

OPUS 2

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London Bridge Inquests

Day 3

May 9, 2019

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1 Thursday, 9 May 2019
 2 (10.12 am)
 3 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning, Mr Hough. Just before we
 4 move on to the evidence, can I just repeat what I said
 5 yesterday about the press reporting? I have been very
 6 impressed with the high standard in which these matters
 7 have been reported so far, but can I just make one
 8 reminder? There are, of course, in place a number of
 9 anonymity orders that I have made, and those cover
 10 a number of the armed officers who were involved when
 11 they responded, and I simply make a request to anyone
 12 who is reporting matters to please be -- to ensure that
 13 those orders are not infringed, either through reporting
 14 of text or through the use of photographs or footage.
 15 I'm sure everyone understands why I have said that.
 16 MR HOUGH: Yes.
 17 THE CHIEF CORONER: But please, I hope that everyone will
 18 respect that -- those orders.
 19 MR HOUGH: Thank you, sir. Our first witness today is
 20 Christine Delcros who will be giving evidence with
 21 interpretation.
 22 (Interpreter sworn)
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr Interpreter.
 24 Can I -- in a moment, we will make sure that you can
 25 both sit comfortably during the course of the evidence,

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1 but to start with, I'm simply going to ask you to assist
 2 my usher in administering the oath or the affirmation.
 3 MS CHRISTINE DELCROS (affirmed)
 4 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Interpreter, can I just ask you to
 5 help me for one moment? Are you happy to be called,
 6 "Christine"? That was the first question.
 7 A Yes, of course.
 8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Christine, please make yourself as
 9 comfortable as you can. If you wish a break at any time
 10 just let me know. The microphone is really for the
 11 interpreter and he will interpret the question that is
 12 asked. If you then answer in French, he will then
 13 interpret into English for the rest of us.
 14 A Okay.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 16 Mr Hough.
 17 Questions by MR HOUGH QC
 18 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your full name to the
 19 court?
 20 A Yes. Good morning. My name is Christine Delcros.
 21 Q My name is Jonathan Hough. I will be asking you
 22 questions on behalf of the Coroner first of all.
 23 I think you understand you are giving evidence about
 24 events on 3 June 2017 on London Bridge. On the weekend
 25 of 3 June 2017 is it right that you and your fiancé,

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1 Xavier Thomas, were in London for sightseeing?
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q I think you had travelled by Eurostar arriving that
 4 Saturday morning; is that right?
 5 A Yes, that's correct.
 6 Q In the afternoon I think you spent some time sightseeing
 7 at various places.
 8 A Yes.
 9 Q And then you returned to your hotel, the Four Seasons at
 10 Tower Bridge.
 11 A That's correct.
 12 Q I understand that you rested at your hotel for a time.
 13 A Yes. Do I need to make long sentences or not?
 14 Q You can say as much or as little as you like in response
 15 to the questions.
 16 So I think after resting at your hotel, you decided
 17 to go to The Shard.
 18 A Yes, indeed. That's correct.
 19 Q I think your intention was to see the view and have
 20 a drink there.
 21 A Yes. We were being expected there so we could view the
 22 magnificent view around the Thames and a cocktail.
 23 Q I understand that you left your hotel a little after
 24 9.30 pm.
 25 A Yes. Xavier wanted to have a little bit of a rest. He

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1 had asked me to wake him up at 9.30 pm because he needed
 2 to have a good rest so that he could be fit. Since I
 3 saw -- I realised that he had been sleeping so well
 4 I told him that, you know, we won't have to go. I
 5 advised him to have more rest and told him that we would
 6 enjoy it on the following day, but he absolutely wanted
 7 to please me and he said, "That's okay, I will have rest
 8 tomorrow".
 9 Q In the event, did you, together, decide to walk to
 10 The Shard?
 11 A Yes, but at the last minute there were several
 12 instances. At some stage I offered him to take taxi
 13 because he was tired, but he told me that was okay, he
 14 could go. And just before we reached the bridge I told
 15 him -- I have no explanation but I told him that we
 16 shouldn't go there, we had to go somewhere else, and he
 17 couldn't understand it. He told me, "Why are you saying
 18 this to me now?" I told him I didn't know. It's just
 19 that I had so many premonitions about terror attacks
 20 from the day before and I couldn't feel it, but I didn't
 21 tell him, in fact, and to please me, he started
 22 searching on his phone for another place, "But it's late
 23 now", he said, "That's okay, you will see that it is
 24 a magnificent view", and he had planned everything
 25 properly, accordingly, and not to disappoint him I said,

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1 "Okay". I had just called my daughter, and he has got
 2 a younger son so he had to phone his son, and after
 3 that, we went. After that, I do remember that, at the
 4 time of the van.
 5 Q Okay. So your walking route took you across
 6 London Bridge; is that right?
 7 A In fact, I just remember at the time of the van, between
 8 the time I told him, "Let's go", and the time of the
 9 crash, I have lost my memory.
 10 Q So do you have any recollection of walking across the
 11 bridge before the moments -- before the moment we saw
 12 the van?
 13 A I remember being on the bridge but at the time, I felt
 14 that there was something that wasn't normal, and
 15 suddenly I was under the impression that there was a lot
 16 of light and there was a van that mounted at the last
 17 time on the pavement. It was the exact fashion like --
 18 to make sure that they were not going to miss us. I was
 19 there, overwhelmed, without being able to look at Xavier
 20 and not thinking about my daughter, I just had the time
 21 to say to myself, "That's how one dies. That's it".
 22 Q Can you recall whether the van came from behind you or
 23 in front?
 24 A My recollection, I can only see it facing me, but the
 25 police explained to me that it came from behind me.

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1 That's why I think this whole part of the bridge I don't
 2 remember about, and I think that if we did not escape,
 3 manage to escape, it is because we turned back at the
 4 last minute, and that's what struck me, it's that image
 5 that remains with me.
 6 Q From what you have described, you only saw it for
 7 a moment before the impact?
 8 A Yes, indeed. I had it facing me, but I don't remember
 9 turning back.
 10 Q Now, we know that the vehicle struck you. What was your
 11 next memory after that had happened?
 12 A I thought that I had died, that the curtain had fallen,
 13 to me I was dead, but I said to myself, "That's how one
 14 dies", and I have no recollection of the crash. It's
 15 like my brain had gone blank, and it's only later that I
 16 woke up, but not immediately.
 17 Q After you did become conscious, did you have any
 18 impression in your mind of what had happened to Xavier?
 19 A First of all, I had to remember what I was doing there
 20 at that time. I could only remember that my body was
 21 across and I was suffering martyrdom. I just heard
 22 someone saying -- I don't remember whether it was in
 23 French or in English -- but someone was saying, "Does
 24 anyone speak French?" and in fact, that was my
 25 recollection and the person who marked me the most was

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1 Geoffrey Huet who saved me on the bridge and who held my
 2 head and putting everything for me to remember my name,
 3 my age, and for gradually, for me to regain
 4 consciousness, and once I regained consciousness
 5 I asked, "Where is Xavier?" Then he tried to look for
 6 him but couldn't find him. Then immediately I told him,
 7 he might be in the Thames and I ordered him to go look
 8 for him.
 9 Q I think you were helped for a while on the bridge by
 10 people including Mr Huet.
 11 A Yes. Especially him, I do remember him. I know that
 12 there were many people around me but the medical team
 13 that was ripping my clothes, but since Geoffrey had his
 14 head over mine, because he was doing his best for me not
 15 to lose consciousness, because I was so much in
 16 suffering.
 17 Q And then after a time I think you were taken by
 18 ambulance to hospital.
 19 A Well, what happened, I was trapped on the ground,
 20 I suffered martyrdom and I don't understand why I was
 21 trapped. I suffered so much. I went, I don't know
 22 where, I went into some light, I could hear some voices,
 23 but I was no longer there. I had my whole head with me
 24 but I was no longer within my body. I was gone. I
 25 thought that I would never come out of that light, I

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1 would stay there forever.
 2 Q Christine, is there anything else you would like to tell
 3 the court?
 4 A Well, I'm madly in love with Xavier. I feel closer to
 5 the other side than here. That's it. I feel more
 6 connected to the other side.
 7 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much for that. Thank you also for
 8 your very moving pen portrait. There may be one or two
 9 other questions from others.
 10 THE CHIEF CORONER: In fact, I think Mr Adamson, you don't
 11 have any other questions. Can I simply echo my grateful
 12 thanks for coming to speak, first of all, so movingly
 13 about Xavier, but also for giving evidence today. It
 14 can't have been easy, but many thanks indeed.
 15 A That was very important, because I needed to say
 16 everything that I felt for Xavier and nothing could take
 17 us apart, even a barbarian, and nothing will destroy the
 18 connection we had, even though he is on the other side.
 19 Love will be stronger than everything.
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed.
 21 Mr Interpreter, thank you also.
 22 MR HOUGH: Sir, our next witness is Holly Jones.
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 24 MS HOLLY JONES (sworn)
 25 Questions by by MR HOUGH QC

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1 THE CHIEF CORONER: Ms Jones, if you wish to sit or stand,
 2 please just make yourself comfortable, whichever you
 3 wish to do.
 4 A Thank you.
 5 THE CHIEF CORONER: If you want to start standing and then
 6 take a seat, that's absolutely fine. Thank you.
 7 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your full name for the
 8 court?
 9 A My name is Holly Jones.
 10 Q Ms Jones, you understand I will ask questions first on
 11 behalf of the Coroner, and then you may be asked
 12 questions by some other lawyers.
 13 A Yes.
 14 Q You also understand that you are giving evidence about
 15 events you witnessed on 3 June 2017 on London Bridge,
 16 nearly two years ago.
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q You made a witness statement the following day, and
 19 I think you have that with you. You may refer to it as
 20 you wish.
 21 Is this right, that you were out in the area that
 22 evening?
 23 A Yes, that's correct.
 24 Q I think you had left London Bridge underground station
 25 a little to the south of London Bridge shortly before

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1 10.00 pm?
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q Did your route on foot then take you across
 4 London Bridge going north?
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q On which side of the road did you cross? Which
 7 pavement?
 8 A I was on the right side of the road heading north, so
 9 away from The Shard.
 10 Q So the east pavement?
 11 A Yes.
 12 Q If we can put on screen a photograph {DC7283/91} please?
 13 We can see here the view from the middle of the bridge
 14 looking south along that side of the road, the east
 15 pavement side. You would then have been coming towards
 16 the viewer.
 17 A Yes, correct.
 18 Q Where had you reached on the bridge? How far across
 19 when your attention was first drawn by something
 20 unusual?
 21 A From looking at the picture, probably, halfway, so not
 22 far after the first post that's on the right-hand side.
 23 Q How busy with people was the pavement at the point you
 24 had reached?
 25 A It wasn't particularly busy at all actually. There was

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1 groups of people kind of dotted around, and I remember
 2 various groups, but I wouldn't say it was busy.
 3 Q What first drew your attention to something out of the
 4 ordinary?
 5 A I remember I was in a rush because I was running quite
 6 late, and it was first the sound of a vehicle, it
 7 sounded like it was over-revving, like it was in the
 8 wrong gear, and that's when I looked up and I saw
 9 a white transit van entering on to the bridge.
 10 Q Did you identify that as the van that seemed to be
 11 over-revving?
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q How far was it from you when you first saw it?
 14 A So if you imagine I was in that spot, it was just
 15 entering on to the bridge at the north side, so it was
 16 my first -- it was the first visual that I could have
 17 seen.
 18 Q So still quite some distance away.
 19 A Yes.
 20 Q Where was it in relation to the kerb when you first saw
 21 it?
 22 A It was very close to the kerb, sort of in a direction as
 23 if it was heading to the kerb.
 24 Q So still on the roadway, but heading towards the kerb?
 25 A Yes.

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1 Q What was your first impression of what you were seeing?
 2 A Immediately I just presumed it was a drink-driver
 3 because it -- with it being in the wrong gear, I could
 4 hear that from the sound, so immediately I just thought,
 5 "I need to get out the way, this is a drink-driver,
 6 I have to be careful".
 7 Q Did you keep looking at it?
 8 A Yes, I watched it.
 9 Q What happened next?
 10 A So I saw the van mount the kerb and then it hit a group
 11 of people. I couldn't say how many, probably two or
 12 three, but I just remember seeing it hit a group of
 13 people and then the van swerved away. The people were
 14 stood right by the railings and then it swerved back off
 15 the kerb as it was heading back on to the road, and at
 16 that point I still thought it was a drink-driver, and --
 17 shall I continue?
 18 Q Let's just -- pause there, please.
 19 The first group of people you saw the van hit, how
 20 far from you were they?
 21 A Well, they were at the beginning of the bridge also, so
 22 quite a distance away. Probably, if you imagine the
 23 length of the bridge, I was at one-third, they would
 24 have been at the third.
 25 Q And you saw the van first of all mount the kerb, strike

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1 those people quite near the balustrade, you have told
 2 us?
 3 A Yes.
 4 Q And then go back on to the roadway?
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q Did you have any impression at the time of whether this
 7 was happening deliberately or accidentally?
 8 A Well, initially I thought it was an accident, as
 9 I presumed it was a drink-driver. However, then the
 10 driver then went -- headed back towards the kerb, it was
 11 still travelling at this point, so it was almost in an
 12 S-shape, and it was like it was aiming for another group
 13 of people, and at that point, because of what had
 14 happened previously that year with different terror
 15 attacks, I thought, "Wow, this is a terror attack". I
 16 just immediately -- it came to my mind. I thought,
 17 "That was not an accident, that was intentional".
 18 Q As it struck -- as it mounted the kerb a second time,
 19 did you have any impression of its speed?
 20 A It is hard to judge because obviously I was in a lot of
 21 shock, probably 20 miles an hour, maybe 30.
 22 Q As the van was approaching you, could you see anything
 23 of its occupants?
 24 A Yes, I could see the driver.
 25 Q What did you see of him?

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1 A I know that he was a male, I would say in his 30s, dark
 2 hair, very short hair, probably like a shave number 1,
 3 he had stubble, Asian, and as the van approached closer
 4 I could see a full view of -- I could see the person
 5 driving.
 6 Q What did he seem to be doing, if you could get any
 7 impression of that?
 8 A He was obviously driving very erratically and I remember
 9 his facial expression. His eyes were kind of wide, and
 10 his arms were kind of flailing all over the place, and
 11 it was almost like he was struggling to keep the vehicle
 12 under control, but he was very intentional in what he
 13 was doing. He was very erratic in himself, and he
 14 looked very focused. It was like, terrifying to see his
 15 face.
 16 Q In your witness statement you describe him as angry and
 17 even demented.
 18 A Yes. Yes. I did say that.
 19 Q How did you react when you saw the van coming on?
 20 A Immediately I just froze. It was a feeling, I would
 21 describe it as like being punched in the chest, and
 22 because I was very aware that this van was coming
 23 directly towards myself and there was a lady in front of
 24 me walking towards me, she had headphones on so she
 25 wasn't aware of any of this, and I remember just being

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1 stood frozen in fear, and it felt like minutes but it
 2 was probably a second or two, I remember something in
 3 the back of my mind just told me to get out the way.
 4 Q Did you then get out of the way?
 5 A Yes. I can't really recall how, but I know that I
 6 jumped and ...
 7 Q Please take your time and if you need a break at any
 8 stage, as I have told you, please say so.
 9 A Yeah, I was in trainers, and so I just remember almost
 10 stood like deciding what to do and obviously that was so
 11 quickly, and I remember jumping to the right which was
 12 towards the railings and at that point that was when the
 13 van kind of went past me. I more of -- could just feel
 14 the kind of wind of the van, if you like, it went
 15 directly behind me, so at that point I jumped out the
 16 way and it just went behind me towards the railings,
 17 because I actually thought it was going to crash into
 18 the railings.
 19 Q You give an impression of your movements that the van
 20 came quite close to you?
 21 A It felt like it, yes.
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: There was one bit you mentioned, you
 23 said you felt as if the wind -- was it sort of the
 24 draught you mean from the van going past?
 25 A Yes, yes.

15

1 MR HOUGH: After it had passed you, did you look round to
 2 see what was happening behind you?
 3 A Yes, I did.
 4 Q What did you see?
 5 A Well, I knew there was a French couple on the bridge
 6 because I had previously walked past them because, as I
 7 say, I was running late, so I was walking quite fast and
 8 I remember walking past the couple and hearing them
 9 speaking French and I just thought "Oh, they are French,
 10 they look very happy together", and I was very aware
 11 that they were directly behind me and just a couple,
 12 about ten seconds before then I had also passed two guys
 13 who were taking photos of Tower Bridge, so I knew there
 14 was two guys to the right of me behind that were
 15 stationary, stood still, and I knew there was a couple
 16 walking directly behind me, so after I jumped out the
 17 way and looked behind me, obviously I was certain that
 18 the van had struck the people behind me which were the
 19 French couple and then I saw the van kind of carry on
 20 and veer to the right into the middle central bit of the
 21 road where it then hit a female. It hit her and she
 22 went in the air and fell down and then it carried on
 23 down the bridge, almost towards the right side, I think.
 24 Q At the time that the van struck the French couple, where
 25 were they on the pavement? How close to the kerb? How

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1 close to the balustrade?
 2 A Probably about a metre away from the railing, and they
 3 were both talking to each other. They were very much
 4 looking at each other, like facing towards each other
 5 but walking northbound.
 6 Q What could you see of them after the van had gone past?
 7 A So I remember looking over and I saw just a female on
 8 the floor who was kind of in and out of consciousness.
 9 I immediately ran to her and my first thought was where
 10 is the gentleman that was with her, because I knew that
 11 there was a guy with her and he just wasn't anywhere to
 12 be seen, so I remember kind of running to her and there
 13 was another gentleman that ran to her, and I remember
 14 just looking up and down and trying to work out where
 15 this other guy was.
 16 Q Did you speak to the French lady who had been hurt?
 17 A Yes, I did.
 18 Q Did you also make a 999 call to explain what you had
 19 seen?
 20 A Yes, I did. I must say, before I made that 999 call, I
 21 remember looking in the river because of what had
 22 happened in the Westminster attack previously, I knew
 23 that there were people that had been thrown into the
 24 river, so I remember scouring up and down the river
 25 looking and I couldn't see anything, and I remember

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1 there was other people who, I think -- I presume they
 2 had been in cars because I don't remember seeing them on
 3 the bridge who obviously got out of their cars and I was
 4 shouting to them, "We need the boats, get the boats,
 5 draw the attention of the boats", and I remember
 6 shouting into the river and looking, but it was quite
 7 dark, we couldn't -- I couldn't see anything at all, but
 8 I remember shouting and calling the boats to come over
 9 and try and get their attention, I had my phone light
 10 on.
 11 Q We have got the transcript of your 999 call, I don't
 12 propose to show it to you on screen, but according to
 13 that you told the operator that you weren't injured,
 14 that you ran out of the way, but you saw everything and
 15 described the van as a white transit van.
 16 A Yes.
 17 Q Is that right? And according to that, you also referred
 18 to telling people to look over into the river?
 19 A Yes.
 20 Q And you were told by the operator that they would get
 21 a unit to take a look. Is that right?
 22 A Yes. Yes. I remember telling the other people getting
 23 out of the cars, I said, "Look in the river, look in the
 24 river, can you see anyone, we need to get the boats",
 25 because there was several boats nearby.

18

1 Q Did you then stay for a time with the lady who had been
 2 injured?
 3 A Yes, I did.
 4 Q Were you able to converse with her in French to any
 5 extent?
 6 A Yes. I asked her her name, I told her everything was
 7 going to be okay, I said she would be okay, I said --
 8 and she kept saying, "Where's my boyfriend? Where's my
 9 boyfriend?" And I just said, "I don't know". I said,
 10 "Don't worry", I said the -- I kept saying, "The police
 11 are coming, the ambulance are coming, you are going to
 12 be okay, you are going to be fine", and she just kept
 13 saying, "Where's my boyfriend? Where's my boyfriend?"
 14 We were speaking in French and my French was very basic
 15 so there was a bit of a communication but I remember I
 16 got her name and I got her age, I gave that to the 999
 17 call operator and I was just very aware that everybody
 18 that was initially on the bridge had people with them so
 19 it was basically myself and there was another gentleman
 20 holding the lady's head who was comforting her and
 21 I kind of stayed on the phone. I think I was on the
 22 phone for quite a long time, I was very distracted,
 23 obviously, so yeah, we stayed with them.
 24 Q Is there anything else you recall about these events
 25 which you think it would assist the Coroner to know?

19

1 A I don't think there is anything extra, no.
 2 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. There may be questions from
 3 others.
 4 Questions by MR ADAMSON
 5 MR ADAMSON: Ms Jones, my name is Dominic Adamson and I ask
 6 questions on behalf of the parents of Xavier Thomas, and
 7 Christine Delcros. Can I start by saying that I'm sure
 8 that Christine would like me to pass on her thanks to
 9 you for the assistance that you provided to her on the
 10 bridge at that very dark hour.
 11 Ms Jones, you have given your account of what you
 12 saw on that night, and you have described the progress
 13 of the van along the bridge. When the van mounted the
 14 kerb, did you perceive any reduction in its speed by the
 15 fact that it mounted the kerb or did it just seem to
 16 continue at the same sort of speed that it had been
 17 travelling along at?
 18 A I would say there was a reduction, yes, because it did
 19 hit the kerb, but from this point on the van was very
 20 rockety, it was kind of all over the place. It wasn't
 21 driving smoothly at all, but yes, there was a reduction.
 22 Q And so the driver was fighting with the van?
 23 A Exactly, yes.
 24 Q And might that explain some of the movements that you
 25 observed?

20

1 A Yes.
 2 Q Yes. But it was clear from what you saw, certainly by
 3 the second time that he mounted the kerb, that he was
 4 doing a deliberate act?
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q He intended to strike people?
 7 A Yes.
 8 Q And you had passed Christine and Xavier as they were
 9 walking on the bridge. They were tourists.
 10 A Yes.
 11 Q You were somebody on a night out in London?
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q And it was just an indiscriminate attack.
 14 A Yes.
 15 Q You have mentioned that the bridge was not that busy at
 16 that time, but you know London Bridge reasonably well.
 17 A Yes. I have been across it several times in rush hour
 18 it is usually jam-packed.
 19 Q Usually jam-packed --
 20 A Yes. Shoulder-to-shoulder.
 21 Q With workers --
 22 A Yes, commuters.
 23 Q -- and tourists. It is a magnificent bridge from which
 24 to take in the London landscape, isn't it?
 25 A Yes, especially Tower Bridge.

21

1 Q Yes, indeed, because it's a wide open pavement, isn't
 2 it.
 3 A Yes.
 4 Q And you have Tower Bridge and you have The Shard in
 5 close proximity?
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q So it's the sort of place where one could expect lots of
 8 people to congregate.
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q Ms Jones, when you comforted Christine, she was
 11 obviously asking about the whereabouts of Xavier.
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q Your attention was undoubtedly focused upon her. Did
 14 you get any sense for, when you were there, the time at
 15 which a proper search had commenced for Xavier in the
 16 river?
 17 A I remember one of the officers -- the first officer on
 18 the scene was the City of London Police because I
 19 remember seeing it on his jacket, they ran on to the
 20 bridge, they were the first people within, I don't know,
 21 say, I'd say eight minutes or so, and the first thing I
 22 said, I said, "I think there is someone in the water",
 23 and they said to me, "Did you see them go in?" I said,
 24 "No, I didn't see them go in, however, there was two
 25 people there that I passed and now there is only one".

22

1 I said, "They must be in the water". I said, "You need
 2 to check the water". And then I remember that officer,
 3 he gave -- he was giving people numbers so -- I can't
 4 remember what number he gave Christine but they were
 5 marked on one to four of how injured the people were and
 6 then he just carried on running and the next lot of
 7 officers that came who kind of had big guns and things,
 8 I remember saying to them, "I think there is someone in
 9 the water", and then I just told them that and I said,
 10 "I can't see anyone. I think there is someone in the
 11 water. We have looked".
 12 Q In your mind it was the only explanation for where he
 13 was?
 14 A Exactly. I remember running up and down, scouring the
 15 bridge, and he was not there, so I -- although I
 16 couldn't say I saw him go in, I knew he was in there,
 17 and I told the officer that.
 18 Q But you say in your statement, "I passed them before the
 19 incident and overheard them conversing in French", and
 20 then you say this, "I saw the van strike both of these
 21 people".
 22 A Yes, so by what I mean is I knew that it -- I'm certain
 23 that it hit them because it did.
 24 Q Yes. So there was only one explanation for where he
 25 was?

23

1 A In my mind, yes.
 2 Q And you conveyed that to the authorities?
 3 A Yes. It was the first thing I said.
 4 Q There was no uncertainty about where he was?
 5 A For me, and I think because of what had happened in
 6 Westminster previously, and I knew the people were hit
 7 by a vehicle, and they were in the river, in my mind,
 8 yes.
 9 MR ADAMSON: Thank you very much, Ms Jones.
 10 A Thank you.
 11 Questions by MS BARTON QC
 12 MS BARTON: Sir, may I ask one or two questions?
 13 I appear on behalf of the City of London Police.
 14 I think we have identified the officer who you refer to
 15 as being the first to run on the bridge: A Ryan
 16 Tullett. We know from the material that we have got
 10:56:04 17 available that he arrived at 22:13:28 and we know that
 10:56:13 18 he made a call, having spoken to a woman, at 22:13:55
 17 saying that there was a heavy object or person having
 18 gone into the river. You, I think, only spoke to one
 19 City police officer; is that correct?
 20 A As far as I can remember, yes. I presume so, it must
 21 have been.
 22 Q So it would appear that within about 30 seconds of
 23 arriving and speaking to you, the first call had been

24

1 made, wouldn't it?
 2 A Yes. It would appear.
 3 Q Did you see him on the radio?
 4 A Did I -- I remember him shouting, yes, I think he was.
 5 MS BARTON: Thank you.
 6 MR HOUGH: Nothing further from anyone. Thank you very much
 7 for coming to give your evidence.
 8 A Thank you.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Ms Jones, can I just echo what was said
 10 by Mr Adamson. In these situations any comfort that
 11 someone can give, speaking to them, reassuring them, is
 12 so important, so thank you very much for doing that. My
 13 French is hopeless, but we can all somehow communicate,
 14 and using those simple French terms I'm sure was a great
 15 comfort, so thank you very much indeed.
 16 A Thank you. And I hope that I was able to kind of help
 17 with whatever the families need, and these people that
 18 do this, they try and separate us and divide us. What
 19 I have actually found is it's done the opposite. I have
 20 now got friends, Australia, Paris, London, and the
 21 amount of supportive I have seen has been just
 22 incredible, so I want the families to know that we are
 23 not victims of terror, but survivors. Thank you.
 24 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed.
 25 Mr Hough, it is a little bit earlier than we might

1 otherwise take a break, but I think we will just take
 2 a short break there. I'm conscious that when I say we
 3 will take a break I never actually say how long we are
 4 going to take a break for. I'm also conscious that if I
 5 give a time, there are probably as many different times
 6 as there are people in this room, so I'm going to use
 7 the clock which is behind you which is now saying
 8 11 o'clock and I'm going to suggest that we take
 9 a 15-minute break, so we will resume by that clock at
 10 11.15 am.
 11 (10.59 am)
 12 (A short break)
 13 (11.21 am)
 14 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Mark Roberts.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 16 MR MARK ANDREW ROBERTS (sworn)
 17 Questions by MR HOUGH QC
 18 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Roberts, as I have said to others,
 19 you may have heard, please sit or stand, whichever you
 20 feel most comfortable.
 21 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your full name to the
 22 court?
 23 A Mark Andrew Roberts.
 24 Q Mr Roberts, I think you understand, I ask questions
 25 first on behalf of the Coroner and then you may be asked

1 questions by some other lawyers?
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q You are giving evidence, you know, about events you
 4 witnessed on London Bridge on the night of Saturday,
 5 3 June 2017?
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q You have made two witness statements and you may refer
 8 to them if you wish. On that evening were you out in
 9 the London Bridge area?
 10 A Yes, that's correct.
 11 Q What were you doing that evening?
 12 A There was a group of us going on a photography tour,
 13 doing night photography.
 14 Q Where did you start your photography tour?
 15 A We started at London Bridge station. We went to Borough
 16 Market and we were in the Borough Market area for 20, 30
 17 minutes, stopped at one point to take photographs of
 18 London Bridge from the market area and then later on,
 19 after that, progressed up on to London Bridge itself.
 20 Q How many of you were there?
 21 A There were three of us in the group. One was the leader
 22 of the group and then there were two of us who were the
 23 guests.
 24 Q Now you have told us that you approached on to
 25 London Bridge from the south side.

1 A That's correct, yes.
 2 Q What time did you move towards the bridge that evening,
 3 as best you can recollect?
 4 A It was shortly before 10 o'clock. I don't know exactly
 5 when, but we had start -- we had been in the Borough
 6 Market area from about 9.20 through to about 9.40,
 7 something like that.
 8 Q Which side of the bridge did you go across on?
 9 A We came up next to the Barrow Boy pub on to the bridge,
 10 so that was on the western pavement --
 11 Q That was on the west side?
 12 A -- but then we crossed over on to the eastern pavement
 13 and moved up -- we were heading for the very centre of
 14 the bridge to set up on the eastern pavement to take
 15 photographs of Tower Bridge.
 16 Q If I can bring up the same photograph we looked at with
 17 the other witness {DC7283/91}. Do we see there the
 18 pavement on which you were crossing?
 19 A That's correct, and that's about where we were,
 20 actually.
 21 Q This view looking south, so towards where you had come
 22 from.
 23 A That's correct. Yes.
 24 Q When you reached that part of the bridge, what did you
 25 do?

1 A We -- I was a bit laden with equipment, I had a sling
2 bag with a big tripod, so I set the sling bag down and
3 I was just in the process of setting up the tripod
4 against the railing to set it up to take photographs
5 downstream towards Tower Bridge.
6 Q So you were setting up your tripod near the balustrade
7 on the river side?
8 A Yes. At the very centre point of the river -- of the
9 bridge.
10 Q Had you deliberately chosen the absolute centre of the
11 bridge?
12 A That's right, yes.
13 Q How long did it take you to set up the tripod?
14 A Well, I hadn't got very far actually when all the
15 commotion started, so a minute or two.
16 Q You have told us that a commotion started. What first
17 drew your attention?
18 A The first thing I heard was a scream or shouts from the
19 northern end of the bridge.
20 Q So if you were focused on your tripod, this would have
21 been to your left?
22 A That's correct, yes, from my left.
23 Q Did that cause you to look up?
24 A Yes, it did.
25 Q What did you see?

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1 A I looked towards the northern end of the bridge and
2 I could see the white transit van mounting the pavement.
3 It was probably about 80 to 100 yards away and as
4 I looked up it was sort of half on the pavement and half
5 coming from the road on to the pavement.
6 Q Did you get any idea of its speed in that first view?
7 A I would have said it was going about 30 miles per hour,
8 30-40 miles per hour, something like that.
9 Q Did you initially think what was happening was
10 accidental or deliberate?
11 A At that initial point, accidental, but that changed in
12 my mind quite quickly.
13 Q Did the van continue from the position you saw half on
14 the kerb to mount the kerb fully?
15 A Yes, it did, and it hit a group of people. I can't say
16 how many that was, I'm not sure. It was a group further
17 down the bridge. It hit that group of people and that's
18 what made me then realise that it didn't seem accidental
19 because it carried on. I heard the engine revving and
20 it went back on to the road and then further along it
21 then moved back on to the pavement again.
22 Q How close to you was this second mounting of the
23 pavement you saw?
24 A I would say that was about 40 yards away, and at that
25 point, it looked to me like it was deliberately steering

30

1 and aiming at the group of people that it then hit about
2 40 yards away.
3 Q So it had hit one group on the pavement, gone off and
4 then was heading towards another group?
5 A Exactly. And so at that point, that was when I thought
6 this is not an accident, this is a deliberate intent.
7 Q What did you do as the van was closing the distance on
8 you?
9 A At that point it started driving along the pavement
10 towards me. There was one group of people which
11 included the previous witnesses, that was about 20 yards
12 between the van and myself, they were about 20 yards
13 away and it was heading in my direction. I was thinking
14 I should try and find some cover, I looked around and
15 there wasn't really anywhere to go, so I was a bit sort
16 of frozen to the spot at that point.
17 Q So you were standing by your tripod and you saw between
18 you and the oncoming van a number of people, including
19 both Holly Jones and Christine Delcros?
20 A I now realise that's who it was, yes.
21 Q Were there other people that you identified in that
22 moment in which you were looking at the van?
23 A No. There was a group of people. They weren't the only
24 people there. There were several people. I didn't take
25 in the faces of the drivers or anyone in the van. That

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1 was partly because at that point I realised that it --
2 in my mind, it was -- I recognised it as a terrorist
3 incident at that point and I reached for my phone,
4 initially I was thinking I could take photographs,
5 perhaps, that might help in the incident, or -- so I was
6 reaching into my pocket to find my phone at that point.
7 Q What happened to the group of people between you and the
8 van as it closed the distance between you?
9 A I saw that the van hit the group of people. I wasn't
10 looking directly at it, but I was -- it was out of my
11 peripheral vision because, as I said, I was reaching
12 into my pocket at the time, but I did -- I saw the van,
13 you know, hit that group of people that were about
14 20 yards away.
15 Q Could you actually see what happened to any of them
16 individually?
17 A No, I couldn't recognise what happened to them
18 individually.
19 Q What then happened with the van as it came closer to
20 you?
21 A I then realised that I was next in line but the van
22 decided -- they decided to steer across the road so they
23 steered away from me and the van sort of came past me as
24 it went back on to the road and across to the other side
25 of the carriageway, where it was aiming for a larger

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1 group of people that were on the other side of the road,
 2 and there was a lady that got hit full on on the other
 3 side of the road and got knocked into the air as it went
 4 past me.
 5 Q So let's take this stages, please. You see the van
 6 coming on?
 7 A Yes.
 8 Q You reach for your mobile phone?
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q And you have got your eyes looking down slightly to that
 11 at the time that the van hits the group ahead of you?
 12 A That's right.
 13 Q The van then appears to swerve a little away from you?
 14 A Yes.
 15 Q And passes you?
 16 A That's right. At that point I had my phone in my hand
 17 then and I was looking at the van as it went past me and
 18 hit the group of people on the other side of the road.
 19 They were a little behind me.
 20 Q How close did the van pass to you?
 21 A It was probably about 5, 10 yards away, horizontally
 22 across the bridge from me.
 23 Q So as it passed, or just after it had passed, you turned
 24 your view around and saw it striking further people?
 25 A That's correct. Yes. I swivelled around and watched

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1 the van go down the rest of the road.
 2 Q And you say you saw it go across the road?
 3 A Yes. So when it was level with me, it was in the road
 4 and not on the pavement anymore. Then it went across
 5 the central reservation and hit a group of people who
 6 were on the other side.
 7 Q Could you see what then happened with the van?
 8 A After hitting the group of people on the other side of
 9 the road, it then steered back to the eastern side, back
 10 across the central reservation and back on to the side
 11 that I was on, but further down the bridge to the south,
 12 and then it carried on down towards the south of the
 13 bridge on the eastern side of the bridge.
 14 Q We can bring up another photograph {DC7283/87}, please.
 15 We can see there the far end of the bridge where the
 16 bridge turns into Borough High Street?
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q What did you see happen to the van in that area?
 19 A As it went down on the eastern side, the southbound
 20 carriageway, it went out of my sight because there were
 21 a number of double decker buses that were parked there
 22 at the bus stops. I know that area fairly well and
 23 there are bus stops on that southern end of the bridge.
 24 Q I think we can see some of the bus stops just on the
 25 right on the photograph.

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1 A No, but there are on the left side.
 2 Q Oh, I see, yes. Yes. That is also true.
 3 A Where there is the statue of the griffin, so there were
 4 a number of double decker buses there, and the van went
 5 out of my sight, and I then heard a crash. I assumed it
 6 had hit one of the buses, actually, but, you know,
 7 I later discovered it had hit one of the barriers on the
 8 other side, but that was out of my sight, although
 9 I heard that.
 10 Q During your account of what happened immediately after
 11 the van had passed you, you said that you saw it strike
 12 a young woman?
 13 A That's correct.
 14 Q You describe in your witness statement her being thrown
 15 in the air?
 16 A That's correct. Yes. It was -- she -- you know,
 17 I don't know -- have any experience of it but I was
 18 surprised as to how high in the air she was thrown. It
 19 was the height of the van and then came down as the van
 20 went past, she came down in the road and was one of the
 21 people that I saw injured on the ground afterwards.
 22 Q I think in your witness statement you describe it as
 23 being -- like seeing a rag doll thrown in the air?
 24 A A rag doll, yes. It was very much like that.
 25 Q You had your phone out by this time. Did you do

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1 anything with it?
 2 A As the van was level with me and as it went past, I
 3 mentioned that I thought I could maybe get some photos
 4 that might later be of help, but the van was a bit too
 5 quick for that. I had the phone in my hand so I dialled
 6 999 straight away.
 7 Q Now, we have a transcript of your 999 call. I'm not
 8 going to take you through it bit by bit, but according
 9 to that, you said that you had seen a van knocking
 10 people down at speed and you thought it was deliberate?
 11 A That's correct.
 12 Q While you were on the phone, did you become aware
 13 specifically of injured people on the bridge? Obviously
 14 you had seen the van strike people; did you now see
 15 injured people?
 16 A That's correct, and I was describing that to the
 17 officers on the -- the operator on the call. I looked
 18 both -- I described the scene that I could see because
 19 by then the van was out of sight and had crashed, but
 20 I was looking around and I could see at least three
 21 groups of people to the south, and three groups of
 22 people to the north where there were people on the
 23 ground.
 24 Q And I think in your call you described there being at
 25 least six people on the ground, apparently injured and

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1 not moving.

2 A That's correct. Yes. They were on the ground and they

3 weren't moving. I feared for the worst at that stage.

4 Q After you had made that call to the police, or to 999,

5 rather, did you then make a call to your wife and post

6 some messages to friends?

7 A That's correct, yes.

8 Q At that point, after you had taken those steps, did you

9 become aware of anything else happening, particularly to

10 the south?

11 A Well, my immediate thing at that point was, you know,

12 "What can I do now, is there something I can do to help

13 here?" And I was looking around to see, because I was

14 more or less -- I wasn't with one of the groups of

15 people, at that stage I was mostly standing on my own,

16 and the nearest group to me was where Christine Delcros

17 was, so I moved towards there. There was traffic still

18 coming across the bridge, and I went to see what I could

19 do to help.

20 Q In your witness statement, and this helps us to time

21 things, you describe having heard some gunfire at one

22 point in time?

23 A That's correct, yes.

24 Q Can you recall at what point in the sequence of events

25 that was?

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1 A I think that I made the 999 call, then I called my wife,

2 left a voicemail message, I posted a quick message on

3 Facebook to friends to say I was uninjured and okay, and

4 it was at that point that I then heard the gunfire.

5 I think later I looked back at the timings of these

6 things, I think my phonecall was at 10:07 on the 999

7 call, and I think it was probably about 10:14, 10:15

8 when I heard the gunfire, something around that time.

9 Q Just to help your memory, in your witness statement, the

10 second witness statement you made, you say that you made

11 the phonecall to your wife at 10:13 and posted the

12 message to friends on Facebook at 10:15?

13 A Yes, okay, so it was after that then. It must have been

14 about 10 -- a minute or two after that that I heard the

15 gunfire.

16 THE CHIEF CORONER: I think, Mr Hough, there is a later time

17 also given in the statement of 10:18.

18 MR HOUGH: Yes. That's for posting a video on Facebook.

19 A Yes, which was after the gunfire.

20 Q Thank you. And you have said after you transmitted

21 those various messages you went to help the people

22 nearest to you which included the French lady.

23 A That's correct, yes.

24 Q What did her condition seem to be when you reached her?

25 A She seemed severely injured and was on the ground.

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1 There were a number of people who were immediately

2 caring for her and looking after her. I didn't get

3 involved directly because there were a number of people

4 already there, but there were several distressed people

5 around as well, and so I tried to help comfort some of

6 those people, actually.

7 Q Did she say anything that you recall?

8 A I heard that she was asking about her boyfriend and

9 there were a number of us who were looking around to see

10 if we could see any sign of the boyfriend.

11 Q Did you or they have any view about what had happened to

12 him?

13 A Well, I remembered the Westminster incident and --

14 Westminster Bridge incident and somebody had ended up in

15 the water there, so that was a thought that occurred to

16 me and a number of other people as well, so along with

17 several other people, we went to the balustrade to see

18 if we could see any sign of someone in the river, so I

19 looked down over the -- into the river. I do remember

20 in the light it was a very fast-moving, out-going tide.

21 It was very dark, but you could just see with the lights

22 on the river, the flow was very fast, and it was very

23 dark and I couldn't see any sign of anyone down there.

24 A number of us, including the previous witness, we were

25 trying to call to the boats that were down below, there

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1 were at least a couple of boats there, party boats, and

2 some of them slowed down and were trying to make -- look

3 in the river, but there was no sign that any of us could

4 see.

5 Q Thank you very much.

6 Did you then remain on the bridge for a while until

7 directed off by police, along with some of the other

8 people on the bridge?

9 A That's correct. The police had arrived -- had started

10 arriving at the bridge while I was still on the 999

11 call, so when I made the 999 call, the first police were

12 arriving within a few minutes, and I was still on the

13 call as they were arriving. I think you can see that in

14 the transcript. And then there were further police

15 officers and paramedics arrived very, very quickly.

16 Q A time came, I think, when they escorted or directed

17 uninjured witnesses like yourself off the bridge?

18 A That's correct. Yes. They rounded a number of us up

19 and asked us to go to a safe place, and that's what we

20 did from there.

21 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are all my questions

22 for now. There may be some questions from others.

23 Questions by MR ADAMSON

24 MR ADAMSON: Good morning Mr Roberts, my name is

25 Dominic Adamson and I ask questions on behalf of the

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1 family of Xavier Thomas, and Christine Delcros. Can
 2 I start by conveying on behalf of them their thanks to
 3 you for the assistance that you provided and also for
 4 the efforts that you made to try and locate Xavier by
 5 looking over the bridge.
 6 Just in terms of events on the bridge, you have
 7 explained how you could see down the bridge and you saw
 8 the vehicle mount the kerb on a number of occasions.
 9 A It mounted the kerb twice that I saw.
 10 Q Yes. As it progressed down the bridge and mounted the
 11 kerb on those two occasions, did you get the sense that
 12 its speed changed at all as it progressed down the
 13 bridge?
 14 A Well, as it hit the kerb, that slowed it, but then what
 15 I heard then was it then revved the engine to accelerate
 16 as it then went off the kerb and back on to the road and
 17 progressed further, so it was revving its engine and
 18 speed as it came down to make up for what it had lost
 19 when it mounted the kerb.
 20 Q Did that form part of your assessment as to why you
 21 considered this was a deliberate act?
 22 A Yes.
 23 Q In terms of the search, because you describe very
 24 clearly the events of the impact and I won't go over
 25 that, in terms of the search for Xavier in the water,

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1 you have explained how you were having discussions with
 2 others around who thought that he must have gone into
 3 the river; is that right?
 4 A That's correct, yes.
 5 Q Was there anyone who thought that there would be any
 6 other explanation for where he was?
 7 A No.
 8 Q You were looking over which side of the bridge, just to
 9 be clear?
 10 A I was on the eastern pavement looking over towards the
 11 east.
 12 Q And you have explained that there were some party boats
 13 below and you were trying to communicate with them. At
 14 any time when you were looking down over the river did
 15 you see any marine police units?
 16 A No. Not at that time. There were -- arrived later,
 17 I believe, but at that time, there was one party boat
 18 that was under the bridge and there was -- as we were
 19 calling down, there was a second one arrived --
 20 Q A second party boat?
 21 A -- a party boat -- yes, that's right, and at that stage
 22 I didn't see any police boats or anything like that.
 23 Q And when did you first become aware of the presence of
 24 marine police units in the water, as far as you can
 25 recall?

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1 A I couldn't -- I don't know.
 2 MR ADAMSON: Thank you very much Mr Roberts. Those are my
 3 questions.
 4 Questions by MS AILES
 5 MS AILES: Mr Roberts, I ask questions on behalf of some of
 6 the families of the victims who died, including
 7 Christine Archibald who died on the bridge.
 8 First of all, you said that you knew London Bridge
 9 pretty well?
 10 A Yes.
 11 Q And you were looking at it that night with
 12 a photographer's eye, weren't you, before all this
 13 happened?
 14 A Yes. I had actually taken some photos of London Bridge
 15 from Borough Market only half an hour before. I mean,
 16 it was a very peaceful scene.
 17 Q Yes. Once you are up on the bridge at night, the
 18 lights, quite beautiful?
 19 A Yes. Yes. Especially with, you know, the skyscrapers,
 20 Tower Bridge, etc.
 21 Q Yes. Looking east, Tower Bridge, obviously, the most
 22 conspicuous landmark, but you can see St Paul's, can't
 23 you?
 24 A Not looking east you can't. Not from London Bridge.
 25 Q Oh yes, you are right. I'm so sorry, but the

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1 Tower of London, that is looking east?
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q HMS Belfast?
 4 A That's correct, yes.
 5 Q The Shard up to your right, so lots of the iconic London
 6 landmarks?
 7 A Yes, that's right.
 8 Q And no real surprise to you that you weren't the only
 9 person taking photos that night. They may have been
 10 selfies, but exactly the sort of place you go to pose
 11 for a picture?
 12 A Yes, but not necessarily late at night. I mean, it was
 13 after 10 o'clock. It wasn't that busy. In fact, when
 14 we had been in Borough Market earlier, it had rained
 15 quite heavily. There was a heavy shower we had had to
 16 shelter for a while, and stop taking photographs for
 17 a while and shelter under trees because there had been
 18 quite a heavy shower, so the bridge wasn't as busy as
 19 many other times of the day.
 20 Q You have seen it in the peak hours, for example, where
 21 it is absolutely flooded with people?
 22 A Yes, where it's heaving. I work -- I have worked around
 23 there regularly.
 24 Q If I could just take you briefly back to the incident
 25 itself, you have said in your witness statement, "I will

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1 be quite honest, I was terrified ”?
 2 A That’s correct, yes.
 3 Q Completely understandable. It’s plain from what you
 4 have told us that you, nevertheless, kept a certain
 5 amount of presence of mind, you were thinking about 999
 6 calls , you were thinking about going to people’s
 7 assistance . Thank you very much for that.
 8 A Yes, that’s correct.
 9 Q At the point at which you saw the vehicle , your thought
 10 was about shelter , wasn’t it?
 11 A That was -- initially , yes, to see, you know, what
 12 occurred to me was that there wasn’t any street
 13 furniture on the bridge.
 14 Q You have mentioned in your statement alcoves?
 15 A Yes.
 16 Q Bays? In other words, you were desperately thinking,
 17 “What can I put between the vehicle and me?”
 18 A That’s correct, yes.
 19 Q And you looked around and there wasn’t really anywhere
 20 to go?
 21 A Correct.
 22 MS AILES: Thank you.
 23 MR HOUGH: Those are all the questions anyone has for you.
 24 Thank you very much forgiving your evidence, Mr Roberts.
 25 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Roberts, again, thank you very much

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1 for responding as you did. The situation was very
 2 difficult , but what you did, I’m sure, was of great
 3 assistance to those people that you gave assurance to,
 4 that you went to their aid. Thank you.
 5 A I only wish I could have done more to help and to --
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 7 A -- with those who were more severely affected than
 8 myself.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Well, I know that is a sentiment shared
 10 by many people, that they always wish they could do
 11 more, but I can reassure you that whatever you do is of
 12 enormous benefit to those people that you speak to at
 13 the time, so thank you for doing that.
 14 A Thank you.
 15 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is PC Nick Bultitude.
 16 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 17 PC NICK BULTITUDE (sworn)
 18 Questions by MR HOUGH QC
 19 THE CHIEF CORONER: Officer, the same applies to you as
 20 applies to anyone else. If you wish to sit or you
 21 prefer to stand, please do whatever you would like. If
 22 you want to start standing and then take a seat, please
 23 feel free to do so. The most important thing for me is
 24 that you are simply comfortable in giving evidence.
 25 A Thank you, sir.

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1 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your full name and rank for
 2 the court?
 3 A I’m Police Constable Nick Bultitude of the Metropolitan
 4 Police, currently attached to the Marine Policing Unit.
 5 Q Officer , you understand I ask questions first on behalf
 6 of the Coroner and then you will be asked questions by
 7 some other lawyers?
 8 A Yes, sir .
 9 Q You are aware that you are giving evidence today about
 10 events of 3 June 2017.
 11 A Yes, sir .
 12 Q You have made witness statements about those events
 13 first on the day after , 4 June, and then a second
 14 witness statement in February of this year.
 15 A That’s correct, sir .
 16 Q You may refer to those as you wish.
 17 A Thank you.
 18 Q You have told us that you are a Metropolitan Police
 19 officer attached to the Marine Policing Unit. Were you,
 20 at the relevant time, based at Wapping?
 21 A Yes, sir . Yes. That’s where all our boats are based
 22 out of.
 23 Q How long had you been working in the Marine Policing
 24 Unit before 3 June 2017?
 25 A I joined the Marine Policing Unit in 2002, so that’s

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1 some 16 years.
 2 Q On that evening, 3 June 2017, were you on duty in
 3 uniform?
 4 A I was, yes.
 5 Q In what capacity? What was your role that night?
 6 A I was part of the three-man crew of one of our patrol
 7 boats and that evening I was designated the master of
 8 the vessel, therefore I was the driver on that evening.
 9 Q Just so everybody knows, what experience and
 10 qualifications did you have for that role in the period
 11 before June 2017?
 12 A In the years after joining the police , the Marine
 13 Policing Unit, we go through a lot of training in the
 14 first few years, we are qualified up to RYA, advanced
 15 powerboat level, we also take a local knowledge exam
 16 endorsed by the Port of London Authority, various other
 17 in-house training, sea survival, enhanced first aid,
 18 various other qualifications over several years.
 19 Q May we take it that in your 15 or 16 years in the Marine
 20 Policing Unit, you had gained considerable experience of
 21 work on the river?
 22 A Yes, sir , I have, yes. I have spent all of that time on
 23 24-hour core policing team so I have been responsible
 24 for the day-to-day policing of the River Thames.
 25 Q In particular over that period had you acquired

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1 experience of search and rescue operations?
 2 A Sadly, yes, on more occasions than I can recall .
 3 Q In a search and rescue operation, so looking for
 4 a person in the water, which agency, which public
 5 authority takes primacy?
 6 A The Coastguard would take primacy for a search and
 7 rescue operation on the River Thames.
 8 Q Now I will just show a document briefly on the screen
 9 {DC8214/2} please. This is a page of a memorandum of
 10 understanding between the Metropolitan Police and the
 11 Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and if you look at the
 12 second main paragraph, "SAR phase", that is, "Search and
 13 rescue":
 14 "The Coastguard is responsible for co-ordinating all
 15 Search and Rescue ... activity below high water mark
 16 until the possibility of finding live survivors no
 17 longer exists".
 18 Does that reflect your understanding of the
 19 position?
 20 A It is, sir, yes.
 21 Q May we take that off screen.
 22 Are you also familiar with the concept of Operation
 23 Plato?
 24 A I am sir, it is the Metropolitan Police -- or the joint
 25 emergency response to a terrorist incident, I believe,

1 a marauding attack.
 2 Q Specifically a marauding terrorist attack?
 3 A Yes.
 4 Q Is it right that --
 5 THE INTERPRETER: I'm very sorry, it is very hard to hear
 6 your voice.
 7 THE CHIEF CORONER: We will see what we -- the microphone, I
 8 suspect it might be easier if you don't mind sitting,
 9 because you are very tall, that the microphone, I'm
 10 sure, will help with the amplification. Can we just do
 11 a test? If you just say something into the microphone?
 12 A PC Bultitude, Marine Policing Unit.
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: I think the microphone might have been
 14 switched off.
 15 A It is off. I will try to be quieter. PC Bultitude,
 16 Marine Policing Unit.
 17 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much. I hope that helps.
 18 MR HOUGH: Now, I was just asking you about Operation Plato,
 19 the joint emergency services procedure for marauding
 20 terrorist attacks. Under Operation Plato, is it right
 21 that the police generally take primacy of operations?
 22 A Yes, that's correct.
 23 Q A couple of questions about the vessel you were working
 24 with, please, on the night of 3 June 2017. What type of
 25 vessel was that?

1 A It is referred to as a Targa, which is the model of the
 2 vessel, it is a hard-hulled police boat and it is made
 3 by a Finnish company, 31 feet in length and it is a fast
 4 patrol boat. It is our police car of the River Thames,
 5 as you were.
 6 Q What equipment used in search and rescue specifically
 7 does that vessel have?
 8 A We have various radio systems so we can converse with
 9 the various different agencies involved in a search and
 10 rescue operation, but physically we have a searchlight
 11 on the roof of the boat and some of our vessels are
 12 fitted with an infrared camera which will assist in dark
 13 conditions in picking up a heat source.
 14 Q Did you have an infrared camera on the vessel you were
 15 using on the night of 3 June?
 16 A Yes, there was one fitted .
 17 Q Are there, however, some circumstances in which you
 18 won't use the infrared camera?
 19 A Yes. The camera is very good at picking up heat sources
 20 in fairly sterile situations. On the night in question,
 21 our initial response was quite a dynamic one. It
 22 involved rapid transitions of the river in the initial
 23 search for Mr Xavier. In that respect the controls of
 24 the camera are quite fiddly. There is a very small
 25 joystick right up high on our dashboard. I was the only

1 one inside my boat. My two crewmen were on the bows of
 2 my boat, there is an area where you can stand in the
 3 front of the boat and they were keeping a look-out for
 4 anyone in the water. I was also conversing with various
 5 different agencies over various radios. For me to have
 6 put the infrared camera on, wait for it to heat up and
 7 then control the joystick, trying to focus on the area
 8 of the river whilst still driving my boat was
 9 impractical, given the exigencies of the search.
 10 Q I will ask you about the detail of the search in a few
 11 moments, but it is enough to note that sometimes you may
 12 not use the infrared search for that reason during an
 13 active search operation because it takes you away from
 14 the controls of the vessel?
 15 A It does, and also on the night in question, the
 16 conditions were very good, it was very clear and
 17 I didn't feel it added anything to the initial phase of
 18 our search.
 19 Q You have said that the conditions were clear that night.
 20 Were they also calm on the river?
 21 A Yes, they were.
 22 Q And what was the artificial lighting like in the area we
 23 are concerned with?
 24 A The lighting in that area is very good. You have got
 25 The Shard, you have No. 1 London which is fully

1 illuminated. The bridge itself has lights on the
 2 underside of the arches. Generally speaking, visibility
 3 was very good on the evening.
 4 Q Now moving to events of that night, is it right to say
 5 that you received a call to London Bridge shortly after
 6 the start of the attack?
 7 A Yes. Specifically, 22:08 was the CAD number that we --
 8 the computer aided despatch -- that we responded to
 9 through our main working channel, our operating channel.
 10 Q Where was your vessel when you received the call?
 11 A We were currently at our police station, our vessel was
 12 tied alongside a pontoon.
 13 Q At Wapping?
 14 A At Wapping.
 15 Q Just for the benefit of those of us who aren't as
 16 familiar with either the river or London, how far is
 17 that from London Bridge?
 18 A Wapping Police Station is about half a mile or so
 19 downriver of Tower Bridge which in itself is only a few
 20 hundred metres downriver of London Bridge.
 21 Q So less than a mile?
 22 A Absolutely.
 23 Q Just to time the call, may we bring on-screen
 24 {DC6472/9}. I think we may have looked at this
 25 yesterday. If we scan down the page to about two-thirds

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1 of the way down, we can see a reference for the incident
 12:00:02 2 at 22:11:40 with, "PI/MSU".
 3 A That's correct. That's us being assigned to that call.
 4 Q Sorry, I'm being corrected, quite rightly, there is
 12:00:20 5 a 22:11:26 which is the first row referring to "PI/MSU"
 6 A That's right, yes.
 7 Q Does that mean passing the incident to the Marine
 8 Support Unit?
 9 A That's correct, yes.
 10 Q So would that indicate that the call was sent to your
 12:00:42 11 control room at around 10:11:30?
 12 A That would be correct, sir.
 13 Q Did you go to the scene immediately?
 14 A We did, yes. We ran down to the boat. Our crew was
 15 first on to my boat and we untied and despatched under
 16 blue lights and sirens to the scene.
 17 Q What was your call sign or boat number that day?
 18 A My boat that evening was responsible for the central
 19 London policing and that is given a call sign Marine 2.
 20 We crew a second vessel routinely on a shift and that is
 21 given the designation of Marine 3 and they are
 22 responsible for operations downriver of Tower Bridge.
 23 Q Was that additional vessel, Marine 3, also at Wapping?
 24 A It was, yes, and we left together. We were slightly
 25 ahead of them.

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1 Q How far ahead, very roughly?
 2 A Maybe a minute, maybe less. It certainly wouldn't have
 3 been any more than a minute.
 4 Q As you were en-route from Wapping to London Bridge, did
 5 you broadcast any particular messages that you recall?
 6 A We were listening to the City Police link which is where
 7 our initial information had come from. We were heading
 8 towards the scene.
 9 Q Did you broadcast in particular a PAN-PAN message at any
 10 point?
 11 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry --
 12 MR HOUGH: Shall I speak up?
 13 THE INTERPRETER: Please, thank you.
 14 MR HOUGH: Did you broadcast a PAN-PAN message at any point?
 15 A Personally I don't recall delivering that message
 16 myself. Obviously there was a lot going on, we were
 17 trying to listen to various different radios. At that
 18 stage we were just responding to an accident on the
 19 bridge and someone maybe going in the river, but it
 20 quickly became apparent, listening to the communications
 21 on the City Police link, that something far more serious
 22 was going on.
 23 Q So the initial report was of somebody going in the
 24 river. Any indication of the type of person, where on
 25 the bridge they had gone into the river or what?

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1 A My recollection of the incident was that we were being
 2 despatched to a female in the river, potentially going
 3 in the river from London Bridge, but we had no firm
 4 location so we just -- you know, we had nowhere on the
 5 river to work from, but the City Police cover the river,
 6 cover London Bridge, so we just -- we assumed with the
 7 north side, we start with the north side, because that's
 8 where they are based, as opposed to Southwark on the
 9 south.
 10 Q How long did it take you to get from Wapping to
 11 London Bridge?
 12 A Two or three minutes, maximum.
 13 Q We have your arrival timed by reference to a CAD at
 12:03:39 14 22:14:27. May we bring that on screen? It's
 15 {DC1813/19}. I'm sorry, I may have misspoken
 16 {DC8183/19}. Thank you very much. Now, this is CAD
 12:04:29 18 22:14:27, reference under, "Action", to Marine 2 and
 17 Marine 3.
 18 A That's correct, yes.
 19 Q What does that document tell us?
 20 A Well, the TOA in reference -- where Marine 2 and Marine
 21 3 are mentioned alongside each other refers to time of
 22 arrival.
 23 Q Thank you. So that would make sense that you received

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1 to get there?
 2 A That's correct, sir.
 3 THE CHIEF CORONER: Can I just check one timing, Mr Hough,
 4 because it may be that I misheard something.
 5 I recalled, officer, you mentioned something about 22:08
 6 earlier on. That may be another -- what I noted was
 7 that you got a call shortly after the start of the
 8 attack and you said that 22:08 was the time of a CAD
 9 that you responded to.
 10 A Yes. My statement does say at 22:08. As you can
 11 imagine, sir, there are numerous phonecalls going into
 12 the police at that point, so one of those CADs must have
 13 referenced that time.
 14 MR HOUGH: I think that is a reference -- we will certainly
 15 check this, but I think that is a reference to the time
 16 of the call which generated the first CAD which then led
 17 to a call being made through to the Marine Support Unit.
 18 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 19 MR ADAMSON: I think I might be able to help. I think that
 20 CAD 8810 was generated in response to a call from
 21 a Mr Blythe and I believe that call or that CAD was
 12:06:16 23 generated at 22:08:24.
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you. That's very helpful
 23 Mr Adamson. Thank you.

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1 MR HOUGH: So would that make sense? A CAD, is this right,
 2 generated in response to an emergency call?
 3 A Absolutely.
 4 Q Which then, after further communications within the
 5 police, leads to the message being passed to the Marine
 6 Support Unit after a couple of minutes?
 7 A Absolutely. It is natural that it would take a few
 8 minutes to establish the circumstances and get the
 9 message sent to us.
 10 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you, officer.
 11 MR HOUGH: During that period of a few minutes between, we
 12 think, 10:11 and 10:14, while you were en-route, you
 13 have told us that you were receiving messages suggesting
 14 that something was going on which was much more serious,
 15 tragically, than one person in a river?
 16 A Yes, sir. We started to get further reports on the City
 17 link that there were numerous casualties on the bridge,
 18 several scenes of crime along the bridge and then as we
 19 arrived on scene, it coincided with the first reports of
 20 gunshots being heard on the south side.
 21 Q As you were approaching the bridge, were you performing
 22 your role of driving the boat?
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q What were your fellow crew members doing as you
 25 approached?

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1 A As we approached, they were in the front of my boat,
 2 like I mentioned earlier, is an open platform where they
 3 can stand, and they were keeping a look-out for anyone
 4 in the river as we approached the bridge. The second
 5 you come under Tower Bridge, London Bridge is in full
 6 view. The search for Mr Thomas was started at that
 7 point -- for Xavier, was started at that point.
 8 Q Can we look briefly at a transcript of a communication
 9 which shows what you were being told when you arrived,
 10 and see if this can assist your memory of that?
 11 {DC7287/50}. This is a transmission which we can see as
 12 we read it is of the time of your arrival. If we look
 13 down and towards the bottom of the page we hear control
 14 saying, "Marine 2 go ahead".
 15 A Yes.
 16 Q And then a response:
 17 "We are running to, we're just coming up to
 18 London Bridge now. Are you saying there is a man in the
 19 water is that correct?"
 20 A Yes. That's my communications to City, I believe, so I
 21 requested communications with their control at the entry
 22 at 04:54, was given the go ahead to speak at 04:59 and
 23 that is me saying -- trying to get clarification of what
 24 we were running to, whether a person had actually been
 25 seen in the river.

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1 Q And then do we see the response is given:
 2 "Not been confirmed whether it is a heavy object or
 3 a person who has gone in the river. I have no details."
 4 A That is all we had to work with, sir.
 5 Q And then over the page, please, to {DC7287/51}. There
 6 is then a communication referring to somebody having
 7 gone into the river, "unknown female or male". Would
 8 you have heard that communication, as you --
 9 A Yes. I was on the City link at that stage, so, yes, I
 10 would have heard that.
 11 Q Thank you very much. We can take that off screen now.
 12 So as you were approaching under the bridge with
 13 your two colleagues scanning the water, and Marine 3
 14 coming up behind you, what was the state of the water
 15 and the tide?
 16 A So the River Thames is tidal and the tide was almost at
 17 its highest point. The river had been in flood all
 18 evening, and it was just reaching the end of its ebb
 19 phase. The flow was very minimal.
 20 Q As you arrived, were there any specific actions you took
 21 in order to help the search?
 22 A When we arrived on scene I realised that I was the first
 23 boat on scene, closely followed by my colleagues in
 24 Marine 3. At that stage the RNLi hadn't arrived, and we
 25 needed to establish very quickly if someone was on the

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1 surface of the river in the vicinity of the bridge so we
2 conducted what is phrased as a, "hasty search", of the
3 area. I appreciate this isn't a -- the best phrase that
4 we could use to denote what is a dynamic search of the
5 river based on the tide and the prevailing conditions
6 and also the local knowledge of the officers in the
7 boats.

8 Q First of all, is it standard practice when you come on
9 a scene of this kind, and you are carrying out a search
10 and rescue operation, initially to carry out what's
11 described, as you say, not entirely happily as a hasty
12 search?

13 A That's correct sir, yes.

14 Q Why does one take that approach rather than start
15 immediately with something more structured?

16 A You may not have all the resources necessary on scene to
17 carry out a full, structured search. They may be
18 minutes away so we utilise that time to make the best
19 attempt as we can to locate the person in the water,
20 given what we know surrounding the incident and the
21 prevailing conditions.

22 Q Given how close Marine 3 was behind you, would it have
23 been possible to start a structured search quite
24 immediately?

25 A It's possible. The hasty -- we searched pretty much

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1 side-by-side, so it was as structured as it probably
2 could have been at the time, but without the
3 Coastguard's control, practically, police boats on scene
4 will arrive and we will do our very best to locate
5 someone in the immediate vicinity first, as soon as we
6 get lifeboats with us, it is handed over to the
7 Coastguard and they then dictate the parameters of the
8 following search, and we do a more structured line
9 abreast search of the area in question.

10 Q Can you recall how long the hasty search carried on?

11 A I don't have times in my statement, sir. It would have
12 been a matter of minutes only. The lifeboats were very
13 quick to respond. They were in the process of changing
14 crews, I believe, so they were able to muster two boats
15 instead of the usual one, and they were with us very,
16 very quickly.

17 Q I think we may hear from the Coastguard witness that the
18 line abreast search was directed at about 10:25, about
19 10 minutes or 11 minutes after your arrival. Would that
20 make any sense to you?

21 A That would seem appropriate sir, yes.

22 Q In the course of the hasty search, can you remember
23 whether you focused on any particular areas of the river
24 or how you carried that out in relation to the area
25 under the bridge?

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1 A My recollection, sir, is that we approached the bridge
2 on the centre to the right-hand side --

3 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. (Inaudible).

4 MR HOUGH: If you could try to speak into the microphone and
5 keep your voice up. I know you are doing your best.

6 THE CHIEF CORONER: I suspect also -- I will make this plea
7 on your behalf, perhaps to slow down the pace too, so
8 that we can catch up. Thank you very much.

9 So you were just telling us you were approaching the
10 bridge from the centre to the --

11 A Yes, so we drive on the right-hand side of the river as
12 opposed to the left-hand side on the road, so my boat
13 was positioned just off to the right of centre on the
14 approach to the bridge, and my initial search was
15 through the centre arch of London Bridge, out the other
16 side, because that's the way the tide was flowing,
17 towards Cannon Street Bridge, and then I turned to the
18 south and Marine 3 behind me stayed on the north half of
19 the river.

20 Q Were there further parts to the hasty search? Did you
21 make more passes around the -- around under the river?

22 A I concentrated in that section of the river between
23 London Bridge and Cannon Street. The tide wasn't going
24 strong enough to have carried anyone beyond a few
25 hundred metres of the bridge.

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1 Q You have told us that further vessels arrived later to
2 assist; which vessels were those?

3 A We had asked for a river closure at that stage to
4 prevent party boats entering the scene of what we
5 believed now was a terrorist attack, so the only boats
6 that were allowed into that closure were the RNLI
7 lifeboats from Tower Pier.

8 Q Can you recall when those lifeboats arrived?

9 A Again, within sort of 5 to 10 minutes of us being there.
10 We had carried out an area -- a search of the area as
11 described earlier, and they joined us in time to redress
12 back to London Bridge, form up in a line abreast and
13 then push upriver towards Cannon Street Bridge where the
14 Coastguard had deemed the parameters of the line abreast
15 search.

16 Q So the time came within about 10 minutes of your arrival
17 that the RNLI two boats had arrived and you received
18 some instructions from the Coastguard to perform
19 a structured line abreast search?

20 A That's correct, sir.

21 Q And just to be clear, is a line abreast search what the
22 title suggests, vessels alongside each other passing up
23 and down the river?

24 A That's correct, sir. We were spread out across the
25 river with a similar sort of gap between each vessel.

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1 On that occasion, my boat was on the south side of the
 2 river, Marine 3 was on the north side, and the two
 3 lifeboats were between us in the centre section of the
 4 river.
 5 Q Very roughly at what speed do you go when carrying out
 6 a search of that kind?
 7 A The most important factor when carrying out a line
 8 abreast search is that you overtake the tide, by which I
 9 mean if you travel at the same speed as the tide you are
 10 never going to catch up with anyone that may have fallen
 11 in, so the speed is dictated by the tidal conditions at
 12 the time. Not so fast that we will miss anything, but
 13 fast enough for us to stand a chance of catching up with
 14 someone who may be in the water. It is a deliberate
 15 search, and we have people outside the boat keeping
 16 visual checks, also listening for cries for help and it
 17 is probably done at no more than 2 or 3 knots.
 18 Q You have already told us that on this particular night
 19 you weren't using the infrared camera?
 20 A That's correct.
 21 Q But you had your searchlight?
 22 A Yes.
 23 Q You had, as you have described, relatively good lighting
 24 over the river in that area?
 25 A That's correct.

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1 Q And you also, of course, had your two colleagues looking
 2 ahead?
 3 A Two very experienced crewmen in the front of my boat and
 4 I know that the other boat had the same as well.
 5 Q Did you detect anything in the river over that period?
 6 A Sadly, we weren't able to detect anyone on the surface
 7 of the river.
 8 Q As you were carrying out the search, were you continuing
 9 to receive transmissions telling you what was going on
 10 in the Borough Market area?
 11 A Yes, sir, and we had received reports of gunfire in the
 12 Borough Market area. I was also aware that a suspect
 13 vehicle was still on the curtilages of the bridge and
 14 that there was a risk that there may well be explosives
 15 in that vehicle.
 16 Q Did you become aware of anything on the river bank or
 17 anything happening on the river bank of concern to you?
 18 A So as we were carrying out the searching, I was acutely
 19 aware that the Thames footpath on the south side on the
 20 river, that runs right along the front of the riverfront
 21 was lined with people, and, in particular, on the
 22 downriver side of London Bridge, the HMS Belfast side.
 23 There were numerous groups of people walking towards
 24 London Bridge and I know from my local knowledge that
 25 there is a set of staircases, there is a staircase there

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1 next to No. 1 London Bridge that would take you right up
 2 on to the bridge and to the scene of the majority of the
 3 attacks, so I decided that I needed to warn those people
 4 to keep them away from the scene, and given that I still
 5 had three other boats carrying out a search of the
 6 river, I detached myself from that search to let the
 7 members of the public know that they were in danger and
 8 to turn them around to head towards Tower Bridge.
 9 Q Can you remember how many passes you had carried out
 10 before you detached yourself from the search?
 11 A We had already done a search up to Cannon Street Bridge
 12 and we were heading back down again towards
 13 London Bridge and we pushed through the bridge just to
 14 cover -- just to give ourselves an overlap, and at that
 15 point I was able to see the amount of people there were
 16 on the embankment.
 17 Q Did you communicate with the Coastguard and get their
 18 approval or authority before you broke off from the
 19 search?
 20 A It's not always practicable to do that. The police --
 21 the Metropolitan Police are a declared resource to the
 22 Coastguard. We are not a dedicated resource. The
 23 difference between that is that we are able to detach
 24 from a search and rescue operation if a more pressing
 25 police matter occurs. The lifeboats and fire -- I think

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1 the fire brigade are dedicated resources, so you would
 2 require the Coastguard's permission to come away from
 3 the search. We -- normally speaking we -- or we did
 4 have a very good relationship with the Coastguard and
 5 the RNLI. This is normally done in consultation, but in
 6 this instance, it had to be a quick decision and I made
 7 that decision off my own back.
 8 Q Did you inform the Coastguard that you were doing that?
 9 A I don't recall informing --
 10 Q I think we will hear evidence from the Coastguard about
 11 that. There is some evidence suggesting that you did
 12 inform the Coastguard.
 13 A Okay.
 14 Q Were you aware of the other three vessels continuing in
 15 the line abreast search as you broke off?
 16 A Yes, sir, I was.
 17 Q As you broke off, what did you proceed to do?
 18 A So as it was high tide, I was able to get right
 19 alongside the river wall within shouting distance of the
 20 public. We have a loud hailer system on our boat, and
 21 I was able to give instructions to those members of the
 22 public to turn away from London Bridge and move towards
 23 City Hall and Tower Bridge. We were helped by some
 24 security staff that were on -- in the vicinity of the
 25 HMS Belfast as well.

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1 Q After you had given the directions to those people, what
2 did you do next?
3 A I pushed through the bridge to the north side of
4 London Bridge because I was aware that there was a very
5 busy pub there, the Old Thameside Inn and that backs
6 right on to the river, but at the other side of it is
7 Clink Street and the other side of Clink Street is
8 Borough Market. By this stage we knew that there were
9 attackers on the loose in Borough Market, so we just
10 made sure that there was no one in danger in the pub.
11 I was able to position my boat alongside the river wall
12 on a ladder that gives access to the riverside garden of
13 this pub, and my two crewmen climbed the ladder and went
14 into the pub. It had actually been placed in lock-down
15 and there were 75-100 people locked in that pub and my
16 crew quickly ascertained that one of those people was
17 a victim of the attack itself and she was being given
18 rudimentary first aid by the staff in the pub.
19 Q I think that was Sashan Flanders who had been stabbed
20 near Borough Market?
21 A That's correct.
22 Q Did you assist in her transfer to hospital?
23 A Yes, I did, sir. I was acutely aware that emergency
24 services wouldn't be able to get into the vicinity of
25 Borough Market and that we may need to get her to

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1 hospital as soon as possible, and given the tidal
2 conditions, I felt it appropriate that we escorted her
3 down the ladder on to our boat and we conveyed her at
4 speed upriver to St Thomas' hospital where she was taken
5 ashore by my crewmen and taken to casualty in that
6 hospital there.
7 Q Now, after that did you return to the old Thameside Inn?
8 A Yes. So we headed back to the pub, aware that there
9 were still 100 people in the pub, and my crew went back
10 into the pub and at this point we were joined by
11 Marine 3, and both boats were alongside the river wall.
12 Before long, my crew came back to me and said that there
13 was a potential public order situation about to occur in
14 the pub where people were looking to leave. That
15 couldn't be allowed to happen into Borough Market, so we
16 came up with a plan to evacuate as many as we could by
17 river to the opposite bank.
18 Q So just to be clear, you wanted to evacuate people by
19 that route in order to avoid them taking matters into
20 their own hands and going into Borough Market where
21 there was an active crime scene?
22 A Absolutely, sir. There were some off duty police
23 officers in the pub that were trying to convince people
24 to stay put, but there was a large contingent looking to
25 try and get out, so we did the best we could. We got

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1 about 65 people in shuttles, assisted by the RNLI, to
2 the other side of the river.
3 Q Did you become aware from Marine 3 when they were
4 assisting you with the evacuation that they had not
5 succeeded in finding anyone during the structured
6 search?
7 A Yes. It became apparent as soon as we got back to the
8 scene that they were still unable to recover anybody
9 from the river.
10 Q May we look briefly at your handover note to -- which
11 summarises contemporaneously your actions that day?
12 {DC7657/4}, please.
13 A Is this the duty officer's handover?
14 Q I think we will --
15 A Yes.
16 Q So is this a log that would be prepared by the duty
17 officer, you are saying?
18 A That's correct, yes. So we have a sergeant in charge,
19 he takes responsibility for the team on that evening,
20 and Sergeant Saltmarsh on this occasion produces
21 a handover for the following day to let them know what
22 has occurred during the previous shift.
23 THE CHIEF CORONER: We see Sergeant Saltmarsh's name in the
24 centre of the document by, "Duty officer".
25 A That's correct, sir. Inspector Green is who he reports

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1 to.
2 MR HOUGH: Now, this provides a record of the actions of
3 your vessel, Marine 2. If I can just read out what the
4 first paragraph says. It says:
5 "Call to a multiple RTC ..."
6 Road traffic collision:
7 "... on London Bridge. M2 on scene immediately.
8 M3 on hearing call on route. Incident quickly deemed
9 critical as further information was coming over the
10 airwaves that a member of the public in Borough Market
11 had been attacked. [Marine] 2, [Marine] 3 in
12 partnership with RNLI started search patterns for any
13 casualties. It quickly transpired that members of the
14 public were in the Thameside Inn on the South Bank,
15 which was well within the designated cordon area at
16 Montague Close, re a possible IED".
17 Was that something that you were aware of, a feared
18 explosive device in the area?
19 A Yes, there was a belief that the vehicle used in the
20 attack may well have contained an IED.
21 Q Then it goes on:
22 "[Marine] 2 put officers ashore, where they
23 evacuated a female ... who had suffered stab wounds as a
24 result of the attack. [Marine] 2 evacuated and gave
25 first aid to the female who was taken to St Thomas'

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1 Hospital. [Marine] 3 then took over the evacuation of
 2 [members of public] from the inn. This was halted when
 3 Trojan units wanted to clear the area for suspects.”
 4 Is that something you recall, armed police officers
 5 wanting to clear the area?
 6 A Yes, that’s correct. As the Trojan officers pushed
 7 through the market in order to clear it of any further
 8 suspects they reached the pub and were able to evacuate
 9 the remaining people in the pub via Clink Street under
 10 their protection.
 11 Q And then this sentence:
 12 “Once complete, [Marine] 3 ... were joined again by
 13 [Marine] 2 and RNLI continued to evacuate members of the
 14 public to St [Katherine’s] Pier.”
 15 A That’s correct.
 16 Q Is that a fair summary, obviously supplemented with your
 17 evidence, of your actions that night?
 18 A Yes, sir.
 19 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are my questions.
 20 There may be some more.
 21 Questions by MR ADAMSON
 22 MR ADAMSON: Police Constable Bultitude, my name is
 23 Dominic Adamson and I ask questions on behalf of the
 24 parents of Xavier Thomas, and Christine Delcros.
 25 A Sir.

1 Q Can I start by acknowledging the efforts that you made
 2 to try and locate Xavier on that night. I will be
 3 asking you questions about the adequacy of the search on
 4 that evening.
 5 A Yes, sir.
 6 Q But my clients do understand the difficult circumstances
 7 that you faced on that night.
 8 Can I just begin by asking you about the window of
 9 opportunity, as it might be called, when somebody falls
 10 into the River Thames?
 11 A Yes, sir.
 12 Q It is right, isn’t it, that time is of the essence?
 13 A Absolutely.
 14 Q Because the Thames is a dangerous river?
 15 A Yes, sir, it can be.
 16 Q Can you assist the Coroner as to what that window of
 17 opportunity is in your experience?
 18 A Yes, sir. There are several factors to bear in mind.
 19 The timescale, the time elapsed between the person
 20 entering the water and us arriving on the scene is one,
 21 coupled with prevailing conditions, temperature-wise,
 22 the time of year, for example. They are probably the
 23 two most important factors: Time and exposure.
 24 Q So in relation to the second of those factors, the
 25 chances of survival are greater in the summer months

1 than they are in the winter?
 2 A Yes, purely because hypothermia sets in slower.
 3 Q And as to the first of those factors, it’s important,
 4 isn’t it, to know when somebody entered the water?
 5 A Yes, sir, and where.
 6 Q Because that is a factor which is relevant to
 7 determining the scope of any search.
 8 A That’s correct, sir. Yes.
 9 Q Can I ask to have up on screen document {DC8215/1}.
 10 Now, this is a Standard Operating Procedure for the
 11 Coastguard. Is it a document that you would be familiar
 12 with?
 13 A I’m not privy to the Coastguard’s SOP sir, no.
 14 THE CHIEF CORONER: Can I just ask one question, Mr Adamson?
 15 This document is dated May 2019.
 16 MR ADAMSON: Yes.
 17 THE CHIEF CORONER: Obviously, this officer has said he is
 18 not familiar with whatever the Coastguard might have,
 19 but also we would need to be -- just make -- and I’m
 20 sure you have checked, to make sure whether this was
 21 relevant at the time.
 22 MR ADAMSON: Well, we have requested from the Coastguard the
 23 documents and procedures, and this is what has been
 24 received in the last few days. Perhaps I can ask this
 25 question in the context of the information in the

1 document to see whether the nature of a search of this
 2 sort would be as one might expect from the content of
 3 this document, and consider whether practice then was in
 4 line with what is set out in this document.
 5 MR HOUGH: Sir, in fairness to Mr Adamson, this is
 6 a document disclosed by the Inquest team following
 7 enquiries of the Coastguard. It would be very
 8 surprising if they had disclosed a document which wasn’t
 9 relevant at the time.
 10 THE CHIEF CORONER: Absolutely. I was just picking up on
 11 the date because obviously some people will look at the
 12 document but may not see the date that’s visible on the
 13 bottom of the screen.
 14 MR ADAMSON: This is a standard operating procedure, persons
 15 in the water, and it talks about information-gathering.
 16 A Yes.
 17 Q Is that a concept with which you are familiar?
 18 A Well yes, sir. Even -- no matter where the situation
 19 may be, whether it be offshore or in the River Thames,
 20 the more information you get, the better the parameters
 21 of the search will be.
 22 Q And they ask, or they pose a number of simple but
 23 critical questions, don’t they? Where?
 24 A Absolutely.
 25 Q So by that it means where did the person enter the

1 water.
 2 A We like to know two things, where they entered the water
 3 and the last place they were seen, if they were seen.
 4 Q Yes. When? So that is the time that they entered the
 5 water.
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q What happened to them? That would be relevant, wouldn't
 8 it, because it might give an indication as to whether or
 9 not the person was conscious or not?
 10 A Yes, sir, and that's quite important.
 11 Q And then there is personal details which may or may not
 12 be available, and if one can move on to the next page of
 13 that document, please {DC8215/2}, it then refers to
 14 "mission conduct" and creating and implementing a search
 15 plan. Is that something that you would do if you were
 16 conducting a search?
 17 A Yes, in a sort of structured but non-formal way. We
 18 establish a datum, where the person was last seen, and
 19 we establish the likely distance they would have
 20 travelled. Now, we can do that based on experience of
 21 river flow and conditions, and the location of the river
 22 will often dictate where a casualty may end up. In the
 23 open sea, it's slightly different because it is a wider
 24 search area, for a start, potentially.
 25 Q Yes. With a river, you have obviously got narrower

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1 parameters.
 2 A Yes, sir.
 3 Q And you will have information about tidal flows; is that
 4 right?
 5 A That's correct, sir.
 6 Q And did you ascertain what the tidal flow was on that
 7 night?
 8 A Yes, sir. I ascertained that the tide was still flowing
 9 slowly inward towards the top of its cycle. Not able to
 10 give you a precise speed of that tide, but we estimate
 11 it to be at half a knot. The Thames very rarely runs
 12 above 4 or 5 knots, even at its strongest.
 13 Q Can I ask for a diagram to be brought up on screen?
 14 {DC0009.2/18}. Now, we saw this yesterday. Is this
 15 sort of diagram the sort of diagram with which you would
 16 be familiar?
 17 A I have not seen a diagram like this before, sir.
 18 Q I see. We can see from the top of -- just above the --
 19 there we go, thank you very much. It says, "Tidal River
 20 Flow at London Bridge on 03/06 ... at 2210 GMT". It
 21 shows the colour scheme on the right-hand side.
 22 A Yes.
 23 Q And it suggests that the river flow was approximately
 24 0.5 metres per second in the green areas, and it is
 25 slightly faster than that in the yellow areas.

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1 A Yes, sir. That's what it would suggest on the picture.
 2 Q Now, we have heard from you, and I think we will hear
 3 from PC -- from Mr Hayday later on from the Coastguard,
 4 that the tide was a flood tide?
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q Going inland?
 7 A That's correct.
 8 Q In terms of the information available to you at the
 9 time, would you be relying on your judgment, having
 10 examined the river, or would you be looking at any other
 11 form of data that might be available?
 12 A No, it's purely done on experience. The minute we leave
 13 for a call like that, personally speaking, as a master
 14 of the vessel, I'm judging what the river is doing.
 15 Even before I get on my boat as I run down to the pier,
 16 I'm looking at what the tide is doing. It will give me
 17 a snapshot of what I should expect when I arrive on
 18 scene. As I am travelling to the scene I am looking for
 19 further clues as to what the tide might be doing, for
 20 example, how the tide -- how the water is being pushed
 21 around buttresses or obstructions in the water. That
 22 will give me a clue as to how fast the tide is running
 23 and in which direction.
 24 Q So it is a visual assessment?
 25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q And your visual assessment at the time of the incident
 2 was that it was about 0.5 metres per second?
 3 A It was nearing the top of its cycle, so half a knot to
 4 nothing. In the time we were there, the tide had turned
 5 and had started to go out again, so it was ...
 6 Q And when you say, "half a knot", can you convert that
 7 into metres per second?
 8 A No, but I can say it is slower than walking pace. It is
 9 a stroll.
 10 Q Turning now to the resource that you had available to
 11 you, we will come back to search parameters in due
 12 course. Now, on your boat was PC Rinzivillo, is that
 13 correct?
 14 A That's correct sir.
 15 Q And PC Lee?
 16 A That's correct.
 17 Q And on Marine 3 were PCs Pescott, Bruce and Lerner. Is
 18 that right?
 19 A That's correct, sir.
 20 Q And at the time when the call was made, when you became
 21 aware that there was something to respond to, where were
 22 you all?
 23 A We were at Wapping Police Station. We had reconvened
 24 for refs, for something to eat, it was that stage of the
 25 evening, we had done the first part of our tour and we

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1 had reconvened there and we both responded from the
 2 police station to that call .
 3 Q So you were in the station rather than on a boat?
 4 A That's correct, sir .
 5 Q Now, we are going to look at some CADs. You have said
 6 in your statement that the CAD that you were responding
 7 to was 8810. Is that right?
 8 A That is the one I have noted, yes.
 9 Q Yes. Let's call that one up on screen if we may. It's
 10 {DC8184/1}. At the top of the page there we can see
 11 incident no. 8810 entered at 22:08. Yes?
 12 A Yes, that's correct.
 13 Q Yes. If you go down to page 8 of that document please,
 14 we see in the middle of that page a reference to
 12:42:12 15 creation at 22:08:24.
 15 A Yes, that's correct. Yes.
 16 Q And so that was the figure that I rose to refer to
 17 earlier, and just in terms of that CAD, can I now ask
 18 you -- can I now ask to look at page 27 of that
 12:42:39 20 document? {DC8184/27} If one looks down to 22:10:42
 19 A Yes, sir .
 20 Q -- we see, "AV/MAR2 MAR3".
 21 A That's correct, sir .
 22 Q If we go up a couple of minutes we see, "PI/MSU".
 23 A Yes.

1 Q Now, can you just help us from your understanding what
 2 we can discern from that CAD?
 3 A That the initial entry that started the CAD was at
 4 22:08, ie the very first moment of that call being
 5 taken, and it's taken a couple of minutes to get all the
 12:43:48 6 information from the informant and at 22:10:33 the
 6 incident was passed to the Marine Policing Unit.
 7 I don't know what, "AV", stands for on these print-outs
 8 unfortunately.
 9 Q It may be that others can assist us in that regard.
 10 How, physically, does information from a CAD arrive with
 11 you?
 12 A Typically, a 999 call will go into the system,
 13 eventually get routed to the police control room,
 14 details will be taken from the informant, and when there
 15 is enough information to structure a call to us, it gets
 16 passed to a pod that operates our main working channel
 17 on our police radios, and that's MPU 14, it is
 18 a pan-London channel and it's used to despatch resources
 19 which include all of our specialist dog units, the
 20 Marine Policing Unit and other pan-London taskforce
 21 officers to incidents.
 22 Q So can you help us: When do you think you would have
 23 been despatched? Would it be before or after one of
 24 these CADs has referred something to the Marine Policing

1 Unit?
 2 A We won't hear from it until it has been passed to the
 3 Marine Policing Unit pod, and then it will get relayed
 4 over the radio to us.
 5 Sir, I'm not a CAD operator, I haven't operated
 6 these control room environments, but my experience with
 7 police officers suggests that -- and my experience is
 8 that they will get the CAD up and running, they will
 9 take as much information as they can to generate the
 10 call, they will pass that call to the relevant people,
 11 and then they will continue to get information from the
 12 informant, so these CADs, obviously, take a -- are
 13 a running log and we get updated with any fresh
 14 information as and when it comes through. We are not
 15 always given everything when we initially get the call .
 16 Q And so when do you think you first became aware that
 17 there was somebody in the river? Was it before or after
 18 you left Wapping?
 19 A So we believed that there was a distinct possibility
 20 that there could be someone in the river when we left
 21 because that was the basis of our call . It was
 22 a vehicle had struck pedestrians on the bridge and it is
 23 believed someone may have entered the water. That's
 24 what we were responding to. It wasn't until we had
 25 further communications with City of London officers, but

1 even then they couldn't be 100 per cent certain a person
 2 had entered the water.
 3 Q Can I ask for us to have on screen, please, CAD 8826?
 4 That's {DC6427/8}. {DC6472/1}.
 5 THE CHIEF CORONER: I think we have now got the start of the
 6 CAD, 8826.
 7 MR ADAMSON: Yes. It was a CAD which seems to have been
 12:47:54 8 created at 22:09:57, and there is an entry at 22:10:55:
 8 "Someone in van has just smashed into people on
 9 bridge".
 10 Then if we go over the page {DC6472/9}:
 11 "Caller saw someone thrown into river."
 12 And we know from the previous page that that is
 12:48:28 14 timed at 22:11:06, and we looked at the transcript of
 13 that call yesterday.
 14 A Yes, sir .
 15 Q And it emanated from a Mr Cooke who said, "I saw someone
 16 actually being hit thrown into the river", and the
 17 reference for that, if anyone wishes to check that, is
 18 {DC6472T/1}, so there appears to have been clear
 19 information at that time that someone was in the river .
 20 A Yes, sir .
 12:49:14 23 Q At 22:11, at some point between 22:11:27 and 59 seconds
 21 there was a call between the Port of London Authority
 22 and Marine 2. Is that you?

1 A Yes, sir.
 2 Q And the reference is {DC7275/1}. We can see there
 3 a transcript which says:
 4 "... we're not sure if anyone's in the water. I've
 5 scrambled my two marine units ..."
 6 So this appears to be something that
 7 Sergeant Saltmarsh is saying; is that right?
 8 A Yes, that would be -- that's correct. That is likely to
 9 have been a conversation over the phone to the
 10 Coastguard, between the duty officer and -- the duty
 11 officer and the Coastguard.
 12 Q And then following that there was a PAN-PAN message, and
 13 we have got a transcript of VHF1. Can you just help the
 14 court as to what, "VHF", is?
 15 A Very high frequency. It is the radio system that we use
 16 on the river, all the boats on the river should be
 17 tuning into, through channel 14.
 18 Q Can we call up, please {DC7280/1}. Now, the timing of
 19 this PAN-PAN message, according to a witness statement,
 20 and the reference for those who wish to check it,
 12:51:01 21 5044/2, the time of this message was between 22:11:42
 12:51:15 22 and 22:12:24. It says:
 21 "PAN PAN, PAN PAN, PAN PAN, receiving Marine two, we
 22 have an incident at London Bridge and apparently someone
 23 has come in off the river having been struck by

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1 a vehicle. All vessels ... Marine two, looking for
 2 a person in the river having fallen off the bridge
 3 having been struck by a vehicle".
 4 Now, was that you who delivered that message?
 5 A No, that would have been the Coastguard.
 6 Q So that would be Saltmarsh?
 7 A No, no. That would have been the Coastguard delivering
 8 that.
 9 Q I see.
 10 A On behalf of Marine 2.
 11 Q Would you hear that message?
 12 A In all likelihood, yes. I can't recall hearing that. I
 13 know I was listening to the City Police link for most of
 14 my information. We asked for a river closure over the
 15 main working channel, 14, and at some point, this
 16 message was put out to warn other vessels that we were
 17 in the vicinity, carrying out a search and rescue
 18 operation.
 19 Q Now -- so that is sent -- that message is sent at around
 20 about 22:12. The next point in the chronology I would
 21 like to take you to is your arrival, and now we have
 22 seen from the CAD shown to you by Mr Hough that there is
 12:52:48 23 a record saying, "TOA/MAR2 MAR3", at 22:14:27.
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q And you recall seeing that earlier?

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1 A Yes. Correct.
 2 Q And you were aware of a communication from City of
 3 London Police about a person being in the river; is that
 4 right?
 5 A Possibly, yes.
 6 Q Yes. Can we call up CAD 8805 which is {DC8183/11},
 12:53:23 7 please. And if we look at 22:14:37 we see an entry
 7 which says:
 8 "CP87 female or male in river"?
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q Now, we know that CP87 is Police Constable Ryan Tullett.
 11 A Yes.
 12 Q You were taken to a transcript of a conversation
 13 involving Mr Tullett earlier. Can I take you to the
 14 City of London's radio transmission transcript? It's
 15 {DC7288/2}. At the bottom of that page we see:
 16 "Police officer: Eight Seven can I come in, it's
 17 quite urgent?
 18 "Control: Yes, go ahead.
 19 "Police officer: We have a potentially heavy object
 or someone has gone in the river. Can you inform Marine
 1 please or a unit.
 21 "Yes, yes, will do.
 22 "Police officer: I know you're busy ..."
 23 And then:
 24

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1 "You were un(inaudible) there, go again."
 2 Next page please. And then.
 3 "Police officer: Marine 2."
 4 Is that you?
 5 A That's me, yes.
 6 Q "Control: Marine 2 go ahead.
 7 "Yeah got both Marine 2 and Marine 3, we're just
 8 coming up to London Bridge now. Are you saying there's
 9 a man in the water, is that correct?
 10 "Yeah it's not been confirmed whether it is a heavy
 11 object or a person who's gone in the river. I have no
 12 details other than that.
 13 "Police officer: Eight seven it is definitely
 14 someone has gone in the river, over, unknown female or
 15 male."
 16 So were you aware of that conversation?
 17 A Yes, I would have been, sir.
 18 Q Yes, so again, further definite confirmation that
 19 somebody is in the river?
 20 A Yes, sir. Even if it hadn't been, though, we would have
 21 still carried out a search and rescue pattern on the
 22 assumption that the object was a person.
 23 Q Well, as we will see as we go later on in the
 24 chronology, subsequent to that, there are numerous
 25 questions raised by individuals about whether or not

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1 there was somebody in the river or not?
 2 A Right.
 3 Q But it's right, isn't it, that it was clear from about
 4 22:14 that there was somebody in the river?
 5 A On -- one officer was sure of that, sir, yes.
 6 Q And was there any communication between you and the
 7 other boats involved in the searches to the effect that
 8 there was definitely somebody in the river?
 9 A I can't recall if that conversation took place, sir.
 10 I can't state what radio channels the other police boat
 11 were listening into. I can only say that I was
 12 monitoring the City link. My two colleagues in the
 13 front of my boat were listening to the Southwark link as
 14 well as our main working channel, so we have three
 15 police channels being monitored as well as a river radio
 16 traffic, which is being switched between channel 14,
 17 which is the general channel for all river traffic, and
 18 then eventually to channel 0 which is the search and
 19 rescue channel to coordinate the search and rescue
 20 response.
 21 MR ADAMSON: Sir, is that a convenient moment?
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: It is indeed. We will pick up on that,
 23 please, officer, at 2 o'clock.
 24 A Thank you, sir.
 25 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much.

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1 (12.58 pm)
 2 (Luncheon adjournment)
 3 (2.04 pm)
 4 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 5 MR ADAMSON: PC Bultitude, before the adjournment we were
 6 working our way through the chronology, and I
 14:04:45 7 established, I hope, that as at about 22:14:37 there was
 7 clear evidence from multiple sources that there was
 8 a person in the water, and that was at around about the
 9 time that you arrived at the scene.
 10 A That would be about correct.
 11 Q Yes. Now -- and you had said in your evidence that it
 12 was your assessment that the flow was about half a knot
 13 at that time.
 14 A Yes, sir.
 15 Q Now, I have checked, and half a knot is about
 16 0.25 metres per second. The diagram that we looked at
 17 earlier -- I think it has been confirmed is British
 18 Standard Time not Greenwich Mean Time --
 19 A Right.
 20 Q -- so we are talking about the right sort of
 21 timeframe -- indicated that in the central part of the
 22 river the speed was about 0.5 to 0.6 metres per second.
 23 A That may well be the case. I mean, that hydro -- it's
 24 a hydrograph that has been generated, I'm not sure what

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1 data that has been taken from. It has been taken from
 2 the predicted tidal stream that is produced at the start
 3 of every year, that can vary on a daily basis, depending
 4 on weather conditions and other factors.
 5 Q I see. Well, we will look into that, but on the face of
 6 it, there is perhaps a margin for error in the
 7 assessments that are being made; is that correct?
 8 A There is certainly a scope for a certain degree of
 9 variance between a person's opinion of the speed of the
 10 tide because it depends on what part of the river you
 11 are in. It runs faster in the middle than it does at
 12 the edges.
 13 Q Faster in the middle, slow at the edges.
 14 A Yes.
 15 Q And just to sort of put that in terms of the difference
 16 it might make over a minute, 0.25 metres per second is
 17 a flow of 15 metres per minute?
 18 A Yes.
 19 Q 0.5 to 0.6 metres per second is 30-36 metres per minute?
 20 A Correct.
 21 Q So for every metre, every minute that passes, there is
 22 an expanding, perhaps, margin for error, is that fair to
 23 say?
 24 A Yes. If the tidal speeds are correct, yes, that would
 25 be the case.

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1 Q Now, at 22:14 when you arrived at the scene, what do you
 2 know about the time that the person entered the river,
 3 as far as that is concerned? Did you know what time
 4 they had entered the river?
 5 A We could only assume that it would have happened on or
 6 around the time that the CAD was created, which was
 7 22:08.
 8 Q Is that information that you were reliant upon in terms
 9 of determining the scope of your search?
 10 A To a certain degree, yes, although it's not
 11 a mathematical equation that I produce. I say, right,
 12 he has been in two or three minutes, it's not flowing
 13 very fast, so we will take it to ... bearing in mind the
 14 initial phase of a search is very dynamic -- we will
 15 take it to this particular area and we will search the
 16 immediate vicinity.
 17 Q So is there no formula that you are expected to apply in
 18 the circumstances?
 19 A Not that we produce within the Marine Unit. When the
 20 Coastguard takes primacy, then they will, as far as I'm
 21 aware, consult a matrix and take into account the tidal
 22 conditions for that day as predicted, and advice from
 23 their lifeboat on scene, and they will set search
 24 parameters at that stage.
 25 Q Do you at the Marine Police Unit not have access to that

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1 sort of information?
 2 A Well, we don't have primacy for search and rescue so if
 3 we were to establish a set of search parameters that
 4 were then adjusted by the Coastguard it just makes -- it
 5 has just never happened, it has never been established
 6 in that way.
 7 Q But if you are first on the scene it makes sense,
 8 doesn't it, for you to have access to that sort of
 9 information so that you, at least in the first instance,
 10 can determine what your search parameters are going to
 11 be?
 12 A That would make a certain amount of sense. As it
 13 stands, currently, we use our experience and our local
 14 river knowledge to establish a likely area where the
 15 casualty is likely to be.
 16 Q But do you agree it would be helpful to have further
 17 guidance in relation to search parameters in
 18 circumstances such as the ones that faced you on the
 19 night?
 20 A In some circumstances, yes, sir, I think it would do,
 21 but I think the initial phase of that search is such
 22 a dynamic thing, certainly the master of the vessel that
 23 is responding to that won't have time to consult a
 24 matrix and work out what's going on. That's something
 25 best done at a control centre somewhere away from the

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1 scene. It can be done probably by computer.
 2 Q Now, you have got a period of time between leaving
 3 Wapping and arriving at the location. I understand from
 4 your evidence in relation to the infrared camera
 5 equipment that you have access to that it takes a bit of
 6 time to fire up, so to speak?
 7 A It does sir, yes.
 8 Q How long does it take to fire up?
 9 A It's a bit of equipment that works independently to all
 10 the other bits of technical equipment we have got on
 11 board, and it transmits its picture through our chart
 12 plotter which is an electronic map, if you like, of the
 13 river, so first of all you have got to fire the camera
 14 up, it takes 30 seconds or so to warm up, and then you
 15 have got to find the right page on your chart plotter,
 16 get it up and running, and like I said, even with that
 17 up and running, some conditions and some circumstances,
 18 it's not the most practical bit of kit.
 19 Q I understand that, but there would be nothing to prevent
 20 you from getting it up and running whilst you are
 21 en-route; is that fair to say?
 22 A Well, no, in this case there were, sir. I was so busy
 23 driving my boat at speed through the start of the centre
 24 of London, I was conversing with the City Police on my
 25 radio at the time, we were discussing what was going on

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1 on the bridge, about how we should respond to it, there
 2 were a lot of things going on. That sort of thing, the
 3 lifeboats, I think, I may be corrected, but I think they
 4 have hand-held infrared cameras. Whether they were used
 5 on that night, I'm not sure --
 6 Q Well, we will ask Mr Hayday about that.
 7 A -- but to fire up our system is just impractical because
 8 the trouble is, the camera faces dead ahead, but our
 9 search pattern initially was across the river and in
 10 a random pattern to try and isolate and find someone
 11 floating in the water, and so to try and control that
 12 little joystick that moves the camera around whilst --
 13 to keep it on a fixed position in the river, whilst I'm
 14 driving the boat, it's virtually impossible.
 15 Q What about one of your colleagues?
 16 A Well, they were at the front maintaining visual
 17 look-out, which in these circumstances was a far more
 18 practical solution to the problem we were presented
 19 with.
 20 Q I understand when you are responding to the emergency,
 21 travelling up the river, that you are not in a position
 22 to operate that camera, or set it up for the reasons you
 23 have indicated, but in that period of time, one of your
 24 colleagues could do it, surely?
 25 A They could do sir, yes, that is a possibility although

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1 it does take a set of eyes off the river to do that.
 2 Q Yes, but en-route you know that they are not at Wapping
 3 when you depart, you know that the casualty that you are
 4 searching for isn't there?
 5 A Yes, sir.
 6 Q So in that period of time, they could usefully fire up
 7 the camera, couldn't they?
 8 A Yes, sir, they could have done but there is a lot of
 9 other things that we are preparing.
 10 Q Is there any procedure or guidance that you received in
 11 the Marine Support Unit as to when you should use the
 12 camera?
 13 A It's not written in our standing operating procedures
 14 that we will, en-route to a search and rescue operation,
 15 we will deploy the FLIR, as it is referred to. It is
 16 just an extra bit of equipment we can utilise.
 17 Q Because you can understand why there might be some
 18 concern that a resource which was available to you was
 19 not used at any stage during this particular search?
 20 A No, that -- I do appreciate, yes.
 21 Q And this was a resource which provided a different set
 22 of eyes on the search that was being conducted, didn't
 23 it?
 24 A You are right sir, but we also do have the helicopter on
 25 the scene with infrared technology as well, and their

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1 system is far superior to ours.
 2 Q Even from your location, closer to the water?
 3 A Yes, sir. They don't get -- so from the water, the
 4 angle -- the viewing angle is quite an oblique angle and
 5 you get quite a lot of reflection from other objects in
 6 the river, and also the chop of the sea, if there is any
 7 sort of movement on the river at all that can give up
 8 false negatives on the infrared camera, whereas the
 9 helicopter has got a top down view, so they are
 10 presented with fewer distractions for the camera, if you
 11 like, given the circumstances.
 12 Q Given the limitations that you describe in relation to
 13 this equipment, why do you have it?
 14 A Because -- I'm not quite sure. We didn't always have
 15 them, they were introduced to our boats some years ago,
 16 and I know we are -- I think we are probably in the
 17 process of procurement for new vessels, and I think we
 18 are looking at changing the way we use FLIR on our
 19 boats. I don't know whether we are going to go to
 20 a hand-held system or whether we are going to have
 21 a slightly easier one to operate.
 22 Q So it is antiquated equipment; is that what you are
 23 suggesting?
 24 A It is probably current, but whether it is the best bit
 25 of kit we have got, I don't know.

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1 Q Now, turning to the hasty search. Now, that is a term
 2 which you have acknowledged is an unfortunate one?
 3 A Yes, sir.
 4 Q Is it a term that you have used, or is it a term which
 5 is defined in some manual somewhere?
 6 A Yes, it is a Coastguard reference. There is a section
 7 within their SOPs that define a hasty search.
 8 Q So there is an SOP which defines a hasty search?
 9 A There is an entry in one of their manuals. I have had
 10 sight of it, and it clearly says -- defines the
 11 parameters of a hasty search.
 12 Q And what are they? Can you help?
 13 A It is a dynamic initial search of the likely area where
 14 the casualty could be, to give an initial high degree of
 15 detection of that person, subject to, then, a secondary
 16 search. They -- I think the Coastguard liken it to
 17 searching the spokes of a wheel, but then that is in
 18 a -- you can imagine that is in open water.
 19 Q Yes.
 20 A Whereas we -- it is a bit easier in the river because we
 21 are confined by the width of the river, so we can cross
 22 it quite quickly and cover -- it gives us the best
 23 opportunity to find someone in the river.
 24 Q Are the parameters similar to the sorts of parameters we
 25 saw in the document we looked at this morning, the

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1 person in water document, which set out --
 2 A Yes, there is a little breakdown of how they go about
 3 it, and the first entry is an initial search and I think
 4 that's what they would refer to as the hasty search, and
 5 then once that is over, then they will structure --
 6 because it takes a while for the Coastguard to work out
 7 the parameters of a search and in that time we can be
 8 utilising it by carrying out this --
 9 Q And how long, typically, would a hasty search last in
 10 circumstances such as this?
 11 A In these circumstances we had a lot of resources to us
 12 very quickly, so it was only a matter of minutes.
 13 Q Right. So you would expect a move to a more structured
 14 search rapidly in circumstances where you have got
 15 a significant resource?
 16 A Yes, and that is what happens. The first boat on the
 17 scene normally is appointed the on-scene commander.
 18 They will do what they can until they get other
 19 resources available, and as soon as the Coastguard has
 20 got enough resources to structure a formal search, he
 21 will lay down parameters, he or she will lay down
 22 parameters, and the vessels will sweep through the river
 23 on his guidelines.
 24 Q So it sounds to me that a hasty search would be less
 25 than five minutes, for example?

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1 A It would depend on the circumstances, sir.
 2 Q And if, in circumstances such as this, a hasty search
 3 had not identified the casualty in five minutes or so --
 4 A Yes.
 5 Q -- you would expect a structured search to start then;
 6 is that fair?
 7 A Yes, absolutely. If someone is in the water, there will
 8 always be a structured search, and if the circumstances
 9 dictate, a hasty search before that commences.
 10 Q Now, we know that there came a point where shots were
 11 fired on land?
 12 A Yes, sir.
 13 Q And you became aware of that on your boat; is that
 14 right?
 15 A Yes, sir. We didn't hear them, but we were aware of
 16 them over the radio.
 17 Q So there was radio transmissions and you knew that there
 18 was something unfolding?
 19 A Yes, sir.
 20 Q And you were conducting your hasty search at this time?
 21 A We were still on the river underneath -- in the vicinity
 22 of the bridge at that time. We were also concerned that
 23 the vehicle involved may also be a threat as well in
 24 terms of an explosive device.
 25 Q Yes. At this point, had you yet established the likely

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1 location from which Xavier had fallen?
 2 A At no stage was I given a definitive point on the bridge
 3 where Xavier had fallen from, unfortunately.
 4 Q So at no stage did you have a definitive point on the
 5 bridge where he fell, and at no stage did you really
 6 have a definitive time as to the moment at which he
 7 fell; is that right?
 8 A No, again, we just assumed that as a result of the call
 9 at 22:08, that that is at the point at which the
 10 casualty went in. We is all we have to go on, and that
 11 is the earliest time data that we can work from.
 12 Q In terms of what the response to the gunfire was, is it
 13 right that at that stage, you and your team started
 14 addressing your attention to people on the waterside?
 15 A So my boat was the boat that was nearest the south bank
 16 of the Thames, so it was nearest the threat, and as
 17 such, I was able to see members of the public that were
 18 walking towards danger, as far as I perceived it. We
 19 weren't sure at that point whether the gunfire was
 20 coming from terrorists or from police officers, and we
 21 hadn't yet had any clearance on the vehicle on the
 22 bridge, so we had to -- and there was a cordon in place,
 23 and people were being removed from that cordon landside,
 24 and we mirrored that by getting people away from the
 25 bridge.

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1 Q And as it happens, statements have been given by PC Lee
 2 and PC Rinzivillo, as well as the officers on Marine
 3 Police Unit 3, and if I can just read out what PC Lee
 4 says:
 5 "During the search it became apparent that there had
 6 been multiple sounds of shots fired in the area of
 7 London Bridge. At this time we could see lots of people
 8 on the Thames towpath east and west of London Bridge
 9 heading towards the incident so we started to direct
 10 them away from the area."
 11 So that's what he says, and that accords with your
 12 memory too, does it?
 13 A That's right sir.
 14 Q And so far as Marine Police Unit 3 is concerned,
 15 Daniel Larner says this:
 16 "A PAN-PAN message was circulated by PC Bultitude on
 17 Marine 2 and upon arrival at the scene there were
 18 a number of class V vessels who appeared to be assisting
 19 in the search and we were also quickly supported by
 20 RNLI. At this point the radio transmissions changed and
 21 it appeared that shots were being fired and our
 22 immediate concern was that there may be an active
 23 shooter. With this in mind we diverted attention away
 24 from the search of the water to that of making attempts
 25 to clear the pavements and bars along the north edge of

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1 the river".
 2 So your boat was focusing on the south edge of the
 3 river, their boat was focusing on the north edge of the
 4 river, and it sounds that at the moment the radio
 5 transmission started reporting gunfire, you really took
 6 your focus away from the search for Xavier; is that
 7 fair?
 8 A I couldn't be sure of the exact timeline and at what
 9 times that occurred, but the gunfire was a factor in
 10 our -- my decision, certainly my decision to take my
 11 boat away from the search that was also being conducted
 12 by the lifeboat.
 13 Q Now, we heard that the gunfire was about -- at 22:16.
 14 A Yes.
 15 Q And so it would appear that, really, very shortly after
 16 that, your attempts were distracted to dealing with
 17 people on the riverside; is that fair to say?
 18 A We -- yes, sir. I arrived on scene. I carried out
 19 a search of the river and I was satisfied that if
 20 anything was in the river, floating on the surface in
 21 the vicinity of London Bridge and Cannon Street, we
 22 would have found it, whatever that may have been, and so
 23 when I made the decision, difficult as it was, to say:
 24 Okay, unfortunately, as far as I'm concerned, if someone
 25 has gone in then tragically they are probably lost, I

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1 took that decision personally to take my boat away from
 2 it, and divert other members of the public away from the
 3 threat.
 4 Q So as at a point, perhaps, shortly after the gunfire
 5 radio messages were being heard, you had already made
 6 the determination that Xavier had probably been lost, if
 7 there was a person in the river?
 8 A That was a factor in my thought process, as mentioned in
 9 my statement.
 10 Q Can I ask you to look at your statement, page 1, please?
 11 A First or second statement, sir?
 12 Q Sorry, it's your first statement. I apologise
 13 PC Bultitude. You say -- and it is about seven lines up
 14 from the bottom:
 15 "As we swept along the banks I noticed several
 16 members of the public walking along the footpaths past
 17 HMS Belfast towards London Bridge..."
 18 A Yes, sir.
 19 Q Where were you at this point when you noticed the people
 20 passing HMS Belfast?
 21 A Between London Bridge and HMS Belfast.
 22 Q And HMS Belfast is east or west of London Bridge?
 23 A It's east downriver of London Bridge.
 24 Q Downriver of London Bridge?
 25 A Yes, that's correct.

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1 Q Yes. Given that the tide was flooding --
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q -- why were you there?
 4 A So we -- in -- as part of --
 5 Q Just to give context to that question, the tide is going
 6 inland --
 7 A Yes, sir.
 8 Q -- you are searching for Xavier --
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q -- but you are by HMS Belfast?
 11 A So we had swept through to Cannon Street and the
 12 practice is that we turn around and sweep back through
 13 the scene, and in doing so, you go through the point of
 14 immersion, that being London Bridge, and out the other
 15 side to allow an overlap. For whatever reason, maybe
 16 the casualty has been snagged on something, or has
 17 managed to swim to a certain spot in the river. You
 18 can't just assume that if someone has gone in on
 19 London Bridge that they will always be where you are
 20 predicting, so we give an overlap, and that overlap took
 21 me in front of the Thames footpath between London Bridge
 22 and HMS Belfast.
 23 Q I see. Now, we know from other records, I won't take
 24 you to them because of time, that the Coastguard
 25 arrived -- RNLI arrived at about 22:20.

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1 A Sir.
 2 Q At that stage, was there any discussion between you and
 3 them as to the scale of your hasty search, and
 4 assumptions that you had made in relation to that
 5 search?
 6 A I can't recall, sir, to be honest. I dare say there
 7 would have been a shouted conversation between the two
 8 boats, that's general practice.
 9 Q When you say, "shouted conversation", ie not via
 10 radio --
 11 A No, no, literally --
 12 Q -- literally shouting at each other across the water?
 13 A Typically speaking, we would be as close as you are to
 14 I, and we can let them know what we have done up to that
 15 point, and then a search is structured from their point
 16 of view through the Coastguard.
 17 Q Sorry, who would be -- do you remember if that happened
 18 or is that you speculating?
 19 A I can't recall if that happened on the night, but
 20 personally speaking I would -- that's how I would
 21 generally conduct myself on a search and rescue
 22 operation, having met up with the lifeboat for the first
 23 time. We generally come alongside and talk about what's
 24 happened. It's easier than doing it on the radio.
 25 Q You would be in the cabin of your boat, presumably?

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1 A There is a door to my right, that slides open and I can
 2 converse straight through the door to the boat that's
 3 alongside.
 4 Q Right. But you can't recall if that sort of discussion
 5 took place at that time?
 6 A No, sir.
 7 Q It would be helpful, wouldn't it, at the start of any
 8 coordinated search for there to be clarity between the
 9 teams as to what had been done and what hadn't been
 10 done?
 11 A It certainly would be, and communications is the first
 12 thing that always falls down on these sort of
 13 situations, especially when we have so many radio
 14 channels to listen to.
 15 Q Do you remember whether or not you had been distracted
 16 to your efforts to ward people away from the danger area
 17 before or after the arrival of the Coastguard?
 18 A It was after.
 19 Q It was after?
 20 A As far -- yes, as I recollect.
 21 Q Now, you didn't start your -- what I would call the,
 22 "structured search", a line search, until about
 23 twenty-five past.
 24 A Sir.
 25 Q That is a further five minutes that have elapsed. Given

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1 that five minutes -- five or six minutes might have been
 2 spent by you doing a hasty search --
 3 A Yes, sir.
 4 Q -- would it not have been advisable to start
 5 a structured search straight away?
 6 A With which vessels?
 7 Q With the Coastguard vessels? With the RNLI?
 8 A Yes, well, it happened virtually instantaneous. As soon
 9 as the lifeboats were on scene they were getting
 10 instructions from the Coastguard, line abreast search
 11 and that's what happened. Sir, just bear in mind as
 12 well every minute that goes past that initial arrival
 13 time, the tide is slowing down to the point where it
 14 stops, sits for about fifteen minutes doing nothing and
 15 then starts to go out again, so this constant flow is
 16 gradually slowing as time progresses to a point where it
 17 will stop, so it's not a constant 2.5 metres, or
 18 0.5 metre a second for the full duration of the time.
 19 It doesn't go in and then turn around and stop straight
 20 away and go back out again.
 21 Q No.
 22 A So there is a point where there is a period of slack
 23 water, and we were working towards that, which is why
 24 there is no definitive line in the sea where we search
 25 to. It's a generalisation.

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1 Q But we discussed at the start of your evidence how time
2 really was of the essence.
3 A Initially sir, yes.
4 Q Yes. And at 22:25 Xavier had been in the water for
5 18 minutes?
6 A Yes, sir, but by then we had carried out a search of
7 that section of the river that he had been in. The
8 initial haste is to try and get the person while they
9 are still on the surface and we need to get there as
10 quick as we can and carry out a dynamic search of that
11 area as soon as possible and as dynamically as possible
12 covering as much area as we can with the resources we
13 have got.
14 Q But that dynamic search hadn't worked, it hadn't secured
15 Xavier from the water, you hadn't located him, so in the
16 circumstances, surely, at that time, it was time to move
17 to a more structured search, straight away with the
18 lifeboats?
19 A Yes, sir. Had Xavier been on the surface of the river,
20 then yes, that's the case, but if he is lost and he is
21 more than a foot underneath we are not going to spot him
22 anyway, sir, tragically.
23 Q Now, there came a point where you moved your vessel up
24 to the south bank --
25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q -- "nosed it up", I think is the term?
2 A Nosed on to the wall, yes, it gives a stable platform
3 for my crew to leave the boat.
4 Q And PC Lee and Rinzivillo -- I apologise -- then went
5 ashore?
6 A They did, yes.
7 Q And they went in to the pub, I think it was, the
8 Thameside Inn?
9 A Yes, correct.
10 Q And they had discussions with officers there?
11 A Yes.
12 Q And they emerged with a casualty?
13 A They did, yes.
14 Q How long did that process take?
15 A A matter of minutes. I cannot be certain but, you know,
16 one or two minutes.
17 Q And presumably you were then waiting for them to return,
18 were you?
19 A Yes, sir.
20 Q So throughout that period, you were not involved in any
21 search operation?
22 A No. My boat was alongside the river wall dealing with
23 the people that were in there, in the pub.
24 Q So at that time, one of the four boats involved in the
25 search wasn't really involved in it?

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1 A No, sir.
2 Q We know from witness statements from those on the other
3 Marine Police Unit that they were focusing their
4 attention on people on the north bank?
5 A Yes, sir.
6 Q And so, in fact, the resource was substantially reduced,
7 wasn't it?
8 A At that stage, yes it had, it had been halved, but by
9 then we had done a sweep of the river, we had also
10 carried out our hasty search with our two police boats
11 and at some point, the police assets on scene had to
12 make a decision, based on the police incident that going
13 on, that we had to make a policing response to that
14 incident, and we felt it was just and right to allow the
15 lifeboats to carry on with their search and rescue
16 operation so that we could concentrate on preserving
17 a scene and preventing any further casualties.
18 Q Now, a decision was taken that you were going to
19 transport the casualty to St Thomas' Hospital; is that
20 right?
21 A That's correct, sir.
22 Q Was a determination made by you or your team as to the
23 severity of that person's injuries?
24 A She had a wound to her neck, lacerations to her hands
25 and arms.

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1 Q Yes. Was a determination made as to whether or not
2 those injuries were life threatening?
3 A No, sir, but PC Rinzivillo is one of our first aid
4 instructors, or was, he has retired now, he had given
5 her first aid at the time and he said that she needs to
6 be seen by an ambulance as soon as possible. Knowing
7 that a cordon was in place and there was no prospect of
8 getting any ambulance personnel to the riverside
9 location, St Thomas' Hospital is literally five minutes
10 up the river at full speed, and we were able to deposit
11 her there as soon as we possibly could.
12 Q At about 22:29, the CAD to which you had originally
13 responded, 8810, I'm not going to call it up on screen
14 for time reasons, has a record to the effect of, "Are we
15 certain a person entered the water?"
16 A Yes, sir.
17 Q Were you aware of that notification at 22:29?
18 A Who was that from, sir? I don't know who that was from.
19 Q CAD 8810. Were you aware at 22:29 that people were
20 questioning whether or not there was a casualty in the
21 water?
22 A I know it -- the only time I know where we were seeking
23 for clarification that someone had actually entered the
24 water was as we arrived on the scene. When I heard over
25 the City link that the police officer had reported

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1 someone had gone in, and then went back and said it was
 2 either a heavy object or a person, I sought
 3 clarification at that point just to confirm: Are you
 4 saying someone has definitely gone in or not?
 5 THE CHIEF CORONER: So I think the answer is that this
 6 officer wasn't aware if there was an entry made at 22:29
 7 and he has just clarified what he was aware of.
 8 MR ADAMSON: Yes. At 22:33 you were released from the
 9 search for Xavier. I say, "released from the search",
 10 it sounds to me from your earlier evidence that you
 11 decide whether or not you stay or go in terms of the
 12 search and rescue operation.
 13 A Generally speaking we will stay in a search and rescue
 14 operation until the Coastguard is satisfied that enough
 15 time and enough space and the parameters of the search
 16 have been covered, and on this occasion, the search and
 17 rescue element of that evening's response went on until
 18 he had called that, but by that stage for a certain
 19 proportion of that evening I had removed myself to deal
 20 with the people in danger in the pub.
 21 Q As far as you are concerned, was part of the rationale
 22 for releasing you from the search that there was
 23 uncertainty as to whether or not there was a casualty in
 24 the river?
 25 A I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

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1 Q Sorry, it was a long question. Was part of the
 2 rationale for you being released from the search that
 3 there was uncertainty about whether or not you were
 4 actually searching for a casualty in the water?
 5 A Not at all sir, no. Part of my rationale for making
 6 that decision was all the best efforts we had made would
 7 have recovered someone on the surface of the river in
 8 the vicinity of London Bridge, and with that in mind, I
 9 took the decision that my services and the services of
 10 my boat could be utilised better.
 11 Q Now, we know from the Coastguard incident log, the
 12 search efforts were stood down at 11:02?
 13 A Sir.
 14 Q Between your departure at 22:33 and 23:02 you were not
 15 involved in any further search operation, is that right
 16 you didn't return before 11:02?
 17 A I can't remember being stood down and leaving the scene
 18 without -- and leaving the lifeboats in the situation.
 19 We were there for the duration of the whole thing, and
 20 all the emergency services left -- I don't know where
 21 the stand-down came from or what that refers to. I
 22 would have to have a look at that.
 23 Q Well, we will pick that up with Mr Hayday who I think is
 24 the next witness.
 25 A We were -- we didn't leave the scene until hours later.

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1 We were -- we controlled the closure.
 2 Q You departed with the casualty?
 3 A Yes, and then returned.
 4 Q Do you remember what time you returned?
 5 A Unfortunately, I don't, sir. It was within five or ten
 6 minutes of dropping her off. Sorry, within five or ten
 7 minutes of picking her up, we were at St Thomas', and
 8 then we came straight back on blues to the scene to
 9 assist Marine 3 who were now continuing with the removal
 10 of people from the pub.
 11 Q Right. So you weren't, at that stage, involved in
 12 search operations?
 13 A No, sir.
 14 Q You were involved in evacuation?
 15 A Yes, sir.
 16 Q Now, a final topic, and I appreciate that we have
 17 focused on the events of the evening. It is a sad fact
 18 that Xavier wasn't found until 6 June.
 19 A That's correct, sir.
 20 Q Were you personally involved in any of the subsequent
 21 efforts to search for him?
 22 A No, sir, no. We were on night shift on the night of the
 23 incident, and we then went on to rest days for four, so
 24 the teams that would have come on, our standard practice
 25 is that we carry out low water searches for the next

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1 three days in the area that the person entered the water
 2 in the hope of recovering them as soon as possible.
 3 Q Now, for the benefit of the family, could you just
 4 explain what a low water search is? Why a low water
 5 search is conducted?
 6 A As the tide recedes, it exposes the foreshore of the
 7 River Thames, and the hope is that in the time the water
 8 is at its lowest, that the casualty may be exposed on
 9 the foreshore and they can be recovered rather than held
 10 in the body of the water for, as it was, the six days.
 11 Unfortunately none of those low water searches turned up
 12 anything.
 13 Q Would you ever do any other types of searches for
 14 a body?
 15 A In doing the low water searches you are patrolling that
 16 stretch of river anyway, so you are not just focused on
 17 the exposed foreshore, you are looking at the river, any
 18 barges that are tied up in the river where someone could
 19 have been caught, there are passive driftwood collectors
 20 which are open ended containers where driftwood flow
 21 into, we check those because it has been, in the past,
 22 where bodies have drifted into those and have sat in
 23 there, so we cover the river time and time again over
 24 the next few days in the hope to recover the casualty.
 25 Q You can understand from their perspective that it was

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1 a very distressing time: Three days elapsing, they have
 2 no idea, really, what had happened to their son, their
 3 partner?
 4 A Absolutely sir, I completely agree, sir.
 5 Q And in your experience, is this sort of time frame
 6 normal?
 7 A In summer, yes.
 8 Q In summer?
 9 A It's longer in winter. The physics of a body
 10 decomposing unfortunately, it happens quicker in the
 11 summer.
 12 MR ADAMSON: PC Bultitude, thank you very much for answering
 13 my questions.
 14 A Sir.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Horwell?
 16 Questions by MR HORWELL QC
 17 MR HORWELL: PC Bultitude, I appear on behalf of the
 18 Commissioner and I have got a few questions to ask you.
 19 I'm going to read from a sentence of your statement,
 20 there is no need for you to have it in front of you
 21 because I'm going to read it, but those who to have the
 22 part, it's page 2 of your second statement, and it
 23 starts about five lines down from the top:
 24 "I know from experience that the window of
 25 opportunity to recover a person after a fall from

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1 a bridge as high as London Bridge is very small, so both
 2 boats immediately conducted a 'hasty search ..."
 3 A Yes, sir.
 4 Q I'm going to come back to that term in a moment, but:
 5 "I know from experience that the window of
 6 opportunity to recover a person after a fall from
 7 a bridge as high as London Bridge is very small ..."
 8 Why is that?
 9 A It is a very tall bridge, and the fall is substantial,
 10 and the way a person enters the water can affect their
 11 chances of staying afloat on the surface for a time,
 12 allowing us to recover them. If someone falls flat onto
 13 the water, in essence, a belly flop, as it were, they
 14 tend to stay on the surface. If someone enters the
 15 water pencil-like, feet-first in a straight line, they
 16 will go under. If someone is unconscious when they go
 17 under, there is every opportunity, every chance, that
 18 they may not surface at all, depending on what they are
 19 wearing, if they have any injuries that would expel the
 20 air from them, for example, a body requires a lungful of
 21 air to float to the surface, and if that air isn't
 22 present they are not coming up, unfortunately.
 23 Q You have said on a number of occasions that you were
 24 searching for a body on the surface --
 25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q -- on the Thames. A body below the surface in
 2 conditions such as these, are you going to see it?
 3 A No, sir, unfortunately. No. We are purely -- we are
 4 only able to detect an object that is breaking the
 5 surface of the water. The River Thames is a silty
 6 river, it's got a clay bottom, and the clay gets
 7 circulated into the water body, and it creates a cloudy
 8 film that you can't see through, unfortunately, so even
 9 if someone is just below the surface, they would be
 10 undetectable, even with infrared technology, you won't
 11 be able to pierce that initial layer of water.
 12 Q In terms of the conditions that night, if there had been
 13 a body above the surface of the Thames where you had
 14 conducted your various searches, do you agree that there
 15 would have been a very strong probability of seeing it?
 16 A Given the speed that we responded to the incident, given
 17 the light conditions and the condition -- the tidal
 18 conditions of the river, the fact that we were able to
 19 get two boats to the scene rather than one, and the fact
 20 that we were presented with quite a small area to search
 21 because of the tidal situation, I'm convinced had Xavier
 22 been on the surface of the river, we would have
 23 recovered him on that evening.
 24 Q And perhaps there is little to add to the topic of the
 25 title of a "hasty search", you have accepted yourself

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1 it's not a very satisfactory title for the work
 2 involved.
 3 A No, sir.
 4 Q But just to put an end to this topic, or in an attempt
 5 to, the title, "hasty search", might indicate a casual,
 6 haphazard, without structure search. Is that, in fact,
 7 the case?
 8 A Nothing could be further from the truth, sir. I work
 9 with a very, very professional group of officers that
 10 have got a lot of experience, and we unfortunately deal
 11 with these sort of events on a daily basis. The "hasty
 12 search" is an unfortunate term, but it by no means
 13 suggests what we did was shoddy in any way. We covered
 14 every inch of that portion of the river in a desperate
 15 attempt to recover anyone that may have been there.
 16 Q Now, the diagram of -- I won't ask for it to be put up,
 17 we can all remember it -- the diagram that you have been
 18 shown has been created by specialised software. It is
 19 not fact, it does not rely on evidence from that section
 20 of the River Thames at 22:10 on 3 June 2017. It has
 21 been created by software to be fair to the witness who
 22 has presented it, the witness says that the software
 23 itself, the model, has been well validated over its
 24 lifetime, I don't seek to suggest otherwise, but the
 25 witness also says that the model used is akin to

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1 a weather forecast.
 2 A Sir.
 3 Q Bearing in mind the fact that you have said that the
 4 Thames can change from day-to-day, and no doubt from
 5 hour-to-hour, is there any substitute for being on the
 6 river and using your eyes and your experience?
 7 A No, absolutely not. Mariners use a tidal prediction to
 8 predict their navigation, that's done at the start of
 9 every year, but it is purely that, it is a prediction.
 10 The tide changes in response to climactic conditions,
 11 whether that be high or low air pressure, prevailing
 12 wind, or fresh rainwater run-off in reference to
 13 a river. We use the tides as a guide as to when the
 14 tide is going to be high or low but you are quite right,
 15 sir, nothing beats being on the river and judging
 16 conditions based on your experience and what is being
 17 presented to you in person.
 18 Q Now, you have been asked a number of questions about
 19 whether this was a search conducted in the certain
 20 knowledge that a person had fallen into the river, or on
 21 the basis that a person might have fallen in the river.
 22 Now, in your job, Police Constable Bultitude, is it
 23 relatively commonplace that you are called to a scene
 24 where there is the possibility that a person has fallen
 25 into the river?

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1 A It's -- more often than not, that's the case, and --
 2 Q Does it make any difference?
 3 A Absolutely not.
 4 Q And why is that?
 5 A Because we treat every incident the same way: There is
 6 an initial search and we have to treat every incident as
 7 if someone has entered the water and they are there to
 8 be found.
 9 Q If it was suggested that you don't try as hard in a case
 10 of a possibility, is there any validity to that?
 11 A None whatsoever, sir.
 12 Q You were asked a number of questions about the use of
 13 the camera.
 14 A Yes, sir.
 15 Q And you have given very full answers concerning its use,
 16 or its utility in these particular circumstances. You
 17 have said that on the conditions of that night, a visual
 18 search is best.
 19 A Yes, sir. Yes.
 20 Q Do you have any reason to change that decision from what
 21 you have heard in court today?
 22 A No. I agree that a suitable -- suitable technology
 23 would help in any search and rescue operation. Having
 24 the helicopter above is a great bit of kit because they
 25 can spot infrared sources better than we can. Maybe we

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1 should move towards hand-held devices so they can be
 2 trained on specific parts of the river more easily than
 3 trying to use a joystick on the bridge of my boat while
 4 I'm trying to drive.
 5 Q But on the equipment you had that night, was a visual
 6 search the best option?
 7 A Yes, sir, I believe it was.
 8 Q Obvious reference has been made to the fact that it was
 9 summer, 3 June of 2017, but notwithstanding the month of
 10 the year, was the temperature of the River Thames that
 11 night, after 10 o'clock, conducive to long-term
 12 survival?
 13 A I can't say what the temperature was at that time of
 14 year, sir, but I can say that the river is at its
 15 coldest in April where it has been cooling down all
 16 winter and it takes a while to warm up with the summer
 17 sun, and if you have a poor early summer, the river may
 18 still well be very cold. It's never more than 2 degrees
 19 centigrade, so if you are in there, no matter what time
 20 of year, you will suffer the effects of hypothermia
 21 eventually.
 22 MR HORWELL: Police Constable Bultitude, that's all I ask.
 23 Thank you.
 24 Questions by MR HOUGH QC
 25 MR HOUGH: Just one concluding question from me, sir. You

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1 referred to the difference between somebody falling into
 2 the water and remaining on the surface --
 3 A Yes.
 4 Q -- and falling into the water, as you described, in
 5 a pencil formation, and going under the surface.
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q From your very considerable experience, how common is it
 8 for somebody to fall into the water so that they go
 9 below the surface very quickly and remain there?
 10 A It's relatively common. I would say -- I can't give you
 11 exact numbers, but it's more than half of the time that
 12 someone will enter the water, it is highly likely they
 13 may never resurface until they are found some time
 14 later.
 15 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Officer, those are all my
 16 questions.
 17 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed. That is
 18 very helpful, thank you.
 19 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Ben Hayday.
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 21 MR BEN RICHARD HAYDAY (affirmed)
 22 Questions by MR HOUGH QC
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good afternoon, Mr Hayday. Please make
 24 yourself comfortable, either sitting or standing,
 25 whichever you prefer. As you may have seen, there is

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1 a lady interpreting for some who are listening, so if
 2 you can speak into the microphone that, I'm sure, will
 3 help her with her task, and bear in mind that in terms
 4 of speed in answering questions.
 5 A Yes, sir.
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
 7 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your full name for the
 8 court.
 9 A My name is Ben Richard Hayday.
 10 Q Mr Hayday, I'm asking questions first on behalf of the
 11 Coroner, then you will be asked some questions by some
 12 other lawyers. Do you understand?
 13 A I understand.
 14 Q You are giving evidence about the events of 3 June 2017
 15 about which you made a witness statement in February of
 16 this year.
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q In June 2017, were you a senior maritime operations
 19 officer for HM Coastguard?
 20 A Yes, sir.
 21 Q For how long had you been working for the Coastguard by
 22 that time?
 23 A I joined in April 2012.
 24 Q So about five years?
 25 A Thereabouts.

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1 Q Had you been working for most of that time in London?
 2 A Yes, sir, I moved to London after six months.
 3 Q On the evening of 3 June 2017 were you working a night
 4 shift as a duty officer?
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q What area of river were you covering?
 7 A I cover the tidal River Thames that runs between Canvey
 8 Island and Teddington Lock.
 9 Q What was your role as the duty officer that night?
 10 A My role is to coordinate search and rescue on the tidal
 11 river.
 12 Q Were you in an operations room for that purpose?
 13 A That's correct. I'm in an operations room co-located
 14 with the Port of London.
 15 Q Where was that operations room?
 16 A That's at the Thames Barrier.
 17 Q By way of communications, did you have two radio
 18 channels through which to communicate and coordinate
 19 search and rescue?
 20 A Yes. I have channel 0 and I have an airwave channel,
 21 emergency services 3.
 22 Q If you could try to keep your voice up as the Coroner
 23 said, somebody is trying to listen and translate.
 24 A Apologies.
 25 Q Thank you. Were you notified that evening by the

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1 Metropolitan Police Service Marine Support Unit of an
 2 incident in the area of London Bridge?
 3 A Yes, I was.
 4 Q Were events about this incident and your response to it
 5 recorded in a log?
 6 A That is correct.
 7 Q May we bring that on screen because I think you have had
 8 reference to it to refresh your memory.
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q {DC6822/1}. Now, this gives an incident number in the
 11 top left, and records that the incident is taken by you,
 12 B Hayday.
 13 A That's correct.
 14:56:40 14 Q It gives the time as 21:15:46. Are all times in this
 14 log one hour behind?
 15 A They are, yes.
 16 Q What does the time of the incident being taken indicate?
 17 A That's the time that I have created the job, so as the
 18 information is coming in to me, that is the time that
 19 I have entered it into the system as a valid job.
 20 Q May we move two pages forward to page 3 of this document
 21 {DC6822/3}. If we look at the log we see references to
 22 call collection at 21:14. What do those mean?
 23 A That's when I started running a job and started entering
 24 the details, and if you look to, "created" at 21:15,

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1 that is when I finished entering the initial details and
 2 the system accepted it as a job.
 3 Q Now, the details at the top of the page refer to
 4 a search and rescue mission to locate a casualty, and
 5 a road traffic collision on London Bridge with one
 6 casualty believed in water.
 7 A Yes.
 8 Q Were those the initial details you obtained?
 9 A The initial details I obtained were specifically the
 10 road traffic collision London Bridge. That I received
 11 from the marine police.
 12 Q By that stage, 22:14 to 22:15 we have heard that two
 13 police vessels were already on scene?
 14 A That is correct.
 15 Q What was your first action as the Coastguard duty
 16 officer?
 17 A My first action was to move Tower lifeboat.
 18 Q That's the RNLI boat at Tower station?
 19 A That's correct.
 20 Q If we move over to the next page, please {DC6822/4}, and
 21 then the next please, page {DC6822/5}. And then the
 22 next, please, page 6 {DC6822/6}. Keep that on screen,
 23 please. The RNLI lifeboat, you record, arrived at the
 24 scene at about 10:20; is that right?
 25 A That is correct.

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1 Q What did you expect that the two police vessels and the
2 lifeboat would do when they arrived at the scene?
3 A Conduct a hasty search of the area.
4 Q Now there has been some questions about that. In your
5 own words, what is a hasty search and what does it
6 involve?
7 A It is a search of the immediate vicinity aiming for the
8 highest probability of detection.
9 Q In practice, what will a vessel such as one of these
10 police vessels do to carry out a hasty search on the
11 Thames when a person or object falls from a bridge?
12 A There will be a dynamic search, as I said, of the
13 immediate area. In the case of London Bridge, obviously
14 there are three arches, and then you have got mooring
15 buoys towards the north shore. These are places where
16 a casualty could possibly hold on or self-rescue. Those
17 are likely places to search. I would expect them to do
18 an absolute search of that vicinity, allowing for drift
19 and any places where the casualty may have got caught up
20 or be able to assist themselves.
21 Q It has been suggested that the term, "hasty search", is
22 a bit of a misnomer, and that it does have a degree of
23 structure to it. Is that something you would agree or
24 disagree with?
25 A I would concur. It is a terrible name but that is the

1 name in our book.
2 Q Is there any logical rationale to having one of these
3 types of searches before the kind of line abreast search
4 which happened later?
5 A Yes. The hasty search is the initial area and should be
6 conducted before the target has drifted a great
7 distance. The line abreast line-up searches would be
8 more appropriate directly to a sort of mid-tide when you
9 have got 3-3.5 knots of tide and you are very much
10 worried about the casualty escaping.
11 Q Is the hasty search in any way a reflection of the
12 urgency of finding somebody in the immediate vicinity?
13 A I think that's fair to say.
14 Q Now, returning to your log, at around the time you have
15 told us the Tower lifeboat arrived, you record at 21:20,
16 so 10:20 in real time, towards the bottom of the page:
17 "Shots fired Borough Market, request vessels cleared
18 from Tower Bridge to Blackfriars Bridge".
19 What does that entry reflect?
20 A That's me echoing a call that was made to the Port of
21 London Authority from the same building. That is
22 a request, I believe, from the police to the Harbour
23 Master to close the river.
24 Q Obviously not closing it to the vessels which were
25 involved in the search?

1 A That would not involve the search and rescue vessels,
2 no.
3 Q Did you, when you were involved in the early stages of
4 this operation, take a view based on the state of the
5 tide about the likely movement of any object or person
6 in the water?
7 A Yes.
8 Q What view was that? If it helps to look at your main
9 witness statement, this is at page 3.
10 A What I have logged at 22:22 local is, I have requested
11 from the lifeboat a description of the state of tide and
12 they have told me we still have half a knot of flow. I
13 have noted in here the tide was definitely late, and I
14 have noted that slack water should have been at 22:13
15 and it wasn't, we still had half a knot of flood. That
16 is the difference between the prediction and the actual.
17 Q Just to confirm this, can we go to the next page in the
18 log please, page 7 {DC6822/7} and if we look at the --
15:03:48 19 towards the top of the page, 21:22:32, "Environment
19 info. 0.5 knots flood [tide]".
20 A That's correct, yes.
21 Q And that is information from the Tower lifeboat --
22 A Yes.
23 Q -- as this records. So your view, your information from
24 the vessel at the scene was that that was the state of

1 the tide. In your witness statement you said, you say,
2 at the top of the first paragraph on page 3, that:
3 "Given the timings of high tide, it was likely that
4 any object going into the water would have remained
5 roughly around the point of entry."
6 A That's correct.
7 Q Is that based on a calculation or just your experience
8 as a Coastguard officer?
9 A At that time, that's based on my experience.
10 Q Did you, however, as the log records, at 22:25, perform
11 a calculation to assess possible or probable drift?
12 A Yes, that's correct.
13 Q What was that calculation? Can you help us by
14 interpreting the log entry?
15 A The calculation is that distance is speed multiplied by
16 time, and then I used a separate spreadsheet to keep
17 track of the state of tide and the elapsed time.
18 Q So do we see there that --
19 A It's not in the log, no.
20 Q Pardon, sorry?
21 A That isn't in the log.
22 Q No. But do we see there that in the log you refer to
23 a "drift distance search area to Cannon Bridge, 300
24 metres."
25 A That's correct.

1 Q Is that the result of your distance and speed
2 calculation?
3 A It is.
4 THE CHIEF CORONER: And the reference to 1 cable?
5 A My understanding is that I would assess the drift
6 distance to about a cable, and then we would always
7 round-up and take to the nearest landmark, so the
8 nearest landmark being Cannon Street Bridge which is
9 300 metres away from London Bridge.
10 THE CHIEF CORONER: And those of us who don't often express
11 things in cables --
12 A It is a tenth of a nautical mile, which is roughly
13 speaking, 185 metres.
14 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
15 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much.
16 Now, by the time that you were performing this
17 calculation, I think another RNLI lifeboat was on the
18 scene.
19 A That's correct.
20 Q You therefore had four vessels on the scene. What
21 directions did you give to them?
22 A To form up for a line abreast search inbound from
23 London Bridge to Cannon Street Bridge.
24 Q And is that the entry we see that we have just been
25 looking at, "Line abreast search for 300 metres"?

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1 A Yes.
2 Q Just describe for us, if you will, what a line abreast
3 search involves. We have heard a little about this from
4 PC Bultitude, but in your own words.
5 A The search assets would form up in a line equally spaced
6 across the river and then proceed at an agreed pace
7 through the search area.
8 Q So if we look at a document on screen, please
9 {WS2014A/9}, we will see in a moment a map on which you
10 made some annotations showing what a line abreast search
11 from London Bridge would look like?
12 A Yes.
13 Q Based on your log, you chose the stretch of river as
14 London Bridge to Cannon Street because of your
15 calculation of the distance and speed?
16 A Yes, that's correct.
17 Q Did you allow for any margin for error?
18 A Yes, I always round-up.
19 Q Now, I don't know if you have seen in court, but
20 a document has been shown based on a computer model
21 which suggests a tidal speed at that time in the
22 London Bridge area in the centre of the river of around
23 0.5 metres per second or 1 knot, so about twice the
24 figure you calculated, or rather, you used based on the
25 RNLI information. Is it at all unusual to find

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1 a difference between observations at the scene and that
2 sort of modelling?
3 A Yes.
4 Q What would you trust or rely upon?
5 A The actual conditions.
6 Q In a sentence or two, it may be obvious to you, but to
7 help us, why is that?
8 A The predictions of tide are a model, similar to weather
9 forecasting. They are subject to all sorts of
10 influences, be that atmospheric, be that fluvial, that
11 is flood water from upriver, wind direction and speed,
12 all could influence it. The Port of London itself, and
13 I have this on my screen, maintain the predicted tide as
14 a sine(?) graph and then live, the actual as it is, and
15 you will note from this incident, high water should have
16 been at 22:13 and it wasn't, it came about half an hour
17 later. That's the prediction versus reality.
18 Q Thank you. So you chose the stretch of river for the
19 search, but was the speed of the search, the speed of
20 the boats passing up and down, determined by the
21 Metropolitan Police units?
22 A I believe so. It would be the responsibility of the
23 on-scene commander which in this instance was the marine
24 police.
25 Q Did you, however, coordinate the search by radio?

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1 A I did, yes.
2 Q When doing so, did you have access to CCTV cameras
3 covering the Thames?
4 A Yes. Within reason. The police are able to overrule me
5 on any camera I'm using, they have priority, and
6 obviously a terrorist incident, I'm not going to be
7 manipulating cameras.
8 Q Did you, on this occasion, have any access to cameras
9 which gave you sight over the Thames?
10 A I did.
11 Q Is it also the case that when the helicopter became
12 involved in the search, relatively early on, you had
13 access to live footage from the helicopter?
14 A That is correct.
15 Q Were there any other types of search available to you to
16 instruct the vessels to undertake, other than line
17 abreast?
18 A Not that would have been appropriate.
19 Q Any that would have been inappropriate which you ruled
20 out?
21 A Not at the time, no. Our main types of searches are
22 designed for at sea and would never be suitable in
23 central London.
24 Q May we please return to the log {DC6882/7}. We see the
25 next entry in the log after the one we were just looking

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1 at is at 22:26 referring to the river being closed from
 2 Tower to Blackfriars Bridge. Was that the result of the
 3 decision you were referred to earlier?
 4 A That's correct. That was the duty officer at Port of
 5 London.
 6 Q May we then go over the page, sorry, over two pages to
 15:12:12 7 page {DC6822/9}? We now see an entry, 21:31:28. Two
 7 entries. First of all:
 8 "Execution changed from to London [Coastguard] will
 9 coordinate a line abreast search from London Bridge to
 10 expanding search area."
 11 Can you explain to us what that entry means?
 12 A That has been echoed from the search mission plan which
 13 is not as appropriate in London as it is around the
 14 coast. It's a mission briefing that is aimed to give
 15 the search mission coordinator, that is me, an
 16 aide-memoire for briefing an ops room team with their
 17 individual responsibilities.
 18 Q What does it mean in practice though?
 19 A I'm obliged to fill that form in whether I use it or not
 20 so I was using the time I had to -- so the execution of
 21 the mission, the mission is a search and rescue mission
 22 to find a person in the water. Our execution is I will
 23 coordinate a line abreast search beginning at
 24 London Bridge and moving into an expanding area.

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1 Q I see. So that entry doesn't indicate any change in
 2 what is happening on the ground?
 3 A No.
 4 Q And similarly, the entry "Situation changed from to
 5 person in water in London Bridge", doesn't indicate any
 6 change either?
 7 A No, the categories for the mission briefing are
 8 situation, mission, execution, any questions and
 9 confirmation.
 10 Q I see.
 11 A So if those appear in the log, that is purely from the
 12 mission briefing.
 13 Q Then we have an entry at 22:32 referring to Operation
 14 Plato being declared. We have heard what Operation
 15 Plato is. Then you, I think, have entered that from the
 16 CCTV, London Bridge and the River Thames is not within
 17 the sphere of the Operation Plato declaration so you are
 18 not suspending the search at that time.
 19 A That's correct.
 20 Q So you were maintaining the search despite the work of
 21 the police against the terrorists on the ground?
 22 A Yes, I was.
 23 Q We then have an entry, 21:33 42, so 10.33, that you have
 24 entered:
 25 "Releasing from search to evacuate female casualty

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1 from south bank suffering knife wounds to neck."
 2 What does that indicate?
 3 A That was Marine Police 3 being released from the search.
 4 They had evacuated a female casualty from the south bank
 5 and they wanted to transport her to hospital.
 6 Q We have heard that it was Marine Unit 2 which was
 7 involved in that evacuation. Is that a possible --
 8 A That is very possible.
 9 Q Yes. We have also heard from Mr Bultitude, who was
 10 master of Marine 2, that he didn't require your
 11 authority to be released from the search, and that he
 12 made that decision for himself. Is that also possible?
 13 A It is possible, but the Coastguard does retain primacy
 14 for search and rescue. I'm not entirely certain the
 15 exact legalities of that.
 16 Q Did you take a view on whether the vessel ought to be
 17 released, though, at the time?
 18 A Yes. I had four vessels. Routinely for a job of that
 19 size, three would be the number of vessels. I would
 20 still have had three vessels, including two lifeboats.
 21 I was comfortable to release one of the vessels.
 22 Q In your witness statement you say this: That a search
 23 should be arranged to achieve a 97 per cent chance of
 24 detecting a surface target, so that's somebody on the
 25 water's surface; is that right?

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1 A That is correct.
 2 Q And you also say that experience indicates that that
 3 requires one boat making one pass down a stretch of
 4 river.
 5 A That is also correct, yes.
 6 Q And here you had had four vessels making more than that.
 7 A Yes.
 8 Q Would there be any value in keeping more vessels on
 9 search duty in case the body had gone under the water?
 10 A Unfortunately, no. Once a body goes under the water
 11 there is nothing we can do.
 12 Q In your log, you have entered that:
 13 "Something [was] believed to have entered the river.
 14 I note that two passes at essentially slack water have
 15 provided no trace -- strongly suspect no surface
 16 target".
 17 Was that an entry you made at the time?
 18 A Yes, it was.
 19 Q And so was it your assessment at the time that it was
 20 unlikely that anyone remained on the surface?
 21 A Yes, it was.
 22 Q Was your view over any of this period of time influenced
 23 by questions about whether it might be a person or an
 24 object?
 25 A No, it wasn't. We treat them both the same.

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1 Q By this time, what was your view about the prospect of
2 finding somebody alive?
3 A By this time, I was very doubtful that we would be
4 successful.
5 Q May we now move on to the next phase of the search
6 because it continued, and return and go to the next
7 entry in the log please {DC6822/10}. Do we see
8 a reference to a fire boat also involved?
9 A Yes. My colleague who was not in the same office as me
10 but was supporting me has taken a call from the fire
11 boat offering their services.
12 Q Did the fire boat also become involved in the search?
13 A It was not, no.
14 Q Next entry, 21:39, so 10.39 in real time, we see another
15 entry from you saying that the search area had been
16 expanded to Southwark Bridge with the vessels now on
17 a fourth pass with no trace.
18 A Yes, that's correct.
19 Q And is this right, that you expand the search as time
20 goes by because of the greater drift distance in the
21 water?
22 A That is exactly correct.
23 Q You add:
24 "I have exaggerated all figures in search planning,
25 a surface target would be within search area, also tide

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1 is dropping all the time".
2 A Yes.
3 Q So when you were making your calculations for drift
4 distance, you were allowing margins of error again?
5 A Yes.
6 Q And you were also noting here that, of course, the tide
7 was dropping over time and so the speed of any object in
8 the water would be expected to drop.
9 A That's correct, but also I have an update from the
10 lifeboat at 22:45 local saying there is a still slight
11 flood, but I will not have changed the numbers from half
12 a knot of flood until 22:50 local when I was informed
13 that it had turned. So the level of exaggeration is
14 quite high.
15 Q And over that time were you continuing, as we see at
16 10:45, to obtain information about the flood current
17 from the vessels at the scene?
18 A That's correct.
19 Q If we move over to the next page, please, {DC6822/11},
20 can we see an entry, first of all, at 10:50 recording
21 that the tide had turned?
22 A Yes, that's correct.
23 Q And then the next entry appears to be a communication
24 between you and the -- one of the RNLI vessels; is that
25 right?

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1 A That is right.
2 Q Is that you asking whether there is an outstanding
3 surface target or the vessel?
4 A That is me asking the lifeboat. This is the beginning
5 of my considering terminating the search.
6 Q And the answer is, "neg", that is negative?
7 A That's correct.
8 Q "This area has been thoroughly searched by four units".
9 A Yes.
10 Q And what is, "RGR"?
11 A "Roger, received".
12 Q I see. So you had asked that because you were
13 considering terminating the search, and it may be an
14 obvious question, an obvious answer, but why were you
15 thinking of terminating the search?
16 A The number of passes with the number of assets was
17 strongly indicating that there was no surface target.
18 Q And then the next page, please, page {DC6822/12}, if we
15:21:42 19 look at an entry, 22:02:02, so this is just after
19 11.00 pm, you have entered:
20 "Discussed with lifeboat and controller. This
21 search has saturated the area with no trace, standing
22 down search."
23 A Yes.
24 Q Is that you recording a decision to end the search?

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1 A Yes, it is.
2 Q Who is the controller whom you are referring to in that
3 entry?
4 A The controller would be my line manager whose approval
5 is required for the search termination.
6 Q Now, a little further down the page we see a controller
7 message asking whether it is clear that persons did or
8 didn't enter the water, and you responding that you
9 didn't have a clear idea.
10 A That's correct.
11 Q We have heard that in the minutes after Xavier Thomas
12 went into the water at 22:07, there were a number of
13 reports to the police indicating that it was a person
14 that had gone into the water. Evidently that certainty
15 had not communicated itself to you.
16 A No.
17 Q But once again, did any question about it being a person
18 or an object influence any of your decision-making?
19 A No.
20 Q And is it common or uncommon to have a situation where
21 you get reports of something going into the water
22 without certainty whether it is a person or an object?
23 A Very common.
24 Q After that discussion was the search, in fact, called
25 off?

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1 A Yes.
 2 Q Did you remain on duty, though, co-ordinating vessels
 3 and monitoring and assisting with evacuation work that
 4 was being done by the vessels?
 5 A I remained on duty, but as my primacy only covered
 6 search and rescue, having discussed it with the lifeboat
 7 skipper, they were keen to see if they could help, and I
 8 donated their resources to the police.
 9 Q May we bring up a document, please, on screen
 10 {DC8217/1}? This is a Maritime and Coastguard Agency
 11 document concerning search suspension and termination.
 12 It sets out under, "Consider", a series of steps to be
 13 taken into account when deciding to terminate searching:
 14 "Is it safe to continue searching.
 15 "Is there any chance of finding casualty alive .
 16 "Is there high or potentially adverse media
 17 interest .
 18 "Informing the Press Office .
 19 "Is there a need for welfare support ..."
 20 Is that a set of considerations you were aware of at
 21 the time?
 22 A Yes.
 23 Q Did you take those into account in making your decision?
 24 A Yes.
 25 Q We can take that off the scene now.

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1 Were you aware that searches were resumed on the
 2 following days to locate, and with the ultimate result
 3 of locating Xavier's body?
 4 A No, I was not involved.
 5 Q May we look at a couple of images which have been
 6 prepared by the police investigating this which show the
 7 movements of the RNLI vessels using tracking data?
 8 First of all, can we have on screen {MP0001/1}. Can we
 9 see by this rather complicated picture, the tracking
 10 data which shows the area of river searched by one of
 11 the RNLI vessels, this one call sign E07 in the course
 12 of the line abreast search?
 13 A Yes.
 14 Q Would that sort of set of movements accord with your
 15 understanding of the searches you coordinated and
 16 directed?
 17 A I'm not entirely certain why it stretches to Millennium
 18 Bridge there, but the parts between London Bridge and
 19 Southwark Bridge and just above, absolutely.
 20 Q And then {MP0002/1}, the movements of E09, would you say
 21 the same thing?
 22 A Yes, I would.
 23 Q That most of the movements reflect the search which you
 24 had directed?
 25 A Yes. I would also point out the limits of the accuracy

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1 of that software. If you note to the top shore, an
 2 awful lot of that search is on land.
 3 Q Yes.
 4 THE CHIEF CORONER: That would be quite a challenge.
 5 MR HOUGH: That perhaps shows the limits of tracking,
 6 assuming these aren't amphibious vessels.
 7 A That's correct.
 8 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are all my questions.
 9 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Adamson, can I -- I wasn't planning
 10 to take a break because I'm conscious that there are
 11 some other witnesses to come. That's not in any way to
 12 put any pressure on you, I'm just anxious that we don't
 13 disrupt other witnesses.
 14 Questions by MR ADAMSON
 15 MR ADAMSON: I'm conscious of that.
 16 Mr Hayday, my name is Dominic Adamson and I ask
 17 questions on behalf of the parents of Xavier Thomas, and
 18 Christine Delcros, his partner.
 19 Mr Hayday, we have looked in some detail at your log
 20 during the course of Mr Hough's questions, and if we
 21 could go back to that document, I just want to pick up
 22 on a few points if I may. It's {DC6822/1}.
 23 Now, if one looks at the top of that page, we see
 24 a number of times. We see your name, and it is taken by
 15:29:02 25 B Hayday at 21:15:46. Is that right?

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1 A That's correct.
 2 Q So in effect, this is the first time that you are aware
 3 of this incident; is that right?
 4 A I'm aware of the incident at the call time, which is
 15:29:17 5 22:14:01 local. That's when I have started entering
 6 information to create a job and the 21:15 is when I have
 7 finished entering that information and the job is now
 8 active.
 9 Q So -- I see, so that, if one goes to page 3 of that
 15:29:36 10 document {DC6822/3} -- sorry, 21:14:01 which --
 11 A Is where I have started.
 12 Q -- as we know is --
 13 A So it's approximately a minute, a minute and a half.
 14 Q -- that is simply you picking up the phone, effectively?
 15 A Effectively, yes.
 16 Q I see. Now, at that stage, do you know when the
 17 casualty is suspected to have entered the water?
 18 A No, I don't.
 19 Q At any stage after that point, did you have information
 20 on when the casualty entered the water?
 21 A I don't know.
 22 Q You don't know?
 23 A No.
 24 Q You don't know whether you had the information or you
 25 never knew the time when he entered the water?

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1 A I don't know at the moment if I had the information
 2 inasmuch as the system we were using at the time, I had
 3 my computer in front of me but our CAD receiving system
 4 was separate and to one side and not linked, so I would
 5 have had the time when that CAD was generated which I
 6 now understand to have been 22:08. I don't know when I
 7 found that out on the night.
 8 Q Right. So nothing about this incident log, at least if
 9 I have understood it correctly, indicates that at any
 10 stage after 21:15, you knew that the casualty entered
 11 the water at some point prior to 22:08; is that fair?
 12 A That is fair.
 13 Q In terms of searching for a casualty, a search and
 14 rescue operation, and we have looked earlier today at
 15 some documents which showed the information that is
 16 necessary for a search, knowing when the casualty
 17 entered the water is a crucial piece of information; do
 18 you agree?
 19 A I do.
 20 Q And if you don't know that piece of information, it's
 21 likely that any assumptions that you make as to where
 22 the casualty might be are likely to be flawed; is that
 23 fair to say?
 24 A It would have knock-on effects, but that is why we
 25 exaggerate the figures as well.

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1 Q Now, at the time when you pick up the call, seven
 2 minutes have elapsed since he entered the water.
 3 A Yes.
 4 Q Because we know that he was struck at approximately
 5 10:07.
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q By the time that you effectively take the job, 8 minutes
 8 have elapsed.
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q By the time the RNLI boats reached the scene,
 11 13.5 minutes have elapsed.
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q And by the time that the line abreast search was
 14 arranged, 18.5 minutes had elapsed?
 15 A Yes.
 16 Q Now, as I understand your evidence, at all times you
 17 were operating on an assumption that water flow was half
 18 a knot?
 19 A That is correct, I asked the lifeboat.
 20 Q Yes. And so is it fair to say that in calculating
 21 a search area, you will take the speed of the water --
 22 A Yes.
 23 Q -- and you will multiply it by the time --
 24 A Yes, that is correct.
 25 Q -- that that person has been in the water?

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1 A That's correct.
 2 Q Now, if you have no information about the second half of
 3 that calculation, it's likely, isn't it, that any
 4 calculation that you conduct is guesswork?
 5 A If I had no information, that is correct. The original
 6 CAD would have come in here on a different computer so
 7 it's not in this log. Now, if that came in and told me
 8 it was an initial time of 10:08, I would have rounded
 9 that back to 10:05 and used that as my time.
 10 Q Right.
 11 A We would work on the sort of assumption that the time
 12 the CAD is created is very close to the time of the
 13 incident.
 14 Q I will be corrected if I'm wrong, but half a knot, as
 15 I understand it, is about 0.25 metres per second. Does
 16 that sound right to you?
 17 A I don't know in those terms, but it does sound --
 18 Q I did a Google search.
 19 A I would be happy with that then.
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Always dangerous, Mr Adamson.
 21 MR ADAMSON: Which means 15 metres a minute.
 22 Now, if one turns to your log, 6822/7, page 7 of the
 23 document {DC6822/7}, your calculation is of 1 cable.
 24 A Yes.
 25 Q Which is 185 metres, I think you told us.

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1 A Yes.
 2 Q But in fact, we know that the casualty had been in the
 3 water by then for 18.5 minutes. Now, 18.5 times 15
 4 takes you up to 280 metres or so.
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q 277 metres 50 centimetres, I think. Now, I appreciate
 7 you round-up when you carry out these assessments, but
 8 does that sound to you as if your calculation was
 9 significantly out?
 10 A It sounds like I haven't used the correct start time
 11 because I didn't know it at the time.
 12 THE CHIEF CORONER: Just before you leave this document,
 13 Mr Adamson, we see at just the 300 metres just below --
 14 you may be coming on to this.
 15 MR ADAMSON: I was about to -- yes.
 16 THE CHIEF CORONER: Right. In which case I will wait for
 17 your question.
 18 MR ADAMSON: If you had identified that the drift distance
 19 was 270 metres, 280 metres, there or thereabouts --
 20 A Yes.
 21 Q -- because I appreciate this is not a precise science,
 22 what margin for error would you have introduced in those
 23 circumstances?
 24 A If I was certain of the figures I would have still run
 25 to Cannon Street for that particular pass, but those

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1 passes would expand each time.
 2 Q Now, we see from the entry that the area to Cannon
 3 Bridge is 300 metres.
 4 A Yes.
 5 Q So the effect of your last answer that even though you
 6 made an erroneous assumption, seemingly, you wouldn't
 7 have reached any different conclusion?
 8 A I believe so.
 9 Q Leave aside bridge landmarks for the moment. What is
 10 the typical margin for error that you would allow,
 11 having regard to an assumed potential drift distance?
 12 A In London, as little as possible because of the
 13 constraints of the river. When we search in open sea,
 14 the pool of error is calculated very differently.
 15 Q Yes. It's just that your estimate, your 1 cable
 16 estimate you have told us was 185 metres --
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q -- and you have allowed, or a search area of 300 metres
 19 which is over a 50 per cent margin for error?
 20 A Yes. That is the nearest landmark and the next one
 21 would be Southwark Bridge. I would extend. It is very
 22 hard to instruct the lifeboat to go an extra 10 metres,
 23 15 metres, we just go to the next obvious landmark for
 24 turning.
 25 Q So do you regard there as having been a deficiency in

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1 the systems available to you at the time in terms of
 2 enabling you to ascertain exactly when a casualty went
 3 into the water?
 4 A I don't know if I would say it is a deficiency in the
 5 system, I would agree that that information would have
 6 been very pertinent and helpful and due to the ongoing
 7 situation, it wasn't available.
 8 Q What sort of information were you supplied by the marine
 9 police units as to their efforts to warn off people on
 10 the coastline from entering what was a potentially
 11 extremely dangerous area?
 12 A My only awareness is when they asked to be released to
 13 evacuate a casualty.
 14 Q So you weren't aware that those involved in your search
 15 efforts were, in fact, directing people on the coastline
 16 to move away from the area?
 17 A No, I was not.
 18 Q Would that information have had a bearing on decisions
 19 that you took as to the nature of the searches that were
 20 being performed?
 21 A I was happy to lose one asset, three is enough for
 22 a search of that. I would have been wary if I had lost
 23 two assets and known, I would have considered
 24 alternative arrangements.
 25 Q You see, we heard evidence earlier today that when radio

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1 communications indicated that there had been gunfire,
 2 the officers on board those vessels were directing
 3 people on the sides away from the area, and one
 4 understands why they were doing that, but when they are
 5 doing tasks of that nature, it is likely that they are
 6 not really going to be as focused on search efforts?
 7 A I agree.
 8 Q And so that is information that you would like to know,
 9 surely?
 10 A Yes, that's information I should have known.
 11 Q You should have known?
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q And you weren't informed?
 14 A That's correct.
 15 Q And you would have expected to be informed?
 16 A I would, yes.
 17 Q You were asked questions about the term, "hasty search".
 18 Everyone seems to agree it is not a very appropriate
 19 term.
 20 A I agree, it is a terrible name.
 21 Q We know that when they arrived, the marine support units
 22 performed a hasty search for a period of time.
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q We also understand from your evidence that the RNLI
 25 boats involved themselves in a hasty search.

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1 A They were tasked to hasty search. I would expect them
 2 to communicate with the on-scene coordinator as they
 3 arrived on the scene and not duplicate work.
 4 Q Well, that was the point that I was coming to. You
 5 surely would expect there to be clear lines of
 6 communication between the Marine Support Unit boats and
 7 the RNLI boats so that everyone was clear as to what had
 8 been searched already?
 9 A Yes.
 10 Q And for how long?
 11 A Yes.
 12 Q So that there could then be a reasoned decision as to
 13 what sort of search to perform next.
 14 A Yes, and with the marine police unit and the lifeboats
 15 working together daily, I have no doubt that happened.
 16 Q I see. Given that you had, on the face of it, two
 17 vessels doing hasty searches, ie this is marine police
 18 unit vessels, from, perhaps, 22:14 up to 22:20 when the
 19 RNLI lifeboats arrived, would you have been expected to
 20 have been informed that a hasty search had been
 21 performed for six minutes or so already?
 22 A It would certainly be helpful. I don't think I would
 23 expect that. I knew they were on the scene.
 24 Q Because it is another five minutes before a line abreast
 25 search is directed.

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1 A Yes.
 2 Q It is you who makes that decision for the line abreast
 3 search?
 4 A It is, yes.
 5 Q Because you can understand from the family and partner's
 6 perspective, it's difficult to comprehend that it takes
 7 18.5 minutes in those circumstances before a search of
 8 that nature is performed.
 9 A The nature of the hasty search is such that it was the
 10 most appropriate at the time and should have been
 11 successful.
 12 Q What would you have expected the marine police vessels
 13 to have done with their infrared equipment?
 14 A I wouldn't expect anything from them and their infrared,
 15 that is their policies. The only infrared camera I have
 16 any use for is the heli-telly on the police helicopter.
 17 I have never directed the police to use infrared. I do
 18 not know how good their infrared is. I do know how good
 19 it is on the helicopter.
 20 Q So you have never had cause to direct them to utilise
 21 that asset?
 22 A No. When I put them into a search I'm considering the
 23 mark 1 human eyeball.
 24 Q Right, but they are a resource which is dedicated to you
 25 in certain circumstances.

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1 A Yes. In terms of a search asset, I have never taken it
 2 upon myself to tell them how to do that search, other
 3 than "it is a line abreast search in this direction",
 4 I have never felt the need to say, "And I expect you to
 5 turn on your infrared".
 6 Q I will ask you the question, what's the point of having
 7 the equipment unless you are going to use it and if you
 8 are directing searches, why not have someone in your
 9 position determining whether or not such equipment
 10 should be used?
 11 A I think that decision would be made at a higher level
 12 than myself.
 13 Q Have you ever known the Marine Support Unit to use their
 14 equipment in searches that you have been co-ordinating?
 15 A I don't think so, no. I don't remember any case where
 16 that has been mentioned.
 17 Q Do the RNLI boats have that technology?
 18 A No.
 19 Q And it sounds from your answers that the fact that
 20 police boats are equipped with that technology and RNLI
 21 boats are not equipped with that technology would have
 22 no impact on your decision-making process?
 23 A That's correct.
 24 Q Even though that might mean releasing a boat which has
 25 equipment which might be able to assist?

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1 A I'm not sure that I understand.
 2 Q Well, in this instance, we know that Marine 2 was
 3 released.
 4 A Yes.
 5 Q It had the equipment.
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q You released it from the search.
 8 A Yes. In that case the answer is no, it would not have
 9 affected my decision-making.
 10 Q Now, you have explained to the court that you had access
 11 to CCTV cameras. Did anything on the CCTV cameras
 12 indicate to you that the line abreast search was not
 13 being carried out in the way that you would have liked
 14 it to be carried out?
 15 A No. Those weren't cameras I had access to at the time.
 16 Q They were not?
 17 A Not that side of London Bridge, no.
 18 Q So you couldn't see it?
 19 A No.
 20 Q And we have been shown those diagrams which show the GPS
 21 tracking of the two boats.
 22 A Yes.
 23 Q I'm glad you raised the point about them being on land
 24 because I hadn't been able to understand that myself, so
 25 that technology is not terribly helpful in locating

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1 where the boats were at any particular time. Is that
 2 what you are saying?
 3 A That particular one, no.
 4 Q When did you become aware that the Marine 2 boat had
 5 nosed up to the shoreline and two of its officers had
 6 left the boat and then brought a casualty on to the
 7 boat? Your log {DC6822/9}, may help?
 8 A I think that's what I'm looking for. Yes. So 22:33
 9 local time when I released them from search.
 10 Q And so just so I understand what you were aware of, at
 11 that time, we know from PC Bultitude's evidence that he
 12 manoeuvred his boat up to the shore, some officers had
 13 got off, gone upstairs, gone into the pub, spoken to
 14 some officers, that they had been in there for some time
 15 and emerged with a casualty and that had taken some
 16 minutes, was the evidence that had been given by
 17 PC Bultitude. Were you aware of any of that, as it was
 18 happening?
 19 A No. The only awareness I have is when I have released
 20 them from search.
 21 Q The next stage in the chronology that I would like to
 15:51:33 22 take you to, if I may, is that at 21:39:48 {DC6822/10},
 22 so search area has expanded at that time.
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q And, of course, I don't wish to cover off ground we have

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1 already covered, but even at this stage you still didn't
 2 know when the casualty had entered the water.
 3 A No.
 4 Q 21:45:
 5 "Still slight flood current - not slack yet."
 6 A Yes.
 7 Q So it's still coming in?
 8 A It is.
 9 Q Water is still coming in at that time?
 10 A But very slightly .
 11 Q Very slightly .
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q We heard from PC Bultitude earlier today that the slack
 14 period can last about 15 minutes or so.
 15 A Yes.
 16 Q Do you agree with that?
 17 A It certainly can.
 18 Q It can? So that's not a fixed figure?
 19 A It is another thing that again can be affected by
 20 environmental ...
 15:53:03 21 Q And then can you help me with your entry at 21:50:27?
 21 Now at that stage the tide had turned?
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Sorry, we need to go on to the next page
 23 I think.
 24 MR ADAMSON: Sorry, page 11, I apologise. {DC6822/11}:

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1 "Tide has turned, we have 0.5 knots ebb ..."
 2 So flowing out to sea:
 3 "By my reckoning the target would have returned to
 4 London Bridge at 2230".
 5 Now, can you help us with that? How did you reach
 6 that conclusion?
 7 A My understanding is the lifeboat would have told me the
 8 tide has turned and we now have half a knot of ebb so I
 9 then took the search area that we were working with and
 10 turned the tide around and worked out how long it would
 11 take to come back to -- and don't forget this is in UTC,
 12 so that's actually 11:30.
 13 Q Oh, I see. I understand.
 14 A The target is beginning to turn.
 15 Q So that is 22:30 --
 16 A It's 23:30 local .
 17 Q Ah.
 18 A It is a prediction.
 19 Q Well, hmm. Is that right, Mr Hayday? Because it says:
 20 "By my reckoning target would have returned to
 21 London Bridge at 2230"?
 22 A It is correct because all those numbers are in UTC.
 23 That is a future number.
 24 THE CHIEF CORONER: So the entry is being made at a time
 25 which is corrected to 22:50.

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1 A And I'm talking about 23:30. It's badly phrased, I
 2 grant you.
 3 MR ADAMSON: Because certainly it reads as if it is
 4 referring to the past tense, ie I would have expected
 5 him to have passed London Bridge at 2230 and you are
 6 filling this in when you are looking at your watch, and
 7 it's 10:30.
 8 A No. No. I would not make a UTC mistake in this log.
 9 We never use local time. In seven years I have never
 10 used local time.
 11 Q Can I ask you, then, to turn over the page {DC6822/12}.
 12 At 11:02, 22:02 on the log, the search is called off?
 13 A Yes.
 14 Q Now, at that stage you concluded that the likelihood of
 15 survival was limited?
 16 A Yes.
 17 Q Did you regard there as being any chance of survival at
 18 that point?
 19 A No.
 20 Q At 22:09 -- P Norman is your superior, is that right?
 21 A That's correct.
 22 Q "Can we ascertain if we have a clear indication that
 23 persons did or did not enter water?"
 24 A Yes.
 25 Q Is the question that has been posed.

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1 A Yes.
 2 Q And by now we are over an hour after Xavier entered the
 3 water. What efforts did you make at that stage to
 4 ascertain whether or not there was certainty that
 5 someone had or had not entered the water?
 6 A I didn't make any effort because it wouldn't have
 7 changed any of our decision-making. My understanding of
 8 the conversation with the controller was that he wanted
 9 the CCTV tapes viewed on the bridge to which I explained
 10 that's not going to happen right now.
 11 Q Well, the entry goes on:
 12 "Take lead from police or CCTV. If confirmed
 13 PIW ..."
 14 Person in water:
 15 " ... consider a goalkeeper search downstream of
 16 search area if safe for asset".
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q So what your superior is in fact saying, I suggest, is
 19 that if there is a clear indication that someone is in
 20 the water, further searches should be performed.
 21 A He has suggested that I consider a goalkeeper search.
 22 The reason I didn't consider a goalkeeper search was
 23 absolutely the state of the tide. The goalkeeper was
 24 appropriate to high state of tide when the casualty is
 25 escaping at 3 plus knots. It's -- the tide turned in

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1 the middle of this search, so a goalkeeper at this end
 2 and at this end, it was completely inappropriate, I did
 3 consider it and I discounted it as inappropriate.
 4 Q But it is a two-stage process that your superior is
 5 inviting, is it not? 1) is there a clear indication
 6 that there was a person in the water, if yes, then
 7 consider a goalkeeper search?
 8 A I understand that, but we spent the entire job assuming
 9 that someone is in the water. We assume the worst until
 10 proven otherwise.
 11 Q Well --
 12 A If I could have confirmed there wasn't someone in the
 13 water that would have made a difference, but not
 14 confirming with someone there was.
 15 THE CHIEF CORONER: And a goalkeeper search, probably speaks
 16 for itself as to what it means, but in a nutshell?
 17 A It is -- yes. It is exactly that. It's placing
 18 a goalkeeper downstream of where the target could have
 19 got to and holding the line there.
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 21 MR ADAMSON: How would you go about ascertaining whether or
 22 not there was a clear indication of whether or not
 23 somebody had entered the water?
 24 A We would rely on the police.
 25 Q So you would communicate with them?

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1 A Where possible, yes.
 2 Q But you didn't at that stage?
 3 A No. With the ongoing situation, they were rushed off
 4 their feet.
 5 Questions by MR HORWELL QC
 6 MR HORWELL: Mr Hayday, I appear on behalf of the
 7 Commissioner. Just to invite you to add a few further
 8 details to the evidence that you have given. Have
 9 I understood your evidence correctly in this sense, that
 10 you had access to images from CCTV cameras along the
 11 river?
 12 A Yes.
 13 Q And you had -- is this right -- direct access to the
 14 images from the helicopter?
 15 A That's correct.
 16 Q You had live view?
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q And you said that the police would have primacy over the
 19 use of CCTV cameras, but did that restrict your view of
 20 the river at all, or can't you remember?
 21 A I don't remember for certain but I'm pretty sure, for
 22 example, the camera that I used to the south of
 23 London Bridge remained focused on the van and I didn't
 24 move it. I could have swung that back to give myself
 25 more of a view but you leave the primacy with the police

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1 who I believe that left --
 2 Q But further along the river towards Cannon Street Bridge
 3 and Southwark?
 4 A I had a little bit of a black spot.
 5 Q All right.
 6 A No, it would not have directed affected, and essentially
 7 if I was to use a camera, all that it means is the
 8 police could overrule me whenever they wanted it.
 9 Q But they didn't in relation to that area of the Thames?
 10 A No. No. I do not believe so.
 11 Q It's just this, that you say in your statement that even
 12 though it was dark, it's gone 10 o'clock on a June
 13 evening, you say it is actually quite easy to see people
 14 in the water, even from CCTV images.
 15 A Yes. The cameras have remarkable low lighting
 16 conditions, if you are in a part of the river that is
 17 covered by ...
 18 Q Yes, and you gave an example of how you were able to
 19 track somebody in December of 2018 from Westminster
 20 Bridge to Lambeth Bridge during the hours of darkness?
 21 A That is correct.
 22 Q Through your access to images through CCTV and your live
 23 access to the camera on the helicopter, did you see
 24 anyone in the river?
 25 A No, I did not.

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1 Q Your decision to expand the search to Southwark Bridge,
 2 you said in your statement that:
 3 "I would add that the sad reality is that by this
 4 stage the chances of finding the person alive were very
 5 small and the widening of the search parameters was an
 6 exercise to go above and beyond to be absolutely sure we
 7 had done the best that [you] could".
 8 A That is correct.
 9 Q You went on to say that:
 10 "Statistically people are unlikely to survive past
 11 15 minutes".
 12 A According to our statistics no one has without a life
 13 jacket or some form of life preserver.
 14 Q And bearing in mind the conditions of that night, was
 15 there a very strong probability in your opinion of a
 16 body being seen if it had been above the surface?
 17 A Yes.
 18 MR HORWELL: Thank you.
 19 MR HOUGH: No further questions from me. Thank you very
 20 much Mr Hayday. That's all we have for you.
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr Hayday.
 22 Mr Hough, I'm going to suggest we simply take
 23 a short comfort break. I'm conscious that we have got
 24 two witnesses to get through and we will do so.
 25 MR HOUGH: They are short witnesses. We also have a few

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1 short statements to read which makes sense at this point
 2 but they are, again, very short.
 3 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes. We will simply just take
 4 a five -minute breather and then we will continue.
 5 (4.04 pm)
 6 (A short break)
 7 (4.16 pm)
 8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes, Mr Hough.
 9 MR HOUGH: There are now three very brief witness statements
 10 to be read, after which we shall go straight to the
 11 evidence of Keir Michaels.
 12 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
 13 MR HOUGH: Just for the purposes of formalities , these are
 14 statements to be admitted under Rule 23 of the Coroner's
 15 Inquest Rules 2013. The names of the makers are
 16 PS Styles, PC Hilder and PC Chakravarty. The nature of
 17 the written evidence has been communicated through
 18 disclosure to interested persons. Any interested person
 19 may object to the admission of the written evidence and
 20 have been given the opportunity to do so, and every
 21 interested person has had a copy of the statements which
 22 are to be read.
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much.
 24 MR HOUGH: Mr Moss will read the statements.
 25 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.

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1 Yes, Mr Moss?
 2 POLICE SERGEANT TRISTAN STYLES (read)
 3 MR MOSS: Sir, the first of the statements is the statement
 4 of Police Sergeant Styles and our reference is
 5 {WS1360A}:
 6 "I am the above named person and make this statement
 7 in relation to the recovery of deceased persons from the
 8 River Thames, and more specifically the recovery of
 9 Mr Xavier Thomas on 6 June 2017."
 10 (Pause)
 11 THE CHIEF CORONER: I think Mr Moss, I don't know whether we
 12 have solved the problem.
 13 MR MOSS: Sir, yes.
 14 THE CHIEF CORONER: But we will try again.
 15 MR MOSS: "Whilst writing this statement I have referred to
 16 the duty officer handovers document by the Marine
 17 Policing Unit (MPU) between 3-6 June 2017.
 18 "I am Police Sergeant Tristan Styles and I am
 19 currently employed within the MPS Marine Policing Unit
 20 (MO7 Taskforce). I have been a police officer since
 21 2002 and joined the MPU in April 2010. I am a fully
 22 qualified Advanced Police Coxswain and have served on
 23 the MPU response team 2 from 2010-2017. Since [that
 24 year] I have been the MPU Training Sergeant.
 25 "The recovery of deceased persons from the River

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1 Thames is, by its very nature, a difficult task. It
 2 requires both skill in boat handling but also strength
 3 and available resources. The MPU will always respond to
 4 reports of a person or body in the River Thames as an
 5 emergency and treat the person as a casualty until it
 6 becomes clear life is extinct.
 7 "The tidal River Thames is an extremely dangerous
 8 and fast flowing environment. If a person enters the
 9 river while a strong tidal current is flowing then
 10 generally they only have minutes to be rescued, assuming
 11 they are still conscious. This is generally did you to
 12 cold water shock, on entering cold water (15 degrees or
 13 below), the natural involuntary response is to take
 14 a sharp intake of breath. For someone entering the
 15 water from height, this will occur when below the
 16 surface of the water. The lethal dose for drowning is
 17 about 1.5 litres , this intake of breath would exceed
 18 that amount and drowning will occur. The body also
 19 diverts blood from the extremities to the core to
 20 maintain vital organs which reduces the ability to swim.
 21 If the person is able to remain calm and overcome this
 22 reaction (approximately 2 minutes) then they have
 23 a chance to stay afloat longer. It is not possible to
 24 give exact timings or a window of survival due to the
 25 many variables.

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1 "If a person drowns in the River Thames then
 2 generally they will sink to the bottom and only
 3 resurface, potentially in a different location due to
 4 tidal streams, once decomposition commences and gases
 5 effect the body sufficiently to bring it to the surface.
 6 During colder months this can take a week or more but
 7 summer months it can occur within days. It should be
 8 noted that there are many variables that can affect this
 9 process. Once a body has resurfaced it would be obvious
 10 to officers that life is extinct.
 11 "The process of body recovery on the River Thames is
 12 generally undertaken by police officers from the MPU.
 13 This is to ensure consistency and optimum forensic
 14 opportunity but also due to training . Other emergency
 15 services often assist in the location and securing of
 16 deceased persons but the recovery process is generally
 17 handed over to the MPU ...
 18 "If it is known that a person has entered the River
 19 Thames then an immediate search will be conducted led by
 20 London Coastguard who will coordinate resources.
 21 Notification will generally come through the 999 system
 22 to any of the emergency services, including Coastguard.
 23 Each agency has access to the incident details on the
 24 ... CAD system. Agencies can also communicate via
 25 a mutual airwave radio channel to ensure a quick time

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1 response. London Coastguard will assess the individual
 2 situation based on a number of factors including
 3 elements, tidal flow, temperature etc until they are
 4 satisfied all likelihood of survival has passed. At
 5 this point the matter will be handed back to police to
 6 investigate and continue the search, though this will be
 7 for the purposes of body recovery over the following
 8 days rather than rescue. MPU policy dictates that
 9 a search will be conducted during low waters for the
 10 following 3 days to increase the chances of prompt
 11 recovery of the person. This will be in the vicinity of
 12 the last sighting and an area both up and downriver to
 13 allow for tidal flow, this is for the judgment of the
 14 officers based on the individual case and is generally
 15 made through experience.

16 "Once MPU officers identify a deceased person in the
 17 River Thames then they will carefully manoeuvre the
 18 police vessel alongside the body. The body will usually
 19 be secured by officers with the assistance of a boat
 20 hook or by placing hands on. The body is then placed
 21 into a body net ([with] holes for drainage) alongside
 22 the outside of the police boat. The body is raised out
 23 of the water but remains on the outside of the police
 24 vessel. Once the vessel arrives back at Wapping Police
 25 pontoon then a small crane is used to remove and raise

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1 the body net from the police boat and on to the body
 2 tray within the pontoon mortuary area. A body is
 3 generally then searched and photographed by MPU officers
 4 to ensure best evidence is captured as a body can
 5 quickly change once out of the water."

6 For the following paragraph please can we have,
 7 please, {DC7283/43} which is a map showing London Bridge
 8 and the Shadwell Basin:

9 "On 3 June 2017 I was off duty but became aware of
 10 an apparent terrorist attack near to London Bridge
 11 shortly after 22:00 ... I returned to work on the
 12 morning of 4th June ... at approximately 0630 ... as MPU
 13 duty officer. I received an oral handover from Sergeant
 14 Mike Saltmarsh and at this time I was made aware that
 15 a French national had entered the River Thames from
 16 London Bridge as an apparent result of a vehicle-borne
 17 attack. I was informed river searches were conducted in
 18 the immediate aftermath of the attack with both police
 19 vessels (Marine 2 and Marine 3) and the RNLI completing
 20 search patterns to look for any potential casualties.
 21 Also a further search was conducted later in the morning
 22 when information came to light that the male had indeed
 23 entered the river. This information was confirmed at
 24 0545 hours, a search was conducted until 0630. On this
 25 day the later low water was at approximately 1700 and

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1 a thorough search was conducted at this time between
 2 Canary Wharf and Waterloo Bridge.

3 "No trace was found. It was agreed that due to the
 4 unique nature of this incident that low water searches
 5 would continue daily until the person was recovered.
 6 The male was known to be Mr Xavier Thomas. On 6th June
 7 2017 at approximately 1940 I was again on duty as night
 8 shift MPU duty officer. I was made aware by the master
 9 of Marine 2 (PC Analeigh Hipkin) that they had found
 10 a deceased male near to Shadwell Basin while completing
 11 a low water search. The male was believed to be
 12 Mr Xavier Thomas and life was clearly extinct. I
 13 immediately informed the SO15 Forensic Management Team
 14 so they could make their way to Wapping Police Station
 15 as they requested the body be left undisturbed for them
 16 to conduct a DVI procedure recovery. The body was
 17 recovered to the side of the police vessel in the usual
 18 manner and returned to Wapping Police pontoon where it
 19 was transferred to the mortuary area body tray and
 20 a crime scene log was started. A full DVI body recovery
 21 procedure was completed by SO15 officers."

22 Sir, the second of the three statements is the
 23 statement of PC Hilder and our reference is {WS1357}.
 24 And Oli, if we can keep the same map, please, on the
 25 screen.

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1 POLICE CONSTABLE RICHARD HILDER (read)
 2 MR MOSS: "On Tuesday 6 June 2017 at approximately 19.40 I
 3 was on duty in full uniform as master of the Police
 4 Vessel John Harriot, call sign Marine 2. I was in
 5 company with PC Buss and PC Hipkin, and we were tasked
 6 with a low water search for one of the victims of the
 7 London Bridge terrorist incident on Saturday 3 June
 8 2017. He was believed to have fallen from the bridge
 9 during the incident, and had not been seen or heard from
 10 since then. I am an experienced officer on Marine
 11 Policing Unit where I have worked for the last seven
 12 years. A low water search is standard procedure when
 13 trying to locate someone who is believed to have entered
 14 the River Thames. On this occasion low water at
 15 London Bridge was at 7.08 pm and the level of water was
 16 approximately one metre above chart datum. High water
 17 had been at 12.50 pm earlier that day.

18 "The parameters of the search were between
 19 Canary Wharf Pier and Waterloo Bridge. We started our
 20 search at approximately 6.15 pm from Wapping Police pier
 21 and made our way slowly to Canary Wharf from where we
 22 conducted a search to Waterloo Bridge. Once at Waterloo
 23 Bridge, we continued the search back down to
 24 Canary Wharf where our intention was to complete the
 25 tasking.

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1 "At approximately 7.40 pm whilst making our way back
2 to Wapping Police Pier I could see an object just
3 visible on the surface of the water, we were directly
4 outside Shadwell Basin at this point and the object was
5 in the middle of the River Thames. I positioned our
6 vessel so we could identify what this object was and as
7 we drew closer I could clearly see it was the apparently
8 lifeless body of a male. The tide had just turned at
9 this point, and was now flooding. However, the wind was
10 a very strong westerly wind. I used the wind to get
11 alongside the male bringing him to the starboard side of
12 our vessel slowly and gently. PCs Hipkin and Buss went
13 outside to secure the male whilst I was in control of
14 the vessel. During this time I requested a pass with
15 caution from other vessels in the area so we could deal
16 with the incident. I could hear on my personal radio
17 that PC Hipkin had contacted the Marine duty officer and
18 a CAD was created".

19 And that is CAD 8394:

20 "PC Buss had managed to use the boat hook to hold on
21 to the collar of the male and position him to the rear
22 of our vessel which is lower to the water and easier to
23 deal with incidents like this. PC Hipkin secured one of
24 our vessel's lines around the midriff of the male so he
25 was in no danger of sinking or being taken by the tide.

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1 At this point as we were in safe water and in no danger
2 of collision or grounding I went outside to assist
3 PC Buss in preparing the body net. This is a procedure
4 I have used on countless occasions in the past. Once
5 this net was secured to our vessel, PC Hipkin positioned
6 the male into the net using the boat hook. At this
7 point I could clearly see that the body was male, IC1,
8 dark/greying hair, aged in his late 40s, wearing a blue
9 buttoned shirt, black genes and brown shoes. I could
10 see that the male had a substantial injury to his left
11 eye socket, and also numerous marks and scratches and
12 his knuckles and forearms. There were signs of
13 'de gloving' on the male's hands which is a sign that
14 the male had been in the water for a few days. His skin
15 was also mottled, purple and blue. I would estimate
16 that the male had been in the river for 2-3 days.

17 "Once the male was secured to the side of our vessel
18 we made our way slowly back to Wapping Police Pier which
19 was only about one mile from our location.

20 "Once at the pier I could see PC Sonia Smith ... was
21 preparing the dead body area and winch. The marine duty
22 officer was also present. I positioned our boat
23 alongside the pier being mindful of not squashing the
24 male between the pier and the pontoon. PC Buss and
25 PC Hipkin connected the winch and the body was hoisted

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1 into the tray used for these incidents. I could see
2 that the tray had been lined for forensic purposes.

3 "We then secured our vessel to the pier and left the
4 body with PC Sonia Smith who remained with the body
5 whilst we left the scene".

6 Sir, finally, I read from the statement of
7 PC Chakravarty which is WS2005, and we no longer need
8 the image, thank you, Oli.

9 POLICE CONSTABLE CHAKRAVARTY (read)

10 MR MOSS: "This statement is in regard to the recovery of
11 the body of Mr Xavier Thomas from the River Thames on
12 Tuesday 6 June 2017, the details of which has been taken
13 from a 'Death Investigation Pack for HM Coroner' that
14 was completed by myself at the time of the recovery.

15 "On Tuesday 6 June 2017 I was on duty in full
16 uniform parading for a night shift at the Marine
17 Policing Unit, Wapping Police Station. Shortly after
18 the start of the shift, I was made aware that officers
19 from the day shift who were still on duty conducting
20 a low water search, had found the body of a male in the
21 River Thames by Shadwell Basin ...

22 "The low water search was being conducted in regard
23 to a victim by the name of [Mr] Xavier Thomas suspected
24 of having entered the river during the London Bridge
25 attack on 3 June 2017. The body was transported back to

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1 Wapping Police Pier and placed in the waterside
2 temporary mortuary where I saw that early signs of
3 decomposition and bloating had set in and at 8.00 pm I
4 pronounced life extinct and preceded to complete
5 a 'Death Investigation Pack for HM Coroner'. This
6 verification of fact of death was supervised at the time
7 by Police Sergeant Styles. Due to the circumstances of
8 the death, the body was treated as a crime scene and
9 preserved until the attendance of the SO15 Forensic
10 Management Team at which point they took over
11 responsibility for the body and property. I was
12 informed that French identification documents had been
13 found within the clothing confirming the body to be that
14 of Mr Xavier Thomas.

15 "The body of Mr Xavier Thomas was then conveyed to
16 St Thomas' mortuary by undertakers arranged by the
17 Coroners Office".

18 Sir, that is the end of the statement.

19 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much.

20 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Mr Keir Michaels who
21 will be a relatively short witness.

22 MR KEIR CHRISTOPHER MICHAELS (sworn)

23 Questions by MR HOUGH QC

24 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Michaels, please feel free to sit or
25 stand, whichever you would prefer.

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1 A I prefer to sit , please.
 2 THE CHIEF CORONER: Of course. The microphone in front of
 3 you, if you just pull it towards you, that will help
 4 amplify for those who want to hear so it can be
 5 translated.
 6 A Okay.
 7 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much.
 8 MR HOUGH: Could you please give your full name for the
 9 court.
 10 A My full name is Keir Christopher Michaels.
 11 Q You understand I'm asking questions first on behalf of
 12 the Coroner and you may be asked some more questions by
 13 others?
 14 A Yes.
 15 Q You are giving evidence about events on London Bridge on
 16 3 June 2017. You may refer to your witness statement
 17 about those events at any time.
 18 A Okay.
 19 Q Equally, if you need a break at any time, please say so.
 20 A Okay.
 21 Q On that evening, is it right that you had had dinner
 22 near Borough Market and then watched the football match,
 23 the Champions League final, at a bar?
 24 A Yes, that's correct.
 25 Q I think you were with a number of friends, three

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1 friends?
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q Was that bar on Borough High Street?
 4 A Within -- yes, it was called Belushi's.
 5 Q And from Belushi's did you go north with your friends
 6 and begin to cross London Bridge?
 7 A Yes, that's correct.
 8 Q On which pavement, which side, left or right, did you
 9 cross the bridge?
 10 A Right.
 11 Q May we please look at a photograph which we looked at
 12 earlier today in court showing that pavement
 13 {DC7283/91}. This is a view of that east pavement of
 14 London Bridge looking towards the direction from which
 15 you would have been coming; correct?
 16 A Yes.
 17 Q Did a time come when you stopped on the bridge?
 18 A Yes, we stopped to take pictures.
 19 Q Where did your friends position themselves for the photo
 20 to be taken?
 21 A Nearest to the barrier.
 22 Q Were you taking the photograph?
 23 A Yes, I was.
 24 Q So where did you place yourself?
 25 A By the kerb, and I was taking the picture.

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1 Q As your friends were lining up against the balustrade
 2 and you were preparing to take the photograph, did
 3 something happen to draw your attention? Was something
 4 said or did you hear something?
 5 A My friend Jermaine shouted "No, no, no", because as
 6 I was taking the pictures we heard screaming and
 7 a loud -- we heard a lot of bangs and stuff from people
 8 getting hit, a lot of screaming.
 9 Q So your friend shouted "No, no, no", and then you heard
 10 some screaming and shouting?
 11 A Yes.
 12 Q From which direction was that coming?
 13 A Left.
 14 Q So from the north?
 15 A Yes.
 16 Q Did you look in that direction?
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q What did you see?
 19 A I saw a white van hitting people on the pavement.
 20 Q Was that a view straight on or out of the corner of your
 21 eye?
 22 A Out of the corner of my eye.
 23 Q How far was the van away when you first saw it? From
 24 you?
 25 A I would say probably about 20 metres, roughly.

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1 Q I think in your witness statement you put it at 10-12
 2 metres but that's that sort of distance, quite close?
 3 A Roughly.
 4 Q Speeds can be very difficult to judge, but what speed
 5 did the van seem to be travelling at?
 6 A Very fast. I can't put an exact speed on it to be fair.
 7 Q Where was the van in relation to the pavement and the
 8 roadway?
 9 A In the middle.
 10 Q In the middle of the pavement. And as the van came on
 11 towards you, could you see anything happening to people
 12 between you and the van?
 13 A Not really.
 14 Q Did you make any reaction to get away?
 15 A Yes. When it hit me I done -- I ran into the road and
 16 it hit my ankle and I have done like a 180 spin in the
 17 air and I have landed on my wrist and stuff. I had
 18 broken my wrist, fractured my wrist and I had ligament
 19 damage to my left ankle.
 20 Q Okay. Can we take that just briefly, but in stages? Is
 21 this right, that you reacted by trying to get away
 22 instinctively, naturally?
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q And did that take you towards the road as you ran away?
 25 A Yes.

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1 Q As you turned and tried to move away, you have told us
2 that the van struck your ankle; is that right?
3 A Yes.
4 Q Did that have an effect on forcing you around?
5 A Yes.
6 Q You have referred to damaging -- injuring your wrist;
7 did that happen when you landed?
8 A Yes, as I landed.
9 Q After the van had struck you, did you notice where it
10 went?
11 A It went straight down towards Borough Market from where
12 we was walking from.
13 Q Did you see where the van was in the road, whether it
14 was on the right side or the wrong side or how it moved
15 in the road?
16 A From where it hit me it went on to the other side of the
17 road.
18 Q Did it continue on the other side of the road, the wrong
19 side of the road?
20 A I believe so.
21 Q After that awful moment, were you able to get up and get
22 to safety?
23 A I was able to get up, yes.
24 Q We know that the van crashed shortly after that. Did
25 you hear or see the van crashing?

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1 A I heard the crash but I didn't see it, no, because I was
2 walking towards Liverpool Street by this point.
3 Q Did you become aware of other injured people around you?
4 A Yes.
5 Q Anything about where they were in your memory?
6 A Just as I was walking down. I can't really remember to
7 be honest.
8 Q Did you go along with a friend to a friend's house and
9 then remove yourself from the scene?
10 A No. I went straight to Liverpool Street and went to my
11 sister's.
12 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are all my questions.
13 There may be some more.
14 Those are all the questions that anyone has for you.
15 Thank you very much, Mr Michaels, and thank you for
16 waiting in court today.
17 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Michaels, just before you go, I'm
18 sorry you have been kept waiting all day, but thank you
19 very much for coming. It has been very important to
20 hear what you had to say.
21 A It has been a pleasure, thank you.
22 MR HOUGH: Sir, the final witness today, another brief
23 witness, is Tanya Lunt.
24 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.
25 MS TANYA LUNT (Sworn)

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1 Questions by MR HOUGH QC
2 THE CHIEF CORONER: Please feel free to sit or stand,
3 whichever you feel most comfortable. The microphone in
4 front of you will help amplify your voice. Some of what
5 you are saying is being translated for others to hear,
6 so just bear that in mind when you are asked questions.
7 A Will do.
8 THE CHIEF CORONER: And, finally, I'm sorry we have kept you
9 waiting. My apologies for that.
10 MR HOUGH: Would you please give your full name for the
11 court?
12 A Tanya Lunt.
13 Q Mrs Lunt, you understand I'm asking questions on behalf
14 of the coroner and then you may be asked questions by
15 other lawyers or may not.
16 You too are giving evidence about events on the
17 bridge itself on 3 June 2017 that evening, and you
18 understand you may refer to your witness statement as
19 you wish.
20 A Yes.
21 Q On that day, 3 June 2017, were you visiting London with
22 your husband, Peter, for the weekend?
23 A I was.
24 Q Is it right that you spent the early part of the evening
25 at a comedy show at a pub near Guy's Hospital?

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1 A It was, yes.
2 Q Did you leave there some time shortly before 10 pm?
3 A Yes. About 9.45 I think.
4 Q Were you heading back from there towards your hotel on
5 Liverpool Street?
6 A Yes.
7 Q Did your route take you across London Bridge?
8 A It did.
9 Q Which pavement did you cross on, so far as you can
10 remember?
11 A We were walking from The Shard towards Liverpool Street
12 and we were on the right.
13 Q Yes. I think that's correct, based on all the other
14 evidence we have. It can be difficult to remember these
15 things. It was the right-hand side, the east pavement.
16 Once again, I'm going to show you the same image that we
17 have shown other witnesses on that pavement {DC7283/91}.
18 Does that spark any recollection that that was the
19 pavement on which you were walking towards the viewer of
20 the photograph?
21 A Yes. Yes.
22 Q With The Shard behind you?
23 A Yes.
24 Q Now, where had you reached on the bridge? How far
25 across when something unusual happened?

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1 A I think we were about halfway.
 2 Q In that area how busy with pedestrians was the bridge?
 3 A I was looking at my phone. It wasn't packed. Difficult
 4 to say.
 5 Q Where were you and Peter positioned on the pavement?
 6 A I was the river side and Peter was the road side.
 7 Q Around the middle of the pavement or more towards the --
 8 A Middle of the pavement I would say.
 9 Q What first caught your attention?
 10 A I could hear people screaming and shouting and then --
 11 and they were shouting, "Run, run, there's a van", and I
 12 looked up and I could see a van coming towards us and
 13 people obviously running.
 14 Q How far away was the van when you first saw it?
 15 A It was at the far end of the bridge.
 16 Q Where was the van in relation to roadway and pavement?
 17 A It was on the pavement.
 18 Q And heading towards --
 19 A And heading towards us, yes.
 20 Q How did you and your husband react to that awful sight?
 21 A I think Pete shouted to me, "Run, we've got to run", and
 22 we just -- we turned and ran back in the direction of
 23 The Shard.
 24 Q What did you think was happening? What was your first
 25 thought at that moment?

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1 A I had a feeling it was a terrorist attack.
 2 Q When did you next see the van?
 3 A I remember turning and seeing it over my right shoulder.
 4 Q If you need a break, just say. (Pause)
 5 So you saw it over your right shoulder. How long
 6 was that after your first sight -- of your first sight
 7 of the van?
 8 A Probably seconds. It didn't feel like very long.
 9 Q Was it close to you by that stage?
 10 A Very close.
 11 Q What was the next thing you felt or saw?
 12 A I was pushed -- hit -- and then everything went black.
 13 I couldn't see anything. I could just feel something
 14 was in front of me. I didn't know what it was -- cold,
 15 metal.
 16 Q After a moment did you get sight back?
 17 A I felt my way around whatever it was and then I could
 18 see.
 19 Q What did you see? What was the first sight before you?
 20 A I looked for Pete and I could see him laying in the
 21 road.
 22 Q Did you go to him there?
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q Was it evident that he had been hurt?
 25 A Yes.

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1 Q Were you able to see where the van had gone?
 2 A No.
 3 Q In the minutes that followed, did you call for other
 4 people to come and help Peter?
 5 A Yes. I was screaming. I tried to ring 999 but I just
 6 was too panicked, but someone else was doing that, but
 7 people came and helped us.
 8 Q After a time, did you become aware of an ambulance on
 9 the bridge and paramedics?
 10 A Yes. An ambulance came and it must have stopped fairly
 11 close to us and there were two paramedics.
 12 Q Did some nurses and a doctor arrive later also to
 13 provide --
 14 A They did. They came running from The Shard direction, I
 15 believe, and they stopped, I can't recall which ones,
 16 I think the doctor stayed with us and the two nurses
 17 then went on to help someone else.
 18 Q Now, we are aware that some distance to the south, that
 19 various rounds of gunfire took place at certain points.
 20 Is that something you heard while you were there?
 21 A Yes.
 22 Q After a time, were you advised that Peter should be
 23 taken to the north end of the bridge to a triage point?
 24 A Yes.
 25 Q From there, was he taken to hospital?

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1 A He was.
 2 Q Without going into any detail at all, is it right to say
 3 that he has had a number of operations for his injuries?
 4 A He has.
 5 Q Is there anything else you would like to say about your
 6 experiences on the bridge that night?
 7 Thank you very much for giving evidence. I know
 8 it's difficult but you will understand it is important
 9 for us to hear from some of those most directly
 10 affected.
 11 A Absolutely.
 12 MR HOUGH: I see there are no other questions.
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mrs Lunt, can I just underline what
 14 Mr Hough has said? I'm very grateful to you for coming.
 15 I know it's not easy, but thank you very much for coming
 16 and explaining what happened. Thank you very much.
 17 MR HOUGH: Thank you sir. That's all our evidence today.
 18 We will move on tomorrow to consider primarily evidence
 19 about Christine Archibald.
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes. Mr Hough, just before we finish
 21 for the day, can I simply take a moment to apologise to
 22 everyone? We have sat a bit late, but I'm sure everyone
 23 will understand that so far as I'm concerned, and I know
 24 this is a view that is shared by you and others, is that
 25 one doesn't want to cause additional distress to people

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1 by saying, "I'm sorry you will have to come back another
2 day to give an account", and so, as far as we can -- I
3 know the timetable has been looked at very carefully --
4 we will stick to it, because in my view it's extremely
5 important, even if it involves some discomfort for
6 lawyers having to sit late, that we accommodate
7 witnesses on the days when they are expecting to come to
8 court to give evidence.
9 MR HOUGH: Experience suggests in particular, sir, that
10 people who are eyewitnesses to events of this kind can
11 be very distressed by their evidence being put off.
12 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.
13 MR HOUGH: And we are anxious to avoid that happening at all
14 events.
15 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes, and, Mr Adamson, I'm simply going
16 to turn to you because you had most questions to ask,
17 and, equally, it seemed to me it is very important that
18 I allow sufficient time for you properly to explore the
19 issues, and I hope you haven't felt in any way
20 constrained by the time and the fact that other people
21 were coming.
22 MR ADAMSON: I have not, and thank you for the indulgence.
23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you. Right. 10 o'clock in the
24 morning. Thank you.
25 (4.54 pm)

1 (The hearing adjourned to 10 o'clock on Friday, 10 May 2019)
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