide was quite powerful.
 2 Q. And {PH0114/1}, this is a photograph taken as Andreea
 3 has been removed from the water and first aid is
 4 beginning. Can you identify where you would have been
 5 in the boat at this point.
 6 A. I can't actually see me in the photo but the two
 7 firefighters to the right-hand side, that's Firefighter
 8 John Doyle and Firefighter Lyndon Mantle, and I was
 9 opposite them, so they were on the right-hand side of
 10 the casualty and I was on the left-hand side of the
 11 casualty, so I assume I'm just in front of them.
 12 Q. So on this photograph, on the right-hand side of the
 13 vessel as we're looking at it, Andreea was laid out and
 14 you were all around providing first aid?
 15 A. That's correct.
 16 Q. Then {PH0124/1} finally, is that the picture as the
 17 vessel is setting off at some speed, again, with you and
 18 your colleagues on the right-hand side as we're looking
 19 at it, the front of the vessel?
 20 A. That's correct.
 21 Q. We can take that down. Overall, you were an interested
 22 onlooker to the operations of the fire boat; you weren't
 23 a regular crew member?
 24 A. No, I'm not trained in any of their equipment, so ...
 25 Q. What was your impression of the speed and the

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1 professionalism of the rescue efforts you were watching?
 2 A. From the moment we got there it seemed a very slick and
 3 efficient operation.
 4 Q. Was any time lost or wasted during those efforts?
 5 A. Not that I can recall.
 6 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much.
 7 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
 8 MR PATTERSON: Mr Wolfe, I ask questions on behalf of the
 9 family of Andreea Cristea.
 10 From the moment you received that emergency radio
 11 message and rushed to the scene, it's plain from what
 12 you've described that there was a real sense of urgency
 13 in everything that was done; is that correct?
 14 A. That's correct.
 15 Q. On behalf of the family, could I pass on their gratitude
 16 to all that was done.
 17 Just a few details, if I may, please. When you
 18 first saw the person in the water being held by the
 19 boat hook, there was a gesture that was made by the
 20 person holding the boat hook that you describe in your
 21 witness statement?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. "... he indicated to our boat, by moving his hand
 24 underneath his neck/across his throat, that he thought
 25 the person in the water was dead."

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1 A. That's how I interpreted it.
 2 Q. That's what you saw him do, was it?
 3 A. Yes. But he could have been waving the boat over.
 4 I mean, that's how I interpreted it.
 5 Q. Now, you say that when you saw the casualty in the
 6 water, you could see that she was a female, a woman?
 7 A. Yes, when I got up to two metres I could see, I could
 8 see her hair -- the hair, and I could tell it was
 9 a female.
 10 Q. So at that stage there was no difficulty in telling this
 11 was a woman. You could see the length of her hair, for
 12 example?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. I believe that you were able to see that she had
 15 a tattoo on her back?
 16 A. I didn't see the tattoo. I don't remember seeing the
 17 tattoo.
 18 Q. She was being held at that stage face-down in the water?
 19 A. That's correct.
 20 Q. But everything that was done with the crew and those on
 21 your boat was clearly done with the intention of getting
 22 her out of the water as quickly as possible?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. You described your first aid training, the intention was
 25 to try to resuscitate her?

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1 A. Yes, so I got all the -- I mean, as soon as she come
 2 aboard, I noticed signs of life: she coughed and spurted
 3 water.
 4 Q. Yes.
 5 A. So then I have put all the equipment in place for the
 6 worst case scenario, if we need to resuscitate, but
 7 fortunately she started breathing for herself once she
 8 was on board.
 9 Q. So the moment of transfer, as it has been described, you
 10 estimate is that perhaps 30 seconds until you had her up
 11 out of the water?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And although there was the serious head wound visible,
 14 there were a number of positive signs, weren't there, in
 15 the minutes that then followed?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. There was the immediate cough and the breathing which
 18 was weak at first but grew stronger over time.
 19 A. That's correct.
 20 Q. The pulse, which was weak at first but grew stronger
 21 over time. Oxygen was given in the way that you have
 22 described. I think her clothing was to a degree
 23 removed, obviously, an issue arises as to the
 24 hypothermia risks of being in cold water, and I think
 25 blankets were used by some of your colleagues to try to

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1 begin the process of warming her; is that right?
 2 A. I don't remember, to be honest.
 3 Q. And we certainly have statements and documents from some
 4 of your colleagues: Mr Sargent, Mr Mantle, Mr Doyle and
 5 Mr Todd. They were all with you, weren't they?
 6 A. I only know Mr Mantle and Mr Doyle.
 7 Q. You were a visitor on board?
 8 A. I was a visitor. It's the first time I've met the
 9 boat crew.
 10 Q. But we have seen references in the documents to blizzard
 11 blankets used to try to warm her and that blankets were
 12 used to cover her from top to bottom; is that correct?
 13 A. I don't remember them using the blankets but
 14 I'm assuming that's something they carry on the boat and
 15 they would have used.
 16 Q. Yes. The wound to the head was bandaged?
 17 A. That's correct.
 18 Q. And your estimate, or the one suggested of five minutes,
 19 in one of the statements of your colleagues, the
 20 estimate of Mr Miller was that you got to the pier
 21 within two minutes; what's your best estimate?
 22 A. I can't -- really can't remember how much time -- the
 23 whole situation from start to end only seemed a few
 24 minutes in total.
 25 Q. But the boat was certainly speeding there as quickly

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1 as it could.
 2 A. We were moving, yes.
 3 Q. One thing that Mr Doyle wrote about, perhaps you
 4 witnessed this, that he was trying to speak to Andreea
 5 to get a response from her?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Do you remember that?
 8 A. At one point, the police boat pulled up alongside and
 9 asked if she was a police officer, so my crew manager,
 10 Remi Osbourne, went in her bag and we found her
 11 passport, so then we were all trying to talk to her and
 12 trying to get a response and just letting her know
 13 everything's going to be okay and we're doing the best
 14 we can for her.
 15 Q. Yes. Mr Doyle writes:
 16 "Although she didn't respond specifically, I could
 17 see her jaw moving and her tongue and her eyes were
 18 looking around."
 19 Did you witness those sorts of responses from her?
 20 A. Yes, so I saw her eyes moving -- actually, her eyes were
 21 shut when she first came aboard and then as she started
 22 breathing more, and as the pulse got better, her eyes
 23 opened up and you could see her eyes moving around.
 24 Q. So certainly a number of positive signs in this patient?
 25 Was there a difficulty with the defibrillator and

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1 the movements of the boat affecting whether it was
 2 working or not?
 3 A. Well, I personally didn't hear the commands from it.
 4 I don't know if any of the other -- the defibrillator
 5 was on the other side of the casualty to me, so
 6 I personally didn't hear any commands, but we wouldn't
 7 have used it anyway because we discovered a pulse and
 8 she was breathing.
 9 Q. Yes. When you got to the pier, a small point, but
 10 I think two of your crew members had to go and get
 11 an ambulance, a Mr Eaton and a Mr Best, who describe in
 12 their statements going up onto the embankment, flagging
 13 down an ambulance, and bringing the paramedic down to
 14 the pier?
 15 A. Okay, I didn't see any of that.
 16 Q. Do you remember that?
 17 A. It would explain why there were three ambulances waiting
 18 at the top when I got up with the stretcher.
 19 Q. We'll hear in a moment from a paramedic from a private
 20 ambulance and then how also the London Ambulance Service
 21 arrived as well, but ...
 22 And then help me, please, Mr Wolfe, with this:
 23 clearly this was someone who was in need of urgent and
 24 significant treatment, and you had done everything that
 25 you were able to do, and you handed her over to the

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1 paramedic. Was there any discussion or consideration
 2 about asking HEMS, the London Air Ambulance service, to
 3 come to the scene to see if the treatment could begin
 4 there and then on the embankment?
 5 A. I don't recall any conversation, but I certainly didn't
 6 have a conversation about HEMS coming, I didn't hear any
 7 of the ambulance service talking about, but they may
 8 well have done.
 9 Q. We know that by that time they had finished what they
 10 were doing in the courtyard at the Palace of Westminster
 11 and would have been available, but it's not something
 12 that you heard being discussed by either of -- any of
 13 the paramedics?
 14 A. I didn't hear it, no.
 15 MR PATTERSON: Yes, Mr Wolfe. That's all I ask, but thank
 16 you once again.
 17 MR HOUGH: Mr Wolfe, nothing more from me. Thank you very
 18 much for giving evidence.
 19 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Wolfe.
 20 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Joanne Fant.
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 22 MS JOANNE FANT (Affirmed)
 23 MR HOUGH: Could you give your full name -- sorry.
 24 THE CHIEF CORONER: If you want to take a seat, please do,
 25 whichever you feel happier, standing, sitting,

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1 whichever.
 2 A. I'll do a bit of both.
 3 THE CHIEF CORONER: That's fine.
 4 Examination by MR HOUGH QC
 5 MR HOUGH: Could you give your full name to the court,
 6 please?
 7 A. My name is Joanne Fant.
 8 Q. Ms Fant, you know I am asking questions first on behalf
 9 of the Coroner and then there may be some questions from
 10 others.
 11 You are here, you know, to give evidence about
 12 events on 22 March last year?
 13 A. Mm-hm.
 14 Q. You made a witness statement about your part in those
 15 events on 20 July last year, and you can refer to that
 16 if you wish.
 17 What was your job in March 2017?
 18 A. I am an ambulance technician.
 19 Q. For which service?
 20 A. I am contracted, I'm a private -- sorry, I'm --
 21 privately but I'm contracted to East of England
 22 Ambulance Service.
 23 Q. On 22 March last year were you at work in an ambulance
 24 with a colleague?
 25 A. Yes, I was.

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1 Q. Before the events with which we're concerned, had you
2 been to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital?
3 A. Yes, I'd done a transfer from Basildon hospital to there
4 with a patient.
5 Q. After leaving Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, where
6 were you going?
7 A. We had been assigned another job back over in
8 Chelmsford, because that was the area we were actually
9 covering that day. It was a non-blue light transfer, so
10 we were just going at normal speed; it wasn't an urgent
11 job.
12 Q. And were you, at the time we're concerned with, going
13 through Central London?
14 A. Yes, I was. I was actually heading back out of London.
15 The traffic was extremely heavy that day as there was
16 roadworks going along the embankment all the way down
17 towards the highway so it was just like slow pootle to
18 just get us out, really.
19 Q. Did a time come when you were driving along the
20 embankment?
21 A. Yes. Well, I wasn't driving, my colleague was.
22 Q. Your vehicle driving.
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. So going from west to east?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Were you diverted from your journey?
2 A. Yes, I was.
3 Q. How did that happen?
4 A. We was flagged down by what I assumed, and I now know,
5 was a fireman.
6 Q. You knew him from his uniform, did you?
7 A. Yes, I did, and he actually, when I got to the uniform,
8 I could see what it said on the sign.
9 Q. Did your colleague, the ambulance driver, pull in?
10 A. Sorry?
11 Q. Did your colleague, the ambulance driver, pull in?
12 A. Yes, where we was positioned there's actually
13 a reservation, a concrete reservation going through so
14 we had to quickly pull over on the side. We whacked the
15 blue lights on because to be flagged down by a fireman
16 you know straightaway it's going to be an emergency
17 situation, so we put the lights on. My colleague pulled
18 over for a split second to allow me to jump out to go
19 and have a quick conversation with the fireman, so he
20 wasn't actually aware, nor was I, of the actual events
21 that were about to unfold.
22 Q. What did you say to the fireman and what did he say to
23 you?
24 A. The first thing the fireman actually said to us was:
25 we've got the body out the water. So I said: I'm ever

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1 so sorry, I know something must have been going on, but
2 we are not actually on the same radio station so you'll
3 have to tell me a little bit more because I'm unaware of
4 everything that's going on, we're completely on a
5 different radio station.
6 Q. Did he give you an explanation?
7 A. Yes, one of the things that he actually told me was that
8 a policeman had been shot and there was a man driving
9 recklessly that had hit bodies and one of them had
10 actually fallen into water. Obviously prior to that
11 I assumed, when he told me that there was a body in the
12 water I had just assumed that she was an attempted
13 suicide.
14 Q. Did you ask him any questions about her in those first
15 moments?
16 A. Literally just to give me as much detail as he could,
17 but obviously he was standing on the side and he said
18 they are just coming in now as we were literally running
19 down to the platform below to greet the body, or the
20 person, patient, as she came across.
21 Q. In your statement, you say in the context of that first
22 conversation, you had asked how long she had been in the
23 water.
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. And he said not long.

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1 A. Because obviously we're unaware, you've got different
2 types of drowning and depending on whether you've got
3 freshwater, seawater, can depend on the survival rate of
4 a patient, and so ideally it gives you a rough idea of
5 when a person goes into the water, if they've been in
6 there potentially 30-odd minutes there's a good chance
7 that they're already passed. The fact that she -- it
8 wasn't 100 per cent sure on how long, but we are
9 talking, I can gather, minutes, then there's a good
10 chance of survival if we can get everything done
11 correctly.
12 Q. Did you, after being given this basic set of information
13 about both events generally, and about her, give any
14 message to your control room?
15 A. Yes, obviously, because of being an outsider, this is
16 classed as London Ambulance Service, and I'm East of
17 England, we have different radio stations, so obviously
18 the first thing you do require is back up, especially in
19 an incident like this, so I then had to contact my
20 controller to organise for me to get in contact with
21 East of England to give me more information and to also
22 get back up, because it's not a job -- for someone
23 that's gone in the water -- that's going to be able to
24 be dealt with with just myself on the back. You need as
25 much help as you can get.

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1 Q. So after you had had that exchange with your control
2 room, did you go to the scene with the firefighter?
3 A. Yes, obviously that conversation was actually happening
4 whilst I was travelling down the jetty. We saw -- the
5 lady in question came in, first thing I could see was
6 actually still on the boat itself, and the -- one of the
7 guys had actually jumped off as I'm coming up towards
8 the jetty to give me as much info, telling me that she
9 is still breathing, they've had a response from her, and
10 that she's got a serious head injury, which I could
11 actually see because the blood had actually come through
12 so many packings of dressing, so I knew it was quite
13 an extensive head injury.
14 Q. Now, we know that the boat had come into an RNLI station
15 there at the jetty. We've also seen footage, which
16 I'm not going to show again, of the boat coming in, and
17 I think you on the footage asking about the position of
18 the body in the water; do you remember that
19 conversation?
20 A. No, not entirely. I just -- you tend to focus on --
21 once you know the body's there, you tend to focus what
22 the injury is and what the next step is to keep this
23 patient alive.
24 Q. When you got a closer look at Andreea and her injuries,
25 what could you see?

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1 A. On arrival, the first thing I saw was, as I say, the
2 amount of packing on her head wound, which was very
3 bloodied, and so straightaway we have to check for
4 pupils, whether any of them are dilated, which the left
5 one was because of the injury. Her face was very
6 distorted from the impact, which could indicate that she
7 potentially could have had a blown socket, or smashed-up
8 eye socket, and I could see that she was still
9 breathing. When I finally got her properly, I managed
10 to grab her hand and she did actually squeeze my hand.
11 We had been told her name by, I don't know whether
12 it was a fireman or a police officer or some sort -- but
13 they did actually tell me her name was Christie --
14 Christina, so I was calling out her name as being her
15 Christina, but they said they'd found her passport in a
16 rucksack and that's the name I was actually using.
17 Unfortunately I've now found out it's not her name.
18 Q. Did you pass on her description using your radio and ask
19 for further assistance?
20 A. Yes, I did. As I say, whenever there's anything like
21 this you have to always get back up from a more
22 qualified person than myself. So I passed on the
23 information to control, because they do -- being as we
24 are out of area, it's classed as a major incident, so we
25 have to keep them updated every step of the way of

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1 what's going on, who's there, who's involved, who do we
2 need.
3 Q. Meanwhile, was Andreea transferred into the ambulance
4 very quickly?
5 A. Yes, she was actually on one of their stretchers which
6 was lifted by all the firemen that was around, she was
7 lifted off by there, they actually run her up the jetty
8 towards my ambulance, so by this time my crew knew that
9 there was something going wrong, because I hadn't come
10 up, so he had actually turned the ambulance around,
11 bumping over the actual central reservation to get in
12 position ready for me to come up with the lady in
13 question.
14 Q. So by the time you were there at the back of the
15 ambulance, it was ready to receive you?
16 A. Yes, when you have a crew mate as good as I did, Adrian,
17 that day, he completely had the vehicle ready and
18 prepped for me just to take my patient back on board.
19 Q. And did you have any assistance at that point --
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. -- from paramedics from the LAS?
22 A. No, I didn't, because where I am on the East of England,
23 it was a lot of to and fro--ing because they needed to
24 clarify, I think, as well that there was something
25 happening, and they then -- so I had to contact them

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1 back and then they had to then contact LAS.
2 But because of the situation, and I noticed when
3 coming up the top of the jetty there was actually a film
4 crew, I don't think they were a like a normal TV one,
5 they were quite young, so probably college students or
6 something, but Andreea was quite exposed at this point
7 because of hypothermia, so all the clothes had been
8 ripped off, so I'm very aware that if there's people
9 around and with the amount of phones and cameras
10 nowadays, I didn't want this to be plastered everywhere.
11 So all of us, plus the fire service, got her onto the
12 back of my ambulance for me.
13 Q. So you got her into the ambulance without delay?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. And once you were in the ambulance, were you able to
16 make any further observations or provide any further aid
17 to her?
18 A. Whenever you turn up to a patient you always do
19 a primary examination to assess the situation, then you
20 do a secondary. So straightaway I then checked the
21 pupils to make sure there was still only one that was
22 dilated, not two. If there's that's two dilated, then
23 you know -- the one indicates there is a bleed on the
24 brain, and two is indicating obviously it's spreading
25 through the brain. So at that point she still only had

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1 one dilated, she was still breathing and she was
 2 responding.
 3 We then started -- we didn't bother with getting --
 4 because we have a certain amount of observations we have
 5 to do on a secondary survey, but because of the
 6 situation being time-critical we was just concentrating
 7 on getting her put onto a scoop via the help with the
 8 fire brigade, doing a log roll, which potentially
 9 because of the distance that she's fallen, you have to
 10 end up taking into consideration: yes, even though she
 11 is breathing, we need to make sure that if this patient
 12 does survive that there's no major injury to the spinal
 13 cord. So you then take into the procedure of doing
 14 a log roll to help protect the spine and look at the
 15 collaring the patient.
 16 Q. Let's take that a little bit in stages. There's a lot
 17 of information there?
 18 A. Yes. Sorry.
 19 Q. As Andreea was brought to the back of the ambulance, are
 20 you saying that at that stage you were making these
 21 secondary observations in which you checked the pupils?
 22 A. No, like I say, I was very aware there was a lot of
 23 people and it was a split second decision. I already
 24 had a squeeze of the hand so I knew she was responding
 25 and she had a good airway. So at that point I made the

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1 decision to get her straight onto the back rather than
 2 allowing people to take photographs.
 3 Q. Okay, pause there.
 4 So once you had got her into the back, did you then
 5 make your observations before the log roll you've
 6 described?
 7 A. At that point, no, it was getting her straight off,
 8 because the ambulance -- at this point the ambulance, we
 9 could take two stretchers, but two stretchers plus,
 10 probably a dozen bodies, you really can't do too much.
 11 So the quicker we got her onto our stretcher and got all
 12 the people off the back of the ambulance the better,
 13 because we can then perform what we need to quicker.
 14 Q. Okay, so once you had got her into the back of the
 15 ambulance, the next step was getting her from the fire
 16 brigade stretcher onto your stretcher to create proper
 17 room in the back of the ambulance?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. The fire brigade stretcher had been then removed and
 20 some of the extraneous people removed from the back of
 21 the ambulance.
 22 A. Mm-hm.
 23 Q. What did you do then to provide assistance for Andreea?
 24 A. We then obviously -- I then done another assessment, so
 25 I checked pupils, checked the airway, took her

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1 temperature, because of the hypothermia. We then got
 2 her wrapped, we have silver foils, which is like you
 3 layer a blanket, then layer a foil, then layer
 4 a blanket, to try and help bring up the temperature,
 5 then by that point we were looking at putting in
 6 an airway but she started choking, so I already was
 7 calling out to my colleague, because of the obvious head
 8 dressings my colleague was already sorting out the
 9 packing to do the head dressing, but I was looking at
 10 getting a suction unit ready in case we started having
 11 severe choking and vomiting.
 12 Q. What was the next stage after you had addressed the risk
 13 of her choking?
 14 A. Straightaway the first thing you have to do is get the
 15 suction unit because if a patient is choking, bearing in
 16 mind that Andreea had actually already been put onto
 17 a scoop by this stage, Phil and Tom, which are the other
 18 paramedics, had boarded the ambulance. We discussed not
 19 to put a collar on because when you've got a bleed you
 20 don't want to cause any further trauma to the brain with
 21 intracranial pressure so you actually avoid putting a
 22 collar on, so we went along the lines of turning her on
 23 a scoop to allow her to get rid of the excess fluid,
 24 because where it's sea salt it's more harmful in one way
 25 because it actually fills the lungs up, but it also

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1 draws the blood away from the vessels inside, and the
 2 lungs fill up and you can have drowning -- you actually
 3 end up drowning in your own fluids, so we needed to turn
 4 her onto a scoop to allow her to get rid of the excess
 5 fluid.
 6 Q. As you turned her on the scoop in the back of the
 7 ambulance how did she react?
 8 A. Choking, she was literally choking by this point,
 9 I think with the movement of the ambulance, because by
 10 this stage we was actually already en route. She was
 11 literally -- we had Phil and Tom holding the scoop while
 12 I keep reapplying dressings to her head because of the
 13 extent of the wound, and holding a suction unit in my
 14 other hand, trying to suck away as much fluid from her,
 15 even though she was vomiting it up as well.
 16 Q. Phil and Tom, is this right, were two LAS paramedics who
 17 had arrived?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. At what point?
 20 A. Before we'd actually moved. They'd arrived probably
 21 just after I'd actually got rid of all the fire brigade
 22 off the truck. Within minutes I started to do the
 23 assessments and I remember them climbing on board and
 24 then I was calling out to my colleague just to start
 25 getting all the other equipment ready for us.

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1 Q. The choking that you have described that caused you to
 2 want to get her onto her side, did that take place while
 3 the ambulance was moving?
 4 A. She was continuous for the whole time, right up until
 5 the -- we arrived at Whitechapel Hospital -- the Royal
 6 Free Hospital, she was continuously choking.
 7 Q. During the journey, apart from that sign, what was her
 8 condition?
 9 A. Her condition was probably deteriorating because of the
 10 amount of blood and fluid that she was bringing up.
 11 I noticed when I checked her eyes again both pupils had
 12 dilated by this point, by the time we'd got to the
 13 hospital, and for the volume, or the amount of volume of
 14 fluid that was coming up, to us we had gathered that she
 15 had been in the water probably for quite some time.
 16 Q. In a statement he made, one of the paramedics,
 17 Thomas Roberts, refers to the fact that Andreea was
 18 being given oxygen and that an ECG was being used to
 19 monitor her heart rate?
 20 A. Yes, sorry, apologies, it's an automatic thing that does
 21 go on. We have a blood pressure cuff on the patient.
 22 This is all part of the secondary survey. All of these
 23 do get applied. You have a blood pressure cuff that
 24 goes on a patient, a pulse/ox which tells us of the
 25 oxygen levels within a patient's body.

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1 We did try, we had the nasal -- sorry, the
 2 100 per cent oxygen mask on, which is when she started
 3 the vomiting, but I apologise, that actually goes on in
 4 that secondary survey.
 5 Q. So during the journey in the ambulance, you were also
 6 trying to give her oxygen and to monitor her signs?
 7 A. Yes, we ended up, because of the amount that she was
 8 vomiting, we ended up keeping the mask down just below,
 9 but it was more a case of trying to help keep the airway
 10 clear by this point. So the oxygen ended up being more
 11 of an added bonus, shall we say, because where she was
 12 vomiting so much, you can't do -- it's one or the other
 13 and the airway, you've got your primary surveys, the
 14 ABC, and the airway is one of the most important to keep
 15 clear, and suction unit is more important, with getting
 16 that out.
 17 Q. Mr Roberts also says that on the journey, Andreea's head
 18 injury required constant re-banding.
 19 A. Yes, I was actually sat at the head, so the
 20 position I am sitting in now, Andreea's head was
 21 actually between my legs on the stretcher, so I had this
 22 hand positioned and I had to constantly keep repacking.
 23 So at one point, where Tom was standing was literally
 24 just by the -- our little units that we can take out
 25 extra packets, and he was throwing them across to me,

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1 ripping them open with his mouth to throw, as in the
 2 packaging, so I could then grab them and then take them
 3 out safely and then apply the packing, because with head
 4 injuries you only pack for so many and then you wipe out
 5 the whole lot again and start fresh again, otherwise
 6 you're just packing upon packing of bloodied tissues.
 7 Q. After your short journey, did you arrive at hospital and
 8 help take Andreea into the resuscitation area?
 9 A. Yes, I did. Just prior to us arriving, unfortunately
 10 Andreea had coughed up so much blood that it actually
 11 splashed into my face and I got some of her blood in my
 12 eye. So we took the patient directly into resus and
 13 then I was admitted into A&E myself.
 14 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much, Ms Fant. Thank you for your
 15 evidence.
 16 A. Thank you.
 17 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
 18 MR PATTERSON: Ms Fant, I ask questions on behalf of the
 19 family of the patient that you were caring for, Andreea.
 20 A few questions, if I may, please.
 21 Once you realised that this was someone who had been
 22 immersed in the river, issues that will have been going
 23 through your mind, as you have told us already, included
 24 hypothermia?
 25 A. Mm-hm.

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1 Q. And I think you told us that her clothing had already
 2 been cut away?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And blankets had been used to try to begin the process
 5 of warming her; is that correct?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And during the journey, is that something that you and
 8 your colleagues continued with, focusing on keeping her
 9 warm?
 10 A. Well, you have -- we have heating on the back of the
 11 ambulances anyway.
 12 Q. Yes.
 13 A. That comes on automatically because of the time of the
 14 year.
 15 Q. Yes.
 16 A. So that would have been applied. You can only pack out
 17 as in, say, we don't have bubble wrap. The hospitals
 18 have bubble wrap blankets that they apply to bring
 19 people's temperature up. We actually have the tin foil.
 20 You can only do it so many times and then just carry on.
 21 But the temperature is not a major -- the airway
 22 is --
 23 Q. The airway --
 24 A. Yes, that is the major thing.
 25 Q. -- and the lungs are the main focus?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And you've explained how there's a tension between on
 3 the one hand the need to use the suction unit to remove
 4 the fluids and the blood?
 5 A. Mm—hm.
 6 Q. But equally you want to get a good airway and to get the
 7 oxygen into her?
 8 A. Yes, we did at one point look at putting an airway in.
 9 I think we may have even attempted to put an adult size
 10 airway, which is the smaller ones, rather than the big
 11 I GELs that we all know as, but by that point she
 12 started choking so that come out rather rapidly so
 13 I don't even think it really had any effect.
 14 Q. No, no, and Mr Gutuorie in his statement, one of the
 15 London Ambulance Service paramedics, said that it wasn't
 16 impossible to insert a tube in there for there had to be
 17 what he described as "manual management" of the airway,
 18 putting her onto her side and sucking the water and the
 19 blood from her nose, and so forth. So these were the
 20 challenges that you faced, yes?
 21 A. Yes, because when you get the training that we get, we
 22 get told ABCD: airway, and then B is breathing, C is
 23 circulation. But sometimes circulation can take over A.
 24 But when you've got a challenging of A and C coming into
 25 play, C from the head wound and A from the amount of

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1 vomiting she was doing, so I need to try and work with
 2 both. So I'm packing the head then the wound, and
 3 trying to apply pressure to the head wound as well, and
 4 still try and do the suction unit to help clear her
 5 airway.
 6 Q. Trying to manage all of this during the journey to
 7 hospital?
 8 A. Yes, unfortunately because she was being sick so much,
 9 the paramedics, ie Phil and Tom, they couldn't really do
 10 much except for hold her scoop on its side, so I felt at
 11 some point that it was a lot down to me because trying
 12 to get through London traffic as well, it's a very bumpy
 13 ride, but it was challenging for all of us, to be fair.
 14 Q. We'll hear later from the doctor at the Royal London in
 15 Whitechapel who indicated that once she was there, it
 16 was possible to intubate her in hospital conditions,
 17 inserting a tube into her airway. That's the sort of
 18 thing that can only be done at a hospital, that can't be
 19 done, presumably, by you in your ambulance?
 20 A. By the time we'd actually — yes, we do only have
 21 a certain amount of equipment on board.
 22 Q. Yes.
 23 A. But by the time we had actually got to her she'd
 24 actually stopped vomiting so it was quicker to get her
 25 inside and to get the right equipment with what they've

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1 gone in there to apply and to probably put her into
 2 an induced coma so they can then do the necessary things
 3 that they need to do.
 4 Q. But the sort of intervention and assistance that can be
 5 provided once in hospital can be provided very quickly
 6 at the scene by HEMS and by the London Air Ambulance
 7 service; is that something that was discussed or
 8 considered by you or by either of the London Ambulance
 9 Service paramedics before you left the scene?
 10 A. No, it wasn't discussed by me. As you — as I have
 11 stated, I am East of England, so we have totally
 12 different air ambulances, so if anything needed to be
 13 done it would have been dealt with through London.
 14 But normally when you've got a major incident like
 15 this, they are sent automatically, you don't have to
 16 literally call for them for back up. Nine times out of
 17 ten they're there at your side anyway.
 18 Q. And one of the issues in relation to intubating and
 19 addressing the airways, because everyone is thinking
 20 about the possibility of brain damage and the head
 21 injury, which, of course, you have described as being
 22 a serious head injury?
 23 A. Yes, when she first came off the boat, obviously I took
 24 off the dressings because they were just saturated,
 25 I did see the brain exposed — sorry, the skull exposed,

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1 which — that's not just a little cut on the head, so
 2 you know straightaway —
 3 Q. Exactly.
 4 A. — and the amount of blood that was actually coming from
 5 her head indicates that obviously this is serious.
 6 Q. You've described the amount of vomiting, suggesting that
 7 that was consistent with being in the water for some
 8 time?
 9 A. Yes, when you have freshwater and you have saltwater,
 10 when you have got drowning, if you swallow saltwater it
 11 fills up the lungs very quickly, the salt actually draws
 12 the blood away and draws blood more into the lungs, so
 13 you end up actually, essentially drowning in your own
 14 fluid. Hence, I think, why the body was trying to
 15 react, and it was trying to get rid of it. That's why
 16 she was being sick so much. So she was fighting.
 17 Q. And we know from the forms, I think it's right that
 18 there were no forms created in relation to your
 19 assistance that day?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. But we do have forms from the London Ambulance Service
 22 which indicate that they arrived at 15.01, so 3.01; that
 23 you left the scene at 15.22, so 3.22, and got to the
 24 Royal London in Whitechapel at 15.35. So nearly one
 25 hour after the impact, which we know was at 14.40; do

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1 those times sound correct to you?
 2 A. They may have been. I'm not 100 per cent sure, because
 3 where I was taken into A&E myself, I wasn't able to
 4 recall any of the times, essentially at that moment to
 5 do any paperwork, where when we do finish with a job we
 6 reflect straightaway back to our radios because
 7 everything gets logged on the radios so I would have
 8 been able to record times, but because of being admitted
 9 into A&E myself, Phil said that he would do all the
 10 paperwork relevant to that day.
 11 MR PATTERSON: Yes, we have those forms. That's all I ask,
 12 Ms Fant, but can I say on behalf of the family, thank
 13 you for what you did.
 14 A. Thank you. You're welcome.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Hang on just a moment, there may be
 16 a few more questions for you.
 17 Examination by MR HILL
 18 MR HILL: I'm sorry, Ms Fant. I represent the London
 19 Ambulance Service and I just have one or two questions
 20 for you. Just so that we are clear, you weren't
 21 employed by the London Ambulance Service that day and
 22 you're not employed by them now?
 23 A. Sorry?
 24 Q. You weren't employed by the London Ambulance Service
 25 that day and you're not employed by them now?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. Could we have, please, on the screens {DC5257/1}.
 3 Ms Fant, this is the documentation that Mr Patterson was
 4 just referring to, the PRF form produced by London
 5 Ambulance Service. You recognise these type of forms?
 6 A. Yes, ours are laid out slightly different but they're
 7 pretty much on par with each other.
 8 Q. If we could just look at the top, obviously this is
 9 a form that was completed by the London Ambulance
 10 Service paramedics rather than by you.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. They note their arrival time on scene as 15.01 and with
 13 the patient at 15.01.
 14 A. Mm-hm.
 15 Q. I think you said in your statement that your timing for
 16 being with the patient was 15.01; is that right?
 17 A. It could well have been, yes.
 18 Q. So they were there pretty shortly after you?
 19 A. Yes, I was there obviously a few minutes before, running
 20 down the side, as in the jetty, dealing with the lady
 21 downstairs, or down at the jetty, water's edge, for
 22 a little while as we were trying to get her off. So
 23 yes, that could have well been the time. I didn't
 24 really, as I say, look at my radios or check anything
 25 out after. I've never been through anything like this

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1 before, so this was a first on me, and the fact of being
 2 admitted into hospital for quite a few hours having my
 3 eye irrigated, I wasn't actually able to double-check on
 4 anything and I think I pretty much went into shock
 5 pretty soon after.
 6 Q. All well understood, and I won't ask you about specific
 7 times, we understand you were simply doing your best, as
 8 best you can now.
 9 As was just said to you by Mr Patterson, we can see
 10 at the bottom of the form "Departure from the scene at
 11 15.22", and we can also see that the arrival time at the
 12 hospital is given as 15.35?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. If we look in the middle of the screen we can see some
 15 observation times?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Now, the first one is at 15.03, so this would have been
 18 at a time when Andreea was still in the ambulance but
 19 still at the scene where she had been placed on board?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Just in reference to something that Mr Patterson said
 22 earlier, 15.03, the HEMS team would still have been
 23 treating PC Palmer in Parliament Square.
 24 15.03, we can see, third item down "Resp rate",
 25 that's the respiratory rate, isn't it?

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1 A. Yes, that's her breathing rate, how many breaths she
 2 takes per minute.
 3 Q. And we can see there that it's 18?
 4 A. She's at 18, that's an average score. We gauge most
 5 adults between 16 to 20.
 6 Q. Underneath "Resp depth", that's describing the quality
 7 of the breathing, isn't it?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Written is "deep".
 10 A. Meaning she's breathing deeply, she's maintaining her
 11 own airway at that point. She's doing quite well.
 12 Q. Then below that "Oxygen sats 93 per cent".
 13 A. 93, that is a little bit lower than what we require.
 14 Not extremely low. We like anything above 96 per cent.
 15 The fact that it's just a tad low means that she's still
 16 got good oxygen levels in her body, but we were
 17 obviously looking at applying oxygen because of the
 18 nature of the injury.
 19 Q. If we look then at the next column we can see the time
 20 is 15.34, so very shortly before arriving at hospital?
 21 A. Mm-hm.
 22 Q. So this would have been towards the end of your journey,
 23 the journey you have described, the journey where you
 24 have had the challenges of keeping the airway open?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And we can see "resp rate" there "17", as compared to 18
2 beforehand. Still within that normal range.
3 A. Still within range.
4 Q. "Resp depth: deep."
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. And we can see the O2 sats actually up slightly at 95
7 compared to 93?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Would that suggest to you that despite the immense
10 challenges that you personally faced that day, frankly,
11 you had done a good job of keeping that airway open?
12 A. I hope I did.
13 MR HILL: Thank you. Those are the questions that I have
14 for you.
15 A. Lovely, thank you.
16 Examination by MR NAUGHTON
17 MR NAUGHTON: I'm Mr Naughton, I'm asking questions on
18 behalf of Barts Health NHS Trust, they run the
19 Royal London Hospital where Ms Cristea was conveyed.
20 Just whilst the PRF is still on the screen, you
21 mentioned some deterioration in the ambulance and I just
22 wanted to ask you about the GCS score, which is further
23 down the column; do you see that?
24 A. No. Where am I looking?
25 THE CHIEF CORONER: It's that centre observations column,

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1 just further down.
2 MR NAUGHTON: It's about five or six further down from --
3 A. Oh, yes, yes, sorry.
4 Q. Now, GCS is Glasgow Coma Scale?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. It's an indicator of the severity of head injury?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. And a lower score indicates a more serious head injury.
9 A. Yes, 15 is what we should be aiming for.
10 Q. 15 is maximum and I think 3 is minimum; is that right?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. So the score at 15.03 is four plus two plus three, which
13 is nine.
14 A. Mm-hm.
15 Q. And just looking simply at the head injury, it has
16 deteriorated, does this tell us, by 15.34, to a score of
17 three, plus one, plus three, which is seven.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. So that suggests that whilst the breathing was going
20 better, the head injury --
21 A. The head injury was getting worse. You could see the
22 head injury was getting worse by the blood pressure,
23 which is always -- when blood pressure goes up to that
24 sort of rate you can always tell that there's some
25 serious damage, intracranial pressure, probably going on

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1 within the brain.
2 Q. Yes. Now, just finally, in the bottom right-hand corner
3 of the screen, next to -- do you see there is
4 "Transporting. Left scene: 15.22" and "Pre-alert:
5 15.22", just next to that?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. "Pre-alert", is that notification to the hospital?
8 A. That is notifying the hospital that we're about to
9 depart to them so they can get the resus team ready and
10 all the equipment in place, so that gives them an idea
11 that we're coming.
12 Q. I appreciate that you yourself required treatment when
13 you attended the hospital, but was the resuscitation
14 team there and waiting?
15 A. Yes, they were there. Yes, we were taken straight in
16 and we were met by a big crowd.
17 MR NAUGHTON: Thank you. Those are all the questions
18 I have.
19 MR HOUGH: Those are all the questions that all of us have,
20 thank you very much, Ms Fant.
21 A. Thank you.
22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed for coming
23 and can I echo what's already been said, thank you for
24 everything you did on that day.
25 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Dr Sadek.

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1 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Hough, can I just say I don't intend
2 to take a break this afternoon because I am conscious
3 that we have two doctors here and I would like if we
4 possibly can to get through what it is they have to say.
5 I'm sorry if anyone wishes to have a break. It may be
6 that we can take a short break after we've dealt with
7 the two doctors.
8 DR SAMY SADEK (Affirmed)
9 Examination by MR HOUGH QC
10 MR HOUGH: Will you please give your name to the court?
11 A. Hello, my name is Dr Samy Sadek.
12 Q. Dr Sadek, I'll ask you questions first on behalf of the
13 Coroner and there may then be some questions from
14 others.
15 You understand you're here to give evidence about
16 your medical treatment of Andreea Cristea last year?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. You made a witness statement dated 24 May of last year,
19 to which you may refer.
20 A. Thank you.
21 Q. In March 2017, what was your profession?
22 A. A consultant in emergency medicine.
23 Q. Based at which hospital?
24 A. The Royal London Hospital.
25 Q. Were you on duty in the emergency department at the

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1 Royal London Hospital on 22 March last year?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Were you a trauma team leader on that day?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Did you oversee the care of Andreea after she had been
 6 brought in by ambulance?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. According to the notes and evidence of Dr Bastin, from
 9 whom we'll hear, she arrived at 15.23, 3.23 that
 10 afternoon. Does that accord with your recollection of
 11 when you took over?
 12 A. My only record of the time goes from the ambulance
 13 service sheet which states 15.26.
 14 Q. What information did you receive about Andreea either
 15 before or on her arrival?
 16 A. It's difficult to recall the exact information as the
 17 pre-alert phone call was written down on a piece of
 18 paper and then discarded, it's not kept as a medical
 19 record, but we were already, as a hospital, we were made
 20 aware that there was an incident in occurrence at
 21 Westminster. I am not entirely certain, but I think we
 22 were put on a major incident standby of some sort, and
 23 we, separate to that, received a pre-alert from the
 24 ambulance service saying there was a patient who had
 25 been knocked or fallen from a bridge.

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1 I can't remember exactly which injuries we were told
 2 she had.
 3 Q. When the team actually arrived at the hospital, were you
 4 told any more?
 5 A. Yes. We were given a full handover.
 6 Q. And what was the report at that stage?
 7 A. So we were told more details of the incident, we were
 8 told by the ambulance service crew that this lady was
 9 involved in the incident which we were hearing about;
 10 that she was thought to have been hit by a vehicle,
 11 knocked over the bridge, was found face-down in the
 12 water, recovered, and subsequently transferred by the
 13 ambulance service to us.
 14 The injuries they described were the head injury
 15 with bleeding to the face and from the scalp. They
 16 spoke to us about her pupils, abnormalities in her
 17 pupils, which I'll come onto, and I can't recall any of
 18 the details, but they would have told us what
 19 interventions they had performed.
 20 What I do remember is the description of her
 21 vomiting and bleeding en route to hospital and requiring
 22 a manual tilt to one side to clear her airway.
 23 Q. Did they tell you whether or not she was able to breathe
 24 for herself?
 25 A. If I'm honest, I don't entirely recall if they told us

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1 that, but it was evident when they arrived that they
 2 were not having to ventilate her.
 3 Q. May we turn next to your initial assessment. Can you,
 4 as we go through this initial assessment, please
 5 summarise in simple terms what's meant by each of the
 6 conclusions you reached. First of all, did you make
 7 a primary assessment of her facial and head injury?
 8 A. Yes. So my role as a team leader is essentially
 9 hands-off, if at all possible, so I was standing back
 10 with a full trauma team assessing her. So it wasn't me
 11 personally examining with her hands, but from the end of
 12 the bed, many of the injuries were evident. So on the
 13 immediate initial appearance of Andreea, it was very
 14 clear she had a significant head injury, she had
 15 a facial injury, bleeding both from the head and the
 16 face, she was pale, and she was clearly in respiratory
 17 distress, she was struggling. Although she was
 18 breathing for herself, and generating occasionally good
 19 or adequate oxygen levels on her monitoring, she was
 20 working very hard to achieve that.
 21 Q. The facial injury and head injuries you've described was
 22 serious and obvious, what measures was the team taking
 23 to control that as it took over?
 24 A. So when she was transferred into our care, the very
 25 first critical intervention was to assess and look after

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1 her airway. She had bleeding from her facial fractures.
 2 Much of that blood was bleeding into her mouth and
 3 airway. Her airway was patent and I believe the
 4 ambulance service were assisting her, you know, helping
 5 maintain her airway. We continued that and we suctioned
 6 blood from her mouth. I think without that suctioning
 7 her airway was patent nevertheless, but we always try
 8 and optimise the airway as much as possible, clear it as
 9 much as physically possible.
 10 Q. So that was a primary focus as she came into hospital,
 11 was it?
 12 A. That was an immediate concern. I think the first thing
 13 that struck us was the degree to which she was
 14 struggling with her breathing and it had the immediate
 15 appearance of somebody with airway difficulty, but
 16 actually we subsequently realised, within 30 seconds or
 17 so, we realised actually it wasn't her airway causing
 18 that problem, it was probably a primary lung injury
 19 which we later found out was likely due to the water
 20 submersion.
 21 Q. You referred earlier to an apparent difficulty with
 22 respiratory effort?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Were there any particular signs of that?
 25 A. So she -- her respiratory rate was high, about 24,

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1 according to my notes, which is higher than it should
 2 be, but more striking was the chest wall recession. So
 3 this is something we see when somebody is putting in
 4 a great deal of effort, but, how can I describe it, it
 5 takes a great deal of effort to expand the lungs and
 6 that has the effect of pulling in the chest wall,
 7 because of the degree of effort made.

8 Q. We looked a few moments ago at the patient report form
 9 prepared by the LAS paramedics of the oxygen
 10 saturations. How did they appear on initial assessment?

11 A. So I have to say she was an extremely complex patient.
 12 This poor girl, from the outset, had a number of very,
 13 very severe injuries and issues at play, one of which
 14 was that she was cold, hypothermic, the other of which
 15 was that she had lost a lot of blood, we thought
 16 clinically. Together those two make it difficult to
 17 monitor oxygen saturations at the fingers because as
 18 your body loses blood and becomes cold, you shut down
 19 your vessels peripherally so she more often than not was
 20 not giving us a sats recording at her fingers, but when
 21 she did, intermittently, they were giving us numbers
 22 above 90, which matched those numbers that were recorded
 23 by the ambulance service.

24 Q. You've referred to her circulation being -- showing bad
 25 signs, pale and cold with peripheral shutdown. Was that

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1 consistent with signs of blood loss?

2 A. It could have been, yes. My impression at the time was
 3 it was largely due to blood loss but, again, confounded
 4 by hypothermia, and possibly also there were many other
 5 things that could cause pallor, one of which is a severe
 6 head injury.

7 Q. Turning to the head injury, was a neurological
 8 assessment made early on?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what was the result of that?

11 A. So the immediate impression was that she was unconscious
 12 when we assessed her GCS. To us, we found it to be
 13 three at that time, which is the lowest score possible.
 14 What that means --

15 Q. Just to be clear, the GCS scoring is not an exact
 16 science; is that right?

17 A. Absolutely not. It's more difficult than it sounds and,
 18 for example, one of the important scores on the GCS is
 19 response, including response to pain, which can be quite
 20 subjective depending on how loud you shout, what kind of
 21 pain -- as awful as it sounds, what kind of painful
 22 stimulus you need to give to elicit a response.

23 So if many clinicians are to assess one patient,
 24 it's not unusual to come up with a very slightly
 25 variable GCS.

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1 Q. We've also heard about signs detected in the ambulance
 2 of pupil enlargement; did you see that as well?

3 A. We did, and on our assessment, her left pupil seemed
 4 enlarged, what I've recorded is that it was
 5 8 millimetres in size. Her right pupil we found to be
 6 smaller, so we assumed that one was enlarged and one was
 7 not, and we documented that as 3 millimetres in size.

8 Q. What did that indicate? What could that be symptomatic
 9 of?

10 A. So a number of things. In her case there was a very
 11 high chance this was a direct injury to the eye. The
 12 eye was clearly injured, the orbit and the skull around
 13 the eye appeared fractured and injured and there was
 14 swelling around the eye.

15 Of course it's not safe to assume that it's not
 16 something even more serious. Probably the most serious
 17 of which is a brain injury causing increased pressure in
 18 the brain. That's what we consider an extremely
 19 time-critical situation.

20 Q. Did that possibility cause you to treat the head injury
 21 as potentially time-critical?

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. You've referred to possible signs of hypothermia. How
 24 did Andreea feel to the touch?

25 A. She felt cold.

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1 Q. Was anything done to warm her?

2 A. Yes. We dried her skin, there was still some residual
 3 water. We dried her skin, we kept her as warm as
 4 possible during the initial assessment, the initial
 5 assessment unfortunately involves uncovering a patient
 6 to examine her top to toe. As soon as that was done we
 7 covered her back up and we used a thing called
 8 a Bair Hugger, which is a blanket which pumps warm air
 9 over the skin of a patient's body. We also gave warmed
 10 fluids, so all of the fluids which we needed to give we
 11 warmed to a temperature, I'm not sure exactly, I think
 12 it's around about 40 degrees.

13 Q. And finally by way of your primary survey, was a chest
 14 x-ray carried out to check the condition of her lungs?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What did that show?

17 A. It showed opacification, so shadowing, quite diffuse,
 18 quite marked shadowing on both lung fields, throughout
 19 her lungs. Again, there are many causes for this. That
 20 shadowing is typically blood, or -- well, fluid, which
 21 is either blood or fluid from the circulatory system.
 22 In her situation, given the history, we thought that was
 23 likely water that was aspirated during the submersion
 24 episode. I'm unable to be 100 per cent certain of that
 25 but that's what we felt most likely.

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1 Q. Did you and your team proceed to intubate and ventilate?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. So that involving the insertion of an ET tube and
 4 mechanical ventilation?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Just to be clear, that was an intervention that was
 7 needed to create the best conditions for a potentially
 8 injured brain?
 9 A. Yes, it's not just for the brain, but in particular for
 10 the brain, yes.
 11 Q. Did you use any fluids or blood products in the initial
 12 phases as well?
 13 A. Yes, we used blood and fresh frozen plasma to
 14 resuscitate her from the point of view of the blood she
 15 had lost. We also used a fluid called hypertonic
 16 saline, which is a concentrated saline solution we
 17 sometimes use to attempt to reduce pressure in the
 18 brain.
 19 Q. Beyond those initial interventions, did you then arrange
 20 for a CT scan, or a set of CT scans to be carried out?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Now, according to the records, that took place at just
 23 before 4.00 pm.
 24 A. I would have to check the timings.
 25 Q. Don't worry, Dr Sadek.

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1 A. I believe so, yes.
 2 Q. We can check it, but our records are 15.58 for the CT
 3 scans.
 4 A. Okay.
 5 Q. Can you summarise what the CT scans showed?
 6 A. So from top to bottom, I guess, her skull was fractured,
 7 quite an extensive skull fracture extending from the
 8 side of the skull down into the base of the skull. She
 9 had quite complex and severe facial bone fractures,
 10 which are often associated with haemorrhage from the
 11 face and facial bones. She had the appearances of
 12 an injured brain. By that I mean haemorrhage, small
 13 areas, relatively small areas of haemorrhage within the
 14 brain tissue. There is a sign which is quite
 15 subjective, which is delineating grey and white matter
 16 on a CT scan. It is subjective, but to my eye, there
 17 was the appearance of not the best grey/white
 18 differentiation, which may be an early sign of a brain
 19 injury. She had — again, the CT scan of her chest
 20 confirmed quite significant infiltration of fluid within
 21 the air spaces of her lungs. We didn't see at that
 22 point any bleeding or severe injury below the diaphragm.
 23 Q. I think you also detected on the scan an apparent injury
 24 to the right carotid artery.
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And that's one of the arteries that supplies the brain
 2 with blood.
 3 After those scans had been carried out, in your
 4 witness statement you detail a series of interventions
 5 that followed. May we deal with those one at a time.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. First of all, did the maxillofacial team and the ear,
 8 nose and throat team carry out some steps to control
 9 haemorrhage?
 10 A. Yes. So you asked about measures to control
 11 haemorrhages in the initial phases. Actually as she
 12 arrived with us there was blood coming from her face in
 13 the wound on the side of her face but certainly not
 14 catastrophic levels of bleeding, a very slow trickle of
 15 blood. As we — it may be the effect of us
 16 resuscitating her and filling her back up with blood and
 17 also warming her, but also the developing coagulopathy
 18 which I think evolved — sorry, coagulopathy means
 19 a disturbance in blood clotting which often ensues after
 20 major trauma but is worse in the context of hypothermia
 21 and some other situations. I think her blood began to
 22 thin and she began to bleed more as she came out of the
 23 CT scanner. I believe one of the first interventions
 24 then was to stitch the wound on the side of her face in
 25 the area of her temporal artery and to pack her facial

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1 fractures by way of packing her nose.
 2 Q. Did the maxillofacial team also carry out an emergency
 3 procedure to relieve the pressure you have described
 4 finding on the left eyeball?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Meanwhile, and continuously, did you continue that
 7 resuscitative effort with warmed blood products?
 8 A. Yes, so we used a test called a TEG,
 9 thromboelastography, which essentially means it's
 10 an immediate test of the quality of blood clotting. So
 11 we were able to use that to guide exactly what sort of
 12 blood products we should give her.
 13 Q. Did you arrive at a stage where blood pressure became
 14 stable and adequate?
 15 A. Her blood pressure improved and — her blood pressure
 16 improved to a level that made us feel more comfortable,
 17 but she still required blood and blood products, partly
 18 to correct her clotting disorder and partly to maintain
 19 that good blood pressure. But yes, certainly the
 20 requirement for blood products slowed down very
 21 significantly.
 22 Q. So you were continuing with the clinical strategy of
 23 blood product transfusion to address that problem of
 24 apparently thinning blood.
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And is it right that over this time, various monitors
2 were being used for intracranial pressure, central
3 venous pressure and arterial pressure?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Now, did a stage come in these relatively early phases
6 of treatment that you had difficulties in maintaining
7 ventilation?
8 A. Yes. Well, at two stages, I guess, before the CT scan
9 we don't -- it's not good for a patient to struggle to
10 ventilate themselves, hence the need for an emergency
11 anaesthetic, and increasingly so throughout the whole
12 thing, but particularly after the CT scan, it became
13 increasingly difficult to ventilate her to achieve good
14 oxygen and carbon dioxide levels.
15 Q. What decision did you make as a result of that
16 increasing difficulty?
17 A. So all of our basic measures in hand and mechanical
18 ventilation, none of which significantly improved the
19 situation, we got to a stage where we only had what we
20 felt was one option, which was to potentially put her on
21 lung bypass, ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation,
22 it's a heart bypass machine -- heart and lung bypass
23 machine, sorry.
24 Q. So ECMO, is this right, is a form of heart and lung
25 bypass, which is used to support the heart and in some

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1 cases to oxygenate the blood?
2 A. Yes, it can be used either to do both or just to
3 oxygenate the blood without the need for heart support.
4 Q. Did you decide to suggest Andreea for that therapy?
5 A. Yes, it was a team decision, actually there were
6 multiple very senior clinicians there, but yes, we all
7 felt it was very much a good and probably the best
8 option for her.
9 Q. Did that involve transferring her to another hospital?
10 A. It would, ultimately. In our situation we have a -- our
11 neighbouring hospital, Bart's Hospital, has an emergency
12 ECMO team, that team mobilised themselves to us. So she
13 was too unwell and too unstable and had too many complex
14 injuries to leave a major trauma centre and go to
15 essentially a cardiac centre so the team came to us to
16 start ECMO until the other matters were dealt with as
17 best as possible.
18 Q. According to the records we have, they arrived at 18.40
19 that evening, and started ECMO shortly after?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. While they were being summoned, is this right, your team
22 continued critical care, as you've described already?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And at that stage, did you hand over to the intensive
25 care team and the ECMO team?

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1 A. Yes.
2 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are all my questions.
3 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
4 MR PATTERSON: You've described a serious head injury --
5 forgive me, I should say I ask questions on behalf of
6 the family of the patient, Andreea -- but the specific
7 problems that had been caused by the immersion in the
8 water seemed to relate to her lungs; is that correct?
9 A. One of the significant problems relates to her lungs,
10 yes.
11 Q. You described hypothermia issues?
12 A. Yes, so there are numerous issues. One is loss of
13 temperature and hypothermia.
14 Q. Yes.
15 A. One is the potential aspiration of water, but actually,
16 depending on her conscious level when she fell into the
17 water, there's a potential airway issue where the airway
18 often closes, shuts in the face of aspirated water.
19 That in itself can cause low oxygen and various reflexes
20 in the body which can be harmful.
21 Q. Presumably the length of time that a person is immersed
22 in the water will have an impact on the degree of injury
23 or difficulties that are caused, in other words, the
24 shorter they are immersed, the less likelihood of
25 serious injuries; the longer they are immersed, the

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1 increased likelihood of serious injuries?
2 A. I think that might depend on the exact situation, but
3 that's the likelihood, yes. The likelihood is the
4 longer you are in the water, the more harm, and of
5 course, we would always want to shorten that time as
6 much as possible.
7 Q. And the injury to her lungs, did that impact on the
8 ability to treat the head injury?
9 A. Inasmuch as it causes respiratory difficulty, yes. It's
10 hard to know exactly how much that respiratory
11 difficulty has an impact on a brain injury such as hers,
12 because it was difficult to monitor her oxygen levels
13 and also the monitor we use is a peripheral monitor, not
14 a central monitor until she arrives in hospital. There
15 is also the issue of carbon dioxide, which, in the
16 pre-hospital phase it wasn't monitored and it is very
17 difficult to monitor her exact carbon dioxide levels, so
18 there is an element of the unknown as to how much
19 respiratory compromise affects the brain injury.
20 Q. We know that she was in the river in total for a little
21 over five minutes. If she had been removed from the
22 river after only 2 minutes and 18 seconds, would the
23 complications that arose because of the immersion have
24 perhaps been less significant?
25 A. I really don't think I can say, if I'm honest. I think

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1 it makes sense medically that as soon as she is out of
2 the water, as soon as she is able to breathe normally,
3 especially if she is face-down, the sooner all the
4 resuscitation measures can be begun, and if her --
5 I know it sounds obvious, but if her being face-down in
6 the water has significantly impacted her oxygen levels,
7 of course that needs to be reversed to affect her brain
8 injury.

9 The reason I say it's difficult to comment on one
10 reason is the initial impact to her brain. It's very
11 difficult to know how much of her ultimate outcome was
12 down to that immediate initial impact and how much is
13 down to all these other factors. Of course, we always
14 work to rectify the other factors, but the one thing we
15 can't change is the initial impact, and I simply don't
16 know how much of her subsequent brain pressure and the
17 eventual outcome to this poor girl was due to the
18 initial impact as opposed to all of the issues
19 thereafter.

20 Q. And by the initial impact, you mean what?

21 A. What I presume to have been her being hit by the car.

22 Q. From the vehicle?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. So if I were to ask might she have survived if she had
25 been removed at that earlier point from the river,

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1 rather than the actual later point, so if she had been
2 removed after 2 minutes and 18 seconds and the first aid
3 had commenced then, followed by the medical treatment,
4 might she, in those circumstances, have survived?

5 A. I'm really sorry, I've absolutely no way of knowing, or
6 being able to answer that.

7 Q. It certainly wouldn't have worsened her chances, would
8 it?

9 A. I don't think so.

10 Q. The work that was done with intubating and ventilating
11 Andreea at an early stage when she reached your
12 hospital, presumably that's the sort of intervention
13 that could have been carried out at the scene if there
14 had been the attendance immediately of senior doctors
15 from HEMS, from the London Air Ambulance?

16 A. That could have been carried out at the scene, yes.

17 Q. And the earlier that's done, presumably the better for
18 the subsequent chances of the patient?

19 A. Again, there's an element of the unknown, but I also
20 work with the Air Ambulance myself and we aim to deliver
21 these kind of interventions as early as possible, with
22 the intention and with the hope that it will reduce harm
23 and improve outcomes in patients such as Andreea.

24 Q. Is that the reason why there's such a focus on this
25 golden hour and the starting of the treatment sooner

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1 rather than later?

2 A. Sooner rather than later, absolutely. The hour is
3 a little arbitrary, but absolutely sooner rather than
4 later.

5 MR PATTERSON: Yes, thank you very much, doctor, and could
6 I say thank you on behalf of the family for everything
7 you and your colleagues did.

8 A. Thank you. I just really want to offer my deepest
9 sympathy and condolences to her family as well.

10 MR PATTERSON: I'm grateful.

11 Examination by MR NAUGHTON

12 MR NAUGHTON: Just one matter, doctor. I'm Mr Naughton,
13 I ask, as you know, questions on behalf of Barts Health
14 NHS Trust. At the start of your evidence you were asked
15 about the time of arrival, and in the medical records,
16 deep in the medical records, there is, I think, some
17 evidence of oxygen monitoring being undertaken by
18 a device; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you've seen those?

21 A. Yes, are we talking about in hospital?

22 Q. In the hospital, that's right.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Now, if we look at the earliest time those have been
25 taken, we find one at, I think it's 13.40. Are you

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1 aware of that?

2 A. I believe so. Let me check my records.

3 Q. Well, 15.40, for the record, if anybody wishes, it's on
4 page 305 of 790, there is a time of 15.40. Is that some
5 evidence, at least, of the time that Ms Cristea was at
6 the Royal London Hospital?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR NAUGHTON: Thank you. Those are all the questions
9 I have.

10 MR HOUGH: Nothing more from any of us. Thank you very
11 much, Dr Sadek.

12 A. Thank you.

13 THE CHIEF CORONER: Dr Sadek, can I simply echo the comments
14 that were made earlier on about the fantastic work you
15 and your team did. Thank you very much indeed, and
16 thank you for coming along to the Inquest to give
17 evidence.

18 A. Thank you.

19 MR HOUGH: Sir, our final witness today is Dr Bastin.

20 DR ANTHONY BASTIN (Affirmed)

21 Examination by MR HOUGH QC

22 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your name to the court?

23 A. My name is Dr Anthony Bastin.

24 Q. Now, Dr Bastin, you know I'm asking questions first on
25 behalf of the Coroner, and there may then be questions

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1 from some others.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You also understand that you are here to give evidence
 4 about the medical treatment of Andreea Cristea in March
 5 of last year?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. You made a report by letter to the Coroner dated 10 May
 8 2017 using clinical notes?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And you may refer to that letter as you wish.
 11 A. Thank you.
 12 Q. By profession, are you a consultant in critical care
 13 based at Barts Health NHS Trust, and specifically at
 14 Bart's Hospital?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Now, we know that Andreea Cristea received critical care
 17 from 22 March 2017 to 6 April 2017, when she died. We
 18 have had that evidence from Mr Crossley.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. She was initially taken to the Royal London Hospital, as
 21 we've heard, and transferred from there into the care of
 22 Bart's on 23 March 2017.
 23 A. That's correct.
 24 Q. Is this right: you were involved in her care on a number
 25 of the days that followed, specifically 24, 25, 26,

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1 30 March, and on 6 April?
 2 A. That's correct.
 3 Q. And in your letter you describe her care throughout that
 4 period by reference to the records?
 5 A. I summarised the care that she received from my
 6 colleagues in the multi-disciplinary team in the
 7 intensive care unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital,
 8 including my own involvement.
 9 Q. So you are giving evidence, effectively, on behalf of
 10 quite a number of people who were involved in her care?
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. Now, we've heard from Dr Sadek about Andreea's care in
 13 the early stages after her arrival at the Royal London,
 14 up to the point at which she was referred for ECMO,
 15 which he described, on the evening of 22 March. If you
 16 look towards the lower part of the second page of your
 17 report, can you, by reference to that, explain the
 18 reason to proceed with ECMO as you understood it?
 19 A. So Ms Cristea received a lot of treatment in the first
 20 minutes and hours following her arrival at the
 21 Royal London Hospital, and in amongst the treatments she
 22 was receiving, as we've heard, that included attempts to
 23 improve her oxygen levels and improve her carbon dioxide
 24 levels in order to maximise the chances of her recovery
 25 and to minimise the impact of her severe head injuries.

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1 It became apparent during her resuscitation at the
 2 Royal London Hospital that, despite all the measures
 3 that they were taking, that her oxygen levels remained
 4 low, or were becoming lower, and her carbon dioxide
 5 levels were becoming higher, and that resulted in
 6 a referral to the ECMO team, of which I'm a member, at
 7 St Bartholomew's Hospital, with the rationale that ECMO
 8 support may be able to improve her oxygen levels and
 9 improve her carbon dioxide levels, to improve the
 10 conditions in an attempt to improve her recovery overall
 11 and specifically from her brain injuries.
 12 Q. Thank you very much. So that was the rationale for
 13 proceeding with ECMO. We've heard also that the ECMO
 14 team arrived promptly and began their work.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. As the evening of 22 March went on, how did Andreea's
 17 condition develop?
 18 A. As you know, I was not personally there, but from my
 19 statement and from the medical records, it's recorded
 20 that her intracranial pressure increased, prompting
 21 further CT scanning of her brain, which revealed a large
 22 right subdural haematoma and also a right parietal
 23 extradural haematoma, so bleeding within the brain or
 24 around the brain.
 25 Following discussion with the neurosurgical teams

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1 and the intensive care teams on-site at the time, she
 2 went on and had a neurosurgical procedure called a right
 3 parietal craniotomy in order to remove the blood from
 4 around the brain, and this happened at the
 5 Royal London Hospital.
 6 Q. After that procedure and still during the night of
 7 22/23 March, was Andreea transferred to the Bart's
 8 intensive care unit?
 9 A. That's correct.
 10 Q. What was the reason for that transfer?
 11 A. The reason for that transfer was because she was
 12 receiving ECMO and ECMO support is a specialist
 13 treatment, or support that is offered in a few
 14 specialist centres, and in order for her to receive the
 15 correct ongoing care and monitoring, that was carried
 16 out at the St Bartholomew's Hospital site.
 17 Clearly there was a discussion about where, which
 18 site she was most appropriately cared for, the options
 19 being staying at the Royal London Hospital with input
 20 from the ECMO team to the Royal London Hospital, or
 21 transfer to St Bartholomew's Hospital with input from
 22 the neurosurgical and neuro intensive care teams from
 23 the St Bartholomew's Hospital, and the latter option was
 24 felt to be preferable, so she was transferred to
 25 St Bartholomew's Hospital.

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1 Q. In your letter you detail her care and observations of
2 her over the days that followed at St Bartholomew's.
3 I'm just going to focus on the principal developments
4 over those days.

5 On 23 March, the day after the incident, was she
6 assessed to have some improvement of intracranial
7 pressure during the day, but rising intermittently?

8 A. That's correct, and one of the reasons her intracranial
9 pressure was lower was because she was receiving
10 intensive treatment, mainly in the form of heavy
11 sedation in order to reduce the intracranial pressure.

12 Q. Was a further CT scan carried out in the afternoon of
13 that day, 23 March, which showed some signs of
14 improvement, but also a number of negative signs?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. On 24 March was -- did she have to have surgery to one
17 of her arms?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And what was the reason for that?

20 A. The reason for that -- and I would like to take the
21 opportunity to point out that I've made an error in my
22 statement, I wrote that a right forearm fasciotomy was
23 performed. In fact, a left forearm fasciotomy was
24 performed and all of the clinical notes reflect that,
25 that is an error on my part.

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1 But the reason she received surgery to her left arm
2 was because the visual appearances of her left arm
3 suggested that the blood supply to that arm had become
4 compromised, and the reason for that was probably
5 a combination of factors: firstly, the injuries she had
6 sustained and the general oedema and swelling that she
7 had. Secondly, as part of the intensive monitoring she
8 was receiving to facilitate her intensive care, a small
9 catheter, or tube, was placed in the artery in the arm
10 on the left, and that may, in combination with her other
11 injuries and other factors, have compromised the blood
12 supply to her lower arm. So a fasciotomy was performed
13 by a vascular surgical consultant, which involves
14 an incision to the arm to release the pressure within
15 the arm compartment in an attempt to improve blood
16 supply to the arm and fingers.

17 Q. So that was a complication that had to be addressed?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Were the signs of her condition deteriorating more
20 generally during that day?

21 A. She later in the day had some signs of deterioration,
22 and I think it's important to remember that whilst in
23 intensive care, that the condition of the patients, and
24 in particular Ms Cristea, is likely to fluctuate during
25 the day at certain points, but certainly there was

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1 a deterioration in the afternoon, with an increasing
2 requirement for medications to support her blood
3 pressure, and that prompted further scanning, CT
4 scanning of her body, which did not reveal any new
5 intracranial brain problems, but showed worsening of her
6 lung condition.

7 Q. You were involved in her care yourself on that day?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was your overall prognosis and the expectation of
10 the team for Andreea?

11 A. I think it was very clear to us from the outset that her
12 injuries were very severe, by which I mean the extent of
13 her intracranial injuries and the degree of injury to
14 her lungs, and the fact that she was requiring a lot of
15 support in the intensive care unit to keep her alive.

16 We were in no doubt that the likelihood of her
17 surviving these injuries was low, but nevertheless at
18 that early stage, certainly in the first few days, we
19 cannot be certain of the impact of those injuries on her
20 life later on, which is why we continued at that stage
21 all the intensive care that she was receiving.

22 Q. But despite your concerns about the poor prognosis
23 overall, you were doing everything you could to ensure
24 that if she did survive, she would have as few ill
25 effects as possible?

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1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. On 25 March, did she experience deterioration of kidney
3 function, which led to an intervention?

4 A. That's right. It is likely that her kidney function had
5 been deteriorating for a period of time before that, but
6 on 25 March, she required support in the form of
7 a kidney machine similar to a dialysis machine, to
8 support her kidney function.

9 Q. Over 26 and 27 March, was there any significant change
10 in her condition?

11 A. Overall there was no significant change in her
12 condition, meaning no significant improvement or
13 worsening during those two days.

14 Q. On 28 March, were any signs detected relevant to her
15 brain condition?

16 A. So on 28 March, she underwent a further CT scan of the
17 brain because of concerns about her rising intracranial
18 pressure, which demonstrated increasing areas of oedema,
19 or swelling in the brain, and neurosurgical and neuro
20 intensive care consultation was had, and maximal medical
21 therapy was continued and the opinion of the experts in
22 the neurosurgical field and the neuro intensive care
23 field was that there was no role for any neurosurgical
24 operation to try and treat the swelling in the brain.

25 Q. Did her intracranial pressure continue to be monitored

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1 and give cause for concern the following day, 29 March.
 2 A. Her intracranial pressure was monitored and there were
 3 intermittent increases in intracranial pressure, which
 4 is not uncommon, but no additional interventions were
 5 required at that stage.
 6 Q. On 30 March, was there further scanning of her brain to
 7 assess the brain injury?
 8 A. There was.
 9 Q. What were the results of that scan?
 10 A. I don't have the details of that scan to hand, but
 11 I recall that that did show areas of ischaemia, or the
 12 effects of low blood flow to parts of the brain, and
 13 an additional therapy with an anti-fungal was given to
 14 cover the possibility of fungal infection within the
 15 brain.
 16 Q. Was there then a further form of scanning, either as
 17 a result of, or otherwise related to, the blood flow
 18 issue?
 19 A. That's right, so Dr Verma, one of the neuro intensive
 20 care consultants from the Royal London carried out
 21 ultrasound scanning of her brain which showed acceptable
 22 blood flow in the brain despite the intracranial
 23 pressure being higher than we would normally be
 24 comfortable with.
 25 Q. On 31 March was there any change in her condition, or

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1 apparent change?
 2 A. There was a change noted in her right pupil, and
 3 additional therapy was with nimodipine, which is a drug
 4 to reduce the possibility of constriction of blood
 5 vessels in the brain was suggested and given.
 6 Q. So that was a potentially negative sign on that day?
 7 A. Correct.
 8 Q. Was there also on that day a noted improvement in her
 9 respiratory function?
 10 A. There was, and the amount of support she was requiring
 11 from the ECMO machine was less than it had been in
 12 previous days, suggesting the possibility that her lung
 13 condition had started to improve a little .
 14 Q. On 1 April, did this cause the ECMO team to make a trial
 15 of removing ECMO support?
 16 A. That's correct. Over 1 and 2 April, her respiratory
 17 function improved enough to manage without the ECMO
 18 machine and the ECMO support was removed in the late
 19 afternoon of 2 April, but it's worth noting that despite
 20 not requiring ECMO, she still required very high levels
 21 of mechanical ventilation to support her lung function.
 22 Q. And just to explain, why would you want to remove her
 23 from ECMO support when possible?
 24 A. ECMO support carries risks. The most important in this
 25 setting of which is that the action of the ECMO pump can

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1 cause the blood clotting to become abnormal; in other
 2 words, the blood can become thinner and put the patient
 3 at risk of bleeding which, in the circumstances
 4 described, would clearly be undesirable.
 5 So in this setting ECMO support would be removed as
 6 early as possible for those reasons.
 7 Q. So a clinical judgment has to be made based on,
 8 primarily respiratory function as to whether and when
 9 the ECMO support can be trialled off?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. Over the course of 2 April, how, otherwise, did her
 12 condition develop?
 13 A. Her condition unfortunately worsened with signs of low
 14 blood pressure and a low heart rate and an increase in
 15 the size of her right pupil, and further CT scanning of
 16 her brain was carried out that afternoon which showed
 17 a significant deterioration compared with previous scans
 18 due to swelling of the brain. And additionally there
 19 was evidence on the CT scan of the effects of high
 20 pressure within the brain, pushing the brain down onto
 21 the skull, and also worsened areas of ischaemia, or lack
 22 of blood flow to areas of the brain.
 23 Q. Was consideration again given to whether any
 24 neurosurgical intervention was feasible?
 25 A. Yes, it was, and as we had done on an approximately

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1 twice-daily basis throughout her care, a discussion was
 2 had with neurosurgical and neuro intensive care
 3 colleagues who suggested that no neurosurgical
 4 intervention would have improved her situation and that
 5 her overall prognosis was, indeed, very poor based on
 6 those CT scan findings .
 7 Q. On the following day, 3 April, was there a detailed
 8 review by a neurosurgeon, Professor Uff?
 9 A. That's correct.
 10 Q. What was his conclusion and advice?
 11 A. His conclusion and advice was that, sadly Ms Cristea's
 12 condition had deteriorated to the point that it was no
 13 longer likely that she would survive these injuries and
 14 that we should switch from an active approach, in other
 15 words, doing everything we can to try and get her
 16 through this critical illness, to an approach that
 17 focuses on palliating her condition and providing
 18 comfort care, which, of course, has been provided all
 19 along as well. And it was noted that there was a high
 20 possibility that brainstem death had occurred and that
 21 brainstem death testing should be carried out, and also
 22 that a particular type of CT scan should be carried out
 23 as an addition to the brainstem testing, if required.
 24 Q. Was there any significant change in her condition on the
 25 following day, 4 April?

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1 A. No significant change: she remained extremely unwell and
2 sadly unlikely to survive these injuries .
3 Q. On 5 April, were there further tests to assess the brain
4 and its continued viability ?
5 A. That's correct .
6 Q. What were their results ?
7 A. So in particular , a CT angiogram, which is where dye is
8 given into the blood vessels , was carried out, which
9 showed an absence of blood flow to her brain, which is
10 not compatible with survival .
11 Q. Now, you were again involved in her care on
12 6 April 2017. Was a final decision made on that day?
13 A. Yes, it was. Brainstem death testing was carried out by
14 myself with a colleague which confirmed brainstem death
15 that afternoon and, accordingly, the family, who had
16 been updated throughout this process, were with her
17 throughout that day, were at her bedside, and all other
18 support was withdrawn and she died that afternoon.
19 Q. So at the end of a very long and complex clinical
20 process, Andreea sadly passed away on 6 April?
21 A. Yes.
22 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much, doctor.
23 Examination by MR PATTERSON QC
24 MR PATTERSON: Dr Bastin, I ask questions on behalf of the
25 family of your patient .

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1 On 24 March there was the difficulty in relation to
2 Andreea's left arm that you told us about, the
3 development of the compartment syndrome, and you
4 indicated that it may be that the use of the catheter in
5 the artery may have compromised her blood supply.
6 What's likely to have caused the problem?
7 A. Do you mean the problem with the blood supply to the
8 arm?
9 Q. No, with the catheter?
10 A. So the catheter is a very small tube that is placed in
11 the artery and it allows the blood pressure to be
12 continuously measured at the bedside, which is
13 a standard part of intensive care treatment.
14 Q. Yes.
15 A. Occasionally, rarely, the presence of that tube in the
16 artery can cause the blood flow further downstream from
17 that tube to be less than it normally would be, and in
18 combination with her other injuries, that resulted, or
19 was felt to have been contributory, to a lower blood
20 supply to her left lower arm.
21 Q. None of that, however, had any impact on the ultimate
22 deterioration many days later; is that correct?
23 A. That's correct, I don't believe it had any bearing on
24 her ultimate outcome.
25 Q. In terms of the ultimate cause of death, it was multiple

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1 organ failure ; is that correct? That's how it's
2 described, I think, in your statement, in your summary.
3 A. I don't think I specifically recorded a cause of death,
4 but she certainly did have multiple organ failure , but
5 the fact that she had brainstem death would mean that
6 the overriding cause of death was related to her brain
7 injuries .
8 Q. And related to that, of course, and a complication that
9 worsened her condition was the -- were the problems from
10 the immersion in water and the injuries to her lungs.
11 A. Yes, they contributed, certainly .
12 Q. If she had been removed from the water much more quickly
13 than she was, after just 2 minutes and 18 seconds,
14 rather than something in the region of 5 minutes, might
15 that have made a difference such that she might have
16 survived?
17 A. I think that's very difficult to say and I think all of
18 the teams looking after her were in no doubt that her
19 brain injuries were very, very severe right at the
20 outset.
21 Q. Yes.
22 A. And certainly compounded by a period of time in the
23 water. Whether 2 minutes in the water versus 6 minutes
24 in the water would have made a difference to her
25 outcome, I think it unlikely, but I can't be sure about

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1 that .
2 Q. But would you agree with Dr Sadek that it certainly
3 wouldn't have worsened things if she'd have been removed
4 much more quickly from the water than she was?
5 A. It certainly wouldn't have worsened things, I agree.
6 Q. Doctor, that's all I ask, but can I thank you and your
7 team for everything that was done for her over those
8 many days.
9 A. Thank you, and on behalf of the teams at Barts Health
10 that cared for her, we would like to express our
11 condolences again to Ms Cristea's family .
12 MR PATTERSON: Thank you for that.
13 MR HOUGH: No further questions from any other lawyers.
14 Thank you very much, doctor, for your evidence.
15 A. Thank you.
16 THE CHIEF CORONER: Dr Bastin, before you go, I am conscious
17 that you have given evidence on behalf of a number of
18 the teams that were involved and of course the names of
19 the specialist consultants really is the tip of the
20 iceberg. It's all of the team, it is those nurses, the
21 other support that you all rely upon, but if you could
22 express to them all, please, my sincere thanks for
23 everything they did in extremely difficult
24 circumstances.
25 A. Thank you. I shall pass that on.

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1 MR HOUGH: Sir, that is all the evidence we have for today.
 2 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes, I'm going to suggest, Mr Hough, we
 3 simply take a five-minute break, because I'm conscious
 4 we've been running for almost three hours.
 5 MR HOUGH: I was going to suggest the same.
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: I know there is one very important
 7 procedural matter we need to cover, but if we simply
 8 take a 10-minute break now I suspect that would be
 9 welcome to everyone, particularly those who have been
 10 typing away at the front of the court, so I will rise.
 11 (4.45 pm)
 12 (A short break)
 13 (4.57 pm)
 14 Submissions by MR HOUGH QC
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes, Mr Hough.
 16 MR HOUGH: Sir, I propose to introduce the legal submissions
 17 and set out our position on them for the benefit of
 18 everyone in court. It may well be, sir, that then
 19 Ms Stevens, who represents the sisters of Keith Palmer,
 20 will ask for additional time, and obviously that's
 21 a request you can consider.
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 23 MR HOUGH: Sir, by way of context, the widow of Keith Palmer
 24 has been legally represented throughout these
 25 proceedings. She was first represented by Hogan Lovells

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1 and then changed her representation to Slater & Gordon
 2 in, I think, March of this year. Mr Adamson appears for
 3 her.
 4 The sisters of Keith Palmer instructed Kingsley
 5 Napley solicitors at the start of August this year,
 6 Ms Stevens appears for them. Kingsley Napley applied
 7 for legal aid to fund their representation of the
 8 sisters at the Inquests; it was refused last Friday. We
 9 don't know the reasons for refusal but, of course, the
 10 existing representation of Keith's widow may have been
 11 a factor.
 12 On Friday afternoon, Ms Stevens contacted me to
 13 raise a number of points. On Monday evening, she
 14 provided, helpfully, a note which outlined her
 15 procedural arguments. Interested persons have since
 16 been given the opportunity to respond to that note.
 17 We've received and circulated submissions in response
 18 from the Metropolitan Police, from the
 19 Parliamentary Authorities, from the representatives of
 20 Keith's widow, and from Barts Health.
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: All of which I've got and I have had
 22 a chance to read.
 23 MR HOUGH: Thank you, sir. I hope, we are hopeful, all of
 24 us, that the fairly detailed written submissions will
 25 make the oral submissions more efficient.

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1 So there are, in essence, four issues: first, should
 2 the court make any timetabling changes to accommodate
 3 the Kingsley Napley team. Second, if relevant, should
 4 the court adjourn the Inquest concerning Keith Palmer.
 5 Third, should the court decide whether Article 2 is
 6 engaged in Keith Palmer's Inquest now rather than
 7 deferring it and, if so, what decision should it make,
 8 and fourthly, should the court order additional
 9 disclosure.

10 Before I address those issues, may I say a little
 11 about the background. Many of the submissions to be
 12 made concern one aspect of Keith Palmer's Inquest,
 13 albeit an important one: the security arrangements at
 14 the Palace of Westminster. This is a topic on which
 15 a huge amount of work has been done in preparing for
 16 these Inquests. Our note addresses those in some
 17 detail, as do those of Mr Keith and Mr Nicholas Moss.
 18 We appreciated from the outset that the Inquests would
 19 need to consider Palace security arrangements so far as
 20 relevant to the attack. At the PII hearing on
 21 15 January we submitted, and you sir, accepted, that
 22 that topic should be within the scope of the Inquests.

23 We were provided with a copy of the review report
 24 Sir Jon Murphy prepared after the attack, and also with
 25 a series of pre-attack review reports of parliamentary

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1 security. These are in the main highly secret
 2 documents. They were reviewed by me, by my junior,
 3 Mr Aaron Moss, and by Ms Jones of BDB, all of whom are
 4 DV cleared. Based on our reading, it was immediately
 5 apparent that the reports were highly sensitive and that
 6 the great majority of their content was irrelevant to
 7 the Inquest.

8 We had a meeting with a senior officer on 17 April
 9 of this year to discuss how the contents, the relevant
 10 content of the materials, could be deployed and how more
 11 generally evidence could be introduced on this topic.
 12 Based on that meeting, we requested evidence from the
 13 Metropolitan Police and the Parliamentary Authorities,
 14 and prepared a note of the topics it should cover. That
 15 note was disclosed to all interested persons before the
 16 last PIR hearing.

17 We hoped that the evidence would be ready for
 18 disclosure by the time of the last PIR hearing, which
 19 was on 2 July. The topic was discussed and a direction
 20 was given for it to be disclosed within two weeks
 21 thereafter.

22 On 16 July, substantial statements of
 23 Commander Usher and Mr Hepburn were disclosed,
 24 addressing our issues in detail. They were disclosed to
 25 interested persons, then on record within 48 hours.

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1 We did not leave the matter there. We promptly
2 asked detailed follow-up questions of Commander Usher,
3 which he answered in a second substantial statement.
4 Later we were provided with a report about a security
5 exercise, called Operation Standfast, and we put further
6 questions to Commander Usher which resulted in a third
7 statement.

8 In short, sir, we satisfied ourselves that the
9 statements provided the relevant material from the
10 security reviews in a form which would not damage the
11 security of Parliament and those who work there in the
12 future.

13 In addition, we realised that the evidence about the
14 movements of the firearms officers in New Palace Yard
15 would be important. To that end, we worked with SO15 to
16 prepare a compilation of CCTV footage of their
17 movements, maps of their movements, and photographs
18 taken from key vantage points in the yard. We've also
19 pursued other lines of inquiry, with the assistance of
20 SO15. For instance, we obtained a statement exhibiting
21 the relevant patrol map for New Palace Yard, as posted
22 until very recently in the base room, and after
23 discussions, we secured minimal redaction of that map.

24 So while security at the Palace is an important
25 issue, it is one which has been addressed with

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1 appropriate rigour.

2 Let me then turn to timetabling changes and the
3 question of a possible adjournment. We are obviously
4 concerned that so long as the sisters of Keith Palmer
5 are represented, we should make every effort to ensure
6 that their representatives can participate properly.
7 With that in mind, when Ms Stevens last Friday requested
8 that PCs Ashby and Sanders be moved to next week, we
9 immediately investigated options. We were able to make
10 a suggestion, but it created a difficulty with
11 Mr Adamson's availability, which is obviously important.
12 We then had further constructive discussions and reached
13 a solution on Monday which we relayed to court;
14 obviously subject to anybody reviewing their position.

15 We'll continue to make reasonable efforts to assist
16 Ms Stevens and her junior. Mr Moss, my junior, I know
17 has been in contact with Ms Stevens' junior, assisting
18 him with references. We would oppose, however, any
19 suggestion that the Inquest of PC Palmer be adjourned
20 wholesale for the reasons given at paragraph 4 of our
21 note, in short, five points.

22 First, such an adjournment would be very disruptive
23 to the witnesses who have been summoned to attend and
24 would be distressing to many involved in this case. It
25 would involve a wholesale recall of witnesses, probably

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1 months into the future.

2 Second, it would prevent the Inquest hearing from
3 giving the full, clear and coherent account of the
4 attack which it has been arranged to provide. It would
5 also mean that the shooting of Masood was examined in
6 an Inquest before his killing of PC Palmer.

7 Third, it would conflict with the expressed wishes
8 of Keith Palmer's widow.

9 Fourth, we are satisfied that the Inquests can
10 properly examine the relevant issues without taking this
11 drastic step. The Inquest will have very substantial
12 evidence on all issues concerning Keith's death, and
13 other interested persons, including, significantly, the
14 legal team for Keith's widow, feel able to examine the
15 issues as the timetable currently stands.

16 Fifthly, with reasonable accommodations, we do not
17 consider that the Kingsley Napley team will be unable to
18 deal with the evidence. As others have submitted,
19 Mr Keith, and I believe Mr Moss, the issues are not so
20 complex, nor the evidence so voluminous that experienced
21 lawyers could not prepare in the time available. So
22 that's what we say about adjournment.

23 May I now deal with Article 2 of the European
24 Convention. We've set out in our note the legal
25 principles governing Article 2 as it affects Inquests,

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1 specifically paragraph 7. In the briefest summary, sir,
2 where a coroner concludes that the investigative
3 obligation under Article 2 is engaged in relation to
4 an Inquest, a modified approach applies, or can apply,
5 to the making of determinations at the end of the
6 Inquest. Whether or not this investigative obligation
7 is engaged in a case such as this depends on whether it
8 is arguable that the state or its agents breached
9 substantive Article 2 duties in relation to the death,
10 here the death of Keith Palmer.

11 Our proposition, quite simply, is that this question
12 ought to be addressed at the end of the evidence rather
13 than now, and we say that for the following reasons:
14 firstly, it is a matter for your discretion when to
15 address this issue, subject to the point that you should
16 resolve it by the time you come to make determinations.

17 Sir, of course you have already addressed the issue
18 at a pre-inquest review hearing but, properly, kept the
19 matter under review. The issue now is when you should
20 proceed to review the issue. Now, that must be a matter
21 of discretion. True it is that both in the Chief
22 Coroner's guidance, and in certain authorities it has
23 been suggested, that it is appropriate to address
24 Article 2 as a case management issue at a pre-inquest
25 review hearing.

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1 THE CHIEF CORONER: We have rather moved beyond that.
 2 MR HOUGH: We have moved beyond that stage, exactly, sir.
 3 Secondly, deferring the issue, as we propose, would
 4 allow it to be addressed on the basis of materially
 5 better information, and that is especially so in this
 6 case. The issue, as one can tell from reading the
 7 various notes, will depend not only on whether Palace
 8 security can realistically be criticised, but whether
 9 any deficiencies are properly to be characterised as
 10 failings of individuals or systemic problems.
 11 Mr Nicholas Moss' note identifies clearly how important
 12 an issue that will be.

13 The evidence of the firearms officers, of
 14 Commander Usher and of Mr Hepburn will be highly
 15 relevant to such questions. There is no real value to
 16 the Inquest process, thirdly, in resolving the issue now
 17 rather than after full evidence. A decision in either
 18 direction won't change the scope of inquiry and won't
 19 change the way the hearing is conducted because, sir,
 20 you have already drawn the scope of the inquiry as
 21 widely as if it had been an Article 2 inquest.

22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Well, the point, in a nutshell,

23 Mr Hough, is that we'll all be better informed once
 24 we've actually heard the material.

25 MR HOUGH: We'll all be better informed and it won't have

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1 changed one iota of how the hearing progresses.

2 Fourthly, addressing the issue in detail now would
 3 require substantial argument under ruling, since it is
 4 plainly controversial. Furthermore, as Mr Keith points
 5 out, it may well have to be argued out all over again
 6 after the evidence, because he and his clients can
 7 legitimately say it should be reviewed again at that
 8 stage. That would, in our submission, be further
 9 disruption of the Inquest and a waste of court time.

10 Finally, while we appreciate that the
 11 Metropolitan Police and the Parliamentary Authorities
 12 have prepared notes on this issue, they have had to do
 13 at very short notice. We say it would be fairest to
 14 them that the issue is debated at the end of the
 15 evidence now that they have had notice of points to be
 16 taken and can address them.

17 The final issue which I propose to address is that
 18 of disclosure. At paragraph 25 of her submissions,
 19 Ms Stevens raises a number of requests for disclosure.
 20 Let me deal with them in turn.

21 First she asks for disclosure of relevant sections
 22 of reviews and reports on Palace of Westminster
 23 security. We oppose that request. As I've sought to
 24 explain, the relevant evidence has been provided in gist
 25 through Commander Usher's statements in the main. The

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1 suggestion which is made in places in the written
 2 submissions that historic reports no longer have
 3 security sensitivities is simply and emphatically wrong.
 4 The Palace of Westminster is, as everyone has repeatedly
 5 said, an iconic building which has certain security
 6 limitations built into its structure. Historic reviews
 7 will highlight those matters as a matter of course, and
 8 it is entirely to be expected that they will include
 9 many sensitivities which are both important and matters
 10 which can't be gone into in open court.

11 The approach we took of identifying a series of
 12 topics for evidence, and then through discussions
 13 attempting to ensure that all the relevant evidence from
 14 the reviews we had read was introduced, was, we suggest,
 15 a more pragmatic approach than having a protracted
 16 series of PII hearings, at the end of which the same
 17 material would have been released but in the form of
 18 documents heavily blacked out.

19 Secondly, she asks for records of discussions
 20 between the Operation Classic team and
 21 Commander Usher, and that is a request we respectfully
 22 oppose. The evidence that the Operation Classic team
 23 turned up appears in the statements. It can be probed
 24 in questioning. A great deal of SO15 investigation
 25 documentation has been disclosed via Opus, but we must

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1 remember that this is not an investigation into
 2 Operation Classic. We used the materials gleaned by
 3 that investigation in order to investigate the deaths.

4 Thirdly, she asks us for emails leading up to a DPS
 5 process relating to PCs Ashby and Sanders. Sir,
 6 we don't see the force in that request either. What is
 7 relevant, we submit, is the record of the process which
 8 has been disclosed, and the evidence of the witnesses
 9 about it, which we shall hear.

10 Fourthly, she asks for security instructions for
 11 New Palace Yard. That is a question which was our first
 12 question, addressed to Commander Usher after his first
 13 statement had been produced. It is the first question
 14 he answers in his second statement, and he tells us that
 15 we have everything there is.

16 Fifthly, Ms Stevens asks for statements of further
 17 AFOs, authorised firearms officers. Sir, the statements
 18 which have been taken by the Operation Classic team in
 19 the course of their investigation have, we understand,
 20 been provided to us and disclosed via Opus. To our
 21 knowledge all statements taken from police witnesses at
 22 the Palace of Westminster have therefore been disclosed.

23 At the sixth, seventh and eighth subparagraphs she
 24 asks for material relating to historic patrol
 25 arrangements for firearms officers at New Palace Yard.

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1 Now, Commander Usher has given the rationale for the
2 patrol arrangements as they were in March 2017, and he
3 has disclosed the details of the instructions to AFOs.

4 We are not persuaded, sir, that historic security
5 arrangements are relevant. The arrangements as they
6 stood in March 2017 can be analysed and criticised fully
7 with the material we have. Furthermore, investigation
8 of historic arrangements would require more extensive
9 evidence of the context in the Palace at each of those
10 occasions in the past. While this is an important
11 issue, that sort of an investigation would take us well
12 away from the focus of these Inquests.

13 Ninthly, Ms Stevens refers to documents referring to
14 previous security concerns, and asks for documents
15 evidencing those. What we say to that is that the
16 evidence so far as we understand -- and of course this
17 can be confirmed by Mr Keith and his clients -- gives
18 details of what previous concerns were expressed, and
19 a number of our questions to Commander Usher focused on
20 particular concerns, which he answered.

21 Tenthly, Ms Stevens asked for the post instruction
22 dated January 2015. Sir, the relevant parts of that
23 post instruction I understand appear in
24 Commander Usher's statement, but it may be that the
25 document itself, or relevant parts of the original

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1 document, can be disclosed. In any event, the
2 difference between disclosure of parts of the document
3 and its full citation in Commander Usher's statement may
4 be thought somewhat academic.

5 So that sets out our submissions. I thought it
6 would be helpful if I set them out so that others can
7 address them.

8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.

9 MR HOUGH: As I say, it may be that Ms Stevens will ask for
10 more time.

11 THE CHIEF CORONER: Ms Stevens.

12 Submissions by MS STEVENS

13 MS STEVENS: Yes, sir, that is exactly the position, I am
14 afraid. The initial application is for more time to
15 digest what we've just been told.

16 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.

17 MS STEVENS: It's entirely appreciated, of course, by the
18 family of Police Constable Palmer that people are very
19 busy, people have been in court today, of course,
20 hearing evidence. It's also appreciated that there is
21 a need to adhere to the timetable as much as we can.

22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.

23 MS STEVENS: But I hope it's not too obvious a point to
24 stress on their behalf, these are very serious matters
25 that they are most anxious to ensure are dealt with

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1 fully and properly.

2 So just to give you, sir, a little bit more context
3 as to why it is that we ask for time.

4 THE CHIEF CORONER: Well, it might help me to know how much
5 time you are asking for.

6 MS STEVENS: Oh, thank you. Could I ask for 15 minutes,
7 please, just to digest the responses to disclosure.

8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Right.

9 MS STEVENS: Those nine points. We haven't heard that
10 before. We did make clear on Tuesday morning that
11 we wouldn't be able to deal with any submissions about
12 disclosure until we had the views of counsel to the
13 Inquest.

14 Understandably the response on Tuesday was that they
15 were awaiting the representations from other interested
16 parties, notably, of course, the Metropolitan Police
17 Service and Parliamentary Authorities. But those having
18 been received by 7.30 last night, we haven't received
19 anything further. No criticism, other than, of course,
20 it does impact our ability to make submissions. So if
21 we could have 15 minutes, we would be incredibly
22 grateful.

23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Right, so you are asking for 15 minutes
24 now to consider the response. That only touches on one
25 of the points that ...

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1 MS STEVENS: It does. It does. The only benefit of giving
2 us that time now rather than dealing with the other
3 grounds for the adjournment application, which I should
4 flag up, is the application that Police Constable
5 Palmer's family wish to make, is that there are
6 additional documents that you won't yet have seen, and
7 first of all there's an additional list of disclosure
8 requests. We made it clear in our initial note on
9 Monday that further disclosure requests would be coming
10 when we'd had proper opportunity to consider the new
11 material. So that's document one that we would ask you
12 to be given to consider when dealing with our
13 application to adjourn.

14 The second one is a very brief note as to the law.
15 I'm sure none of it, sir, of course, will come as
16 a surprise to you, but it just deals with submissions in
17 relation to section 7(2)(b) of the Coroners and
18 Justice Act in relation to whether or not this is
19 an appropriate case now to summons a jury. We've been
20 working on both of those documents today, which is why
21 they haven't been handed up sooner.

22 The benefit, then, of being given the 15 minutes is
23 that there will be time to consider those two documents
24 before we address you.

25 THE CHIEF CORONER: Well, I suspect everyone in court is

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1 going to need more than 15 minutes if you are serious
 2 about making these sorts of applications .
 3 MS STEVENS: Yes.
 4 THE CHIEF CORONER: And it's not the sort of thing we're
 5 going to deal with this evening, by the sounds of things
 6 to me.
 7 MS STEVENS: Well, we were very loath to make that
 8 application or that submission straightaway, but
 9 I respectfully agree with it: these are very serious
 10 issues, it's unfortunate that all of this has arisen in
 11 the way that it has done, but it's through no fault of
 12 the family of Police Constable Palmer when one looks at
 13 the chronology.
 14 THE CHIEF CORONER: You say the family: I think one has to
 15 draw a distinction because, it seems to me very clearly,
 16 his widow has very different views.
 17 MS STEVENS: Not in relation to some aspects, such as
 18 whether there are --
 19 THE CHIEF CORONER: Well, the application for
 20 an adjournment, which is principally one that you make,
 21 is one that is not accepted by PC Palmer's widow.
 22 That's the first of the applications I have to consider.
 23 At the moment you haven't made your argument on that,
 24 you've simply asked for 15 minutes to consider the
 25 responses that Mr Hough has made in respect of the

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1 disclosure requests. My point is that before we get to
 2 these additional points I've got to deal with the other
 3 four points that Mr Hough has set out, and that, at
 4 5.20 pm on a Thursday afternoon, bearing in mind the
 5 additional points you've now said you wish also to make,
 6 I would have thought everyone in court would wish to see
 7 how it is that you say these changes have now come about
 8 that require, for example, the summoning of a jury?
 9 MS STEVENS: We don't disagree with that at all, but what
 10 we would ask is that no criticism is drawn from the fact
 11 that we are at this time dealing with the application
 12 because of the fact that we, ourselves, have had to work
 13 very quickly, bearing in mind we got the submissions at
 14 7.30 last night.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: I can see Mr Keith is very keen to get
 16 his ...
 17 Submissions by MR KEITH QC
 18 MR KEITH: I am very sorry to rise to my feet. I don't
 19 intend to address you in relation to the (inaudible)
 20 applications but some of my learned friend's submissions
 21 are simply not correct.
 22 The Metropolitan Police does not wish to add to the
 23 undoubted and obvious distress of Mr Palmer's sisters,
 24 and I've made that point in our written submissions but
 25 may I make this plain: despite the lateness of the

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1 applications made by my learned friend and served upon
 2 the parties this week, we responded fully in writing, as
 3 did some of the other interested persons, and as you
 4 know, because you've referred to the notes being filed .
 5 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 6 MR KEITH: In our submissions we addressed each single
 7 discrete application for disclosure that had been made
 8 by my learned friend so it's not right for her to say
 9 that she needs time to consider the response from
 10 my learned friend, counsel to the Inquests.
 11 Moreover, there can be nothing in our submissions
 12 that would be of any surprise to her through the
 13 submissions received by counsel to the Inquest, because
 14 as you know, and as my learned friend may not, all the
 15 material which is conceivably relevant which is
 16 disclosed by the Metropolitan Police as an interested
 17 person is considered by the Inquest team for the
 18 purposes of onward disclosure.
 19 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 20 MR KEITH: So the submissions made by my learned friend
 21 Mr Hough are identical in that regard and, again, could
 22 have come as no surprise, because my learned friend has
 23 had those submissions for a couple of days too.
 24 To suggest she needs more time to respond,
 25 therefore, to what my learned friend has said, is

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1 surprising given she says these are serious issues. In
 2 which case we are rather surprised that for the first
 3 time there appears to be an application under
 4 section 7(2) or (3) of the Coroners and Justice Act for
 5 a jury to hear the Inquest into the death of PC Palmer.
 6 We made the point in our submissions that her
 7 application for Article 2 to apply to his Inquest,
 8 provisionally for the purposes of provoking the
 9 adjectival obligation under Article 2 that you
 10 considered very recently in the case of Parkinson --
 11 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 12 MR KEITH: -- was not apparently supported by any
 13 application under section 7 which you might have
 14 expected if it were being suggested in argument that
 15 PC Palmer's death did result from the act or omission of
 16 a police officer in relation, of course, to
 17 parliamentary security.
 18 So we now hear for the very first time this
 19 afternoon that that application is being made, and it
 20 appears to us, with respect, to be a response to the
 21 forensic point we made in our written submissions, which
 22 may say something about its merits.
 23 So for all those reasons, we are a little surprised
 24 that further time is required.
 25

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1 Further submissions by MS STEVENS
 2 MS STEVENS: Well, sir, all we're dealing with at the moment
 3 is whether or not, having flagged up on Tuesday that
 4 we would need to know the approach of counsel to the
 5 Inquest to our disclosure request, having heard that
 6 response for the first time, we should be given
 7 15 minutes. That's the application.

8 Clearly that's opposed and there are strong views on
 9 behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service, but can I --
 10 THE CHIEF CORONER: There may be strong views by others.

11 I haven't sought the views of others. I was just
 12 conscious that Mr Keith was anxious to address me.

13 MS STEVENS: Can I just deal with this one aspect of his
 14 submission that relates to the request for 15 minutes,
 15 and it's this: in his submissions it's said that nothing
 16 that's been raised by counsel to the Inquest could take
 17 Police Constable Palmer's sisters by surprise.

18 Could I ask you, please, to look at how the
 19 disclosure requests, other than the request for
 20 information as to the Sir John Murphy report, is dealt
 21 with, or are dealt with by the Metropolitan Police
 22 Service, and it's at page 4, paragraph 22 of my learned
 23 friend's skeleton argument, where he says this:

24 "Police Constable Palmer's sisters raise a number of
 25 other discrete disclosure issues, the relevancy or

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1 significance of which is not entirely clear."

2 And then there are matters raised in that paragraph
 3 and the next two. Those paragraphs do not mirror what
 4 we've just heard for the first time, and therefore, in
 5 my submission it's not right to say that we were alive
 6 to all of the information that we've just been given,
 7 and in light of the fact that it has just been said that
 8 fairness would dictate that counsel for other interested
 9 parties could not deal with the issue of whether there's
 10 an arguable Article 2 breach, having had two days to
 11 reflect on this and having known for some time the
 12 matters in issue, we do ask whether or not it's
 13 reasonable to object in the way expressed, or raise
 14 concerns about 15 minutes.

15 THE CHIEF CORONER: My point more about 15 minutes is that
 16 it's 5.30: you are expecting me to come back at 5.45 and
 17 then hear submissions from various people and then to
 18 make a ruling so that we can carry on with the evidence
 19 that's listed in court tomorrow morning.

20 MS STEVENS: Bearing in mind the time we have reached,
 21 which, of course, is reflected by the time that these
 22 submissions started, I would respectfully agree with
 23 your observations, sir, that this should be dealt with
 24 tomorrow morning. This isn't going to be a quick
 25 argument because --

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1 THE CHIEF CORONER: That's my problem. If I give you
 2 15 minutes now it's really going to extend the evening
 3 that we're all going to spend here otherwise.

4 MS STEVENS: I completely see that. We were just trying to
 5 assist in terms of keeping to the timetable. But the
 6 reality is, it isn't going to be quick argument. You
 7 may already have got a flavour of the fact that there is
 8 significant disagreement between the Metropolitan Police
 9 Service and the sisters of Police Constable Palmer as to
 10 the chronology, as to how this situation has been
 11 caused, and why it is fair and reasonable to adjourn.
 12 All of those matters are going to have to be ventilated.

13 THE CHIEF CORONER: Obviously I will hear the arguments
 14 tomorrow morning, but at the moment I'm going to need
 15 great persuasion in relation to two things: first of all
 16 that there is the need for an adjournment, and certainly
 17 great persuasion that I should do anything other than
 18 simply defer a final decision in respect of Article 2
 19 until the conclusion of the evidence.

20 If the application that a jury is to be summonsed at
 21 this stage is to be proceeded with, that will also have
 22 to be dealt with before we start with the evidence
 23 tomorrow morning and, I anticipate, Mr Hough, we have
 24 witnesses due to be here at 10.15.

25 MR HOUGH: We do have witnesses due to be here at 10.15, and

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1 the logistical challenge for us is not only that there
 2 are a number of them, one of whom, for example, Mr West,
 3 needs to be concluded tomorrow morning.

4 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.

5 MR HOUGH: But there are then knock-on effects into next
 6 week. We have, for example, Tobias Ellwood and
 7 Dr Hudson, both very busy people, on Monday. Three
 8 pathologists on Tuesday, who will be very difficult to
 9 move, knowing pathologists' diaries.

10 THE CHIEF CORONER: What I'm going to suggest is we will sit
 11 at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

12 MR HOUGH: Yes, sir.

13 THE CHIEF CORONER: And, if necessary, I will impose
 14 a guillotine in respect of the length of submissions
 15 because it seems to me I have to have regard to the fact
 16 that there are a number of Inquests taking here, and
 17 it's not just the interests of one party, I have to have
 18 regard to the interests of all parties, and the fact of
 19 witnesses who no doubt are somewhat nervous about coming
 20 to the Old Bailey to give evidence. It's been
 21 noticeable so far the people who have come really to
 22 give evidence to a coroner which is not really in
 23 dispute, if anything they are to be praised for what
 24 they've done, but nonetheless this event has had quite
 25 a dramatic effect upon them, and the last thing I would

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1 want any of us to do is to worsen that impact by
 2 delaying further the opportunity that they have, or the
 3 chance they have, to give their evidence in respect of
 4 the important issues that I have to deal with.
 5 So we will sit at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and
 6 we will, as I say, if necessary impose a guillotine, or
 7 I will impose a guillotine, to ensure that we can deal
 8 with the matters that need to be dealt with before
 9 we can continue, if that is the decision that I make, in
 10 respect of the Inquest.
 11 MR HOUGH: Thank you, sir.
 12 THE CHIEF CORONER: I will rise.
 13 (5.30 pm)
 14 (The court adjourned until 9 o'clock on
 15 Friday, 14 September 2018)
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