

# OPUS 2

## INTERNATIONAL

London Bridge Inquests. Inquests concerning the attackers

Day 7A

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1 Wednesday, 10 July 2019  
2 (10.10 am)  
3 (In the presence of the jury)  
4 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
5 Nice to see you all .  
6 Mr Moss.  
7 MR MOSS: Sir, the first witness today is Kevin Short.  
8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Right.  
9 MR KEVIN SHORT (sworn)  
10 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning, Mr Short. Please do sit  
11 or stand, whichever you prefer.  
12 A. I ' ll stand up, sir . Thank you.  
13 Questions by MR MOSS  
14 MR MOSS: Can you please state your name?  
15 A. Kevin Andrew Short.  
16 Q. Mr Short, I will ask questions first , as you understand,  
17 on behalf of the Coroner, and then there may be  
18 questions asked afterwards by other lawyers, and you  
19 appreciate, do you, that you are here to give evidence  
20 about what it was you did and what you saw on  
21 3 June 2017?  
22 A. I understand.  
23 Q. And you made a witness statement, which I know you've  
24 had time to see this morning, and you may refer to that  
25 if you need to.

1

1 A. Thank you.  
2 Q. You are a member of police staff ; is that right?  
3 A. I am sir, yes.  
4 Q. And you are trained as an explosives officer ?  
5 A. I am, sir , yes.  
6 Q. But you are not a police officer ?  
7 A. I ' m not a police officer .  
8 Q. What is an explosives officer ?  
9 A. We are employed as police staff . My military experience  
10 is I did 24 years in the army and we come in after we've  
11 served with the army and we look at ammunition and  
12 explosives that are recovered in and around -- inside  
13 the M25, within the MPS area.  
14 Q. You provide a service for the disposal of potential  
15 explosive devices?  
16 A. Yes, we do.  
17 Q. Suspect packages and --  
18 A. Well, conventionally as well, if we find any hand  
19 grenades or things that are dredged up in the river we  
20 deal with that as well, German bombs that sort of thing.  
21 Anything explosive found inside the M25.  
22 Q. And you used the call sign C Central 1195?  
23 A. Yes, I do, sir .  
24 Q. And when you are deployed as part of a vehicle is it  
25 right that the vehicle takes your call sign?

2

1 A. Yes, it is , yes, because we are a team, we deploy as  
2 a team, a two-man team.  
3 Q. How many years' service do you have in the police?  
4 A. 16 years August coming up now.  
5 Q. So 14 or so at the time of the attack?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. And you're attached to the SO15 EOD, explosive ordnance  
8 disposal, and that's part of the Counter Terrorism  
9 Command?  
10 A. Yes, sir , it is .  
11 Q. And as well as dealing with the disposal of explosive  
12 devices, is it right that your colleagues also deal and  
13 provide a response to chemical, biological , radiological  
14 and nuclear threats across London?  
15 A. Yes, sir , it is .  
16 Q. When you are deployed you, as a member of police staff  
17 are deployed in a vehicle with one police officer ?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. And that police officer is referred to as your number 2?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. You did have a colleague with you on 3 June?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. What is their role as a number 2 for you?  
24 A. Well, he's still a police officer , a serving police  
25 officer , he still carries a warrant. But he's the

3

1 driver, he is the authority to go on blue lights and two  
2 tones through London and also when we arrive at the  
3 scene, he is my equipment manager for want of a better  
4 term, so basically I ' ll ask him for some item of  
5 equipment and he will prepare it and deliver it to me as  
6 and when I need it .  
7 Q. So is it right to say that you are the subject matter  
8 expert: you are the one with the training in the  
9 disposal of explosive ordnances?  
10 A. Yes, sir .  
11 Q. And your colleague is very familiar with the work that  
12 you do, but doesn't get hands on in the same way that  
13 you do?  
14 A. We do training together, we do joint training , but  
15 I ' m the one that will actually do the long walk and go  
16 forward towards the device. So he will maintain the  
17 equipment, give me the piece of equipment I need and  
18 I will walk forward and use that equipment as I see fit  
19 when needed.  
20 Q. Is it right to say that as a general rule, you and  
21 a particular police officer always work together, you  
22 are trained to work as a pair. Sometimes you might need  
23 to work with somebody else --  
24 A. We try and work as a team, sir --  
25 Q. -- but you are a team.

4

1 A. -- so -- and they understand how I work and how I think  
 2 and what I'm going to need. We try and work that way  
 3 and it seems to be the best system we've adopted and it  
 4 works well.  
 5 Q. And across the command that's the same?  
 6 A. We do work in teams and everybody gets used to the way  
 7 you work, how you say things, what you expect to do, so  
 8 a team is always the best way ahead.  
 9 Q. You are based at a location in central London --  
 10 A. Yes, sir.  
 11 Q. -- and we don't need to know the specific location. On  
 12 3 June were you at that location?  
 13 A. I was, sir, yes.  
 14 Q. And you received a call to attend to the area outside  
 15 the Wheatsheaf pub on Stoney Street?  
 16 A. Yes, we were the night crew coming on so we got in a  
 17 little bit early and basically checked the equipment.  
 18 Q. What time would you have got in?  
 19 A. Before 10 o'clock that night. Certainly before.  
 20 Q. 10 o'clock is your deployment time?  
 21 A. Well, as soon as we get in then we are deployable, but  
 22 generally we get in, check the CADs, make sure that  
 23 nothing has happened through the day, check emails, that  
 24 sort of thing, and then we go back on and then we are  
 25 rostered on shift.

5

1 Q. And were you made aware at some point of a need to  
 2 attend Stoney Street?  
 3 A. We would have received the phone call -- one of the  
 4 colleagues in the office received a phone call from one  
 5 of his friends that he knew in and around London Bridge  
 6 that said there was something developing and were we  
 7 aware of it. We weren't at that time, then we went and  
 8 had a look on the CAD, computer aided dispatch, and see  
 9 that there was something brewing at the time and we  
 10 weren't sure what it was at that time.  
 11 Q. And then you did attend having looked at that CAD with  
 12 your number 2?  
 13 A. We rang into the reserve, SO15 reserve and said: look,  
 14 there's something happening, we think we should deploy  
 15 and then at the time there were that many phone calls  
 16 coming in they couldn't actually tie down what the  
 17 problem was, so we've said: right, we're now here, we  
 18 might as well deploy down to the area and see what the  
 19 problem is and see what we can do once we arrive.  
 20 Q. If we could please bring up on the screen {DC6525/1},  
 21 this is the first page of a CAD document, CAD stands for  
 22 computer aided dispatch, I think; is that right?  
 23 A. Yes, sir.  
 24 Q. And that, essentially, is a police system that is used  
 25 to log calls coming in and conversations had between

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1 police colleagues and it logs what each unit is doing  
 2 during an incident?  
 3 A. It does, it gives you the location of where you are and  
 4 whether you have been tasked to the incident or not.  
 5 Q. So it's a record of actions of -- (overspeaking) --  
 6 A. It's a live log, sir, yes.  
 7 Q. And this is CAD 8949, as we can see, incident number, on  
 8 the third line down. If we go, please, to page 7 of the  
 9 CAD we'll see a record that is entered at 22.24.30  
 10 towards the bottom of the page. So we see "CTC. Expo  
 11 advised. [Central] 1195 deploying now."  
 12 So does that mean that a message is sent to the  
 13 Counter Terrorism Command, sent to CTC?  
 14 A. Right, that's Counter Terrorism Command reserve, they  
 15 are the tasking authority for me, so that basically  
 16 gives me my authority to task me to the street, so that  
 17 gives me authority for the blue lights and two tones to  
 18 depart my base through London, so that's my authority to  
 19 deploy on a task.  
 20 Q. So is it right then that at 22.24, that was when it was  
 21 decided by officers senior to you that you needed to  
 22 deploy?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. And you did deploy and you did so in a light vehicle?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. What does a light vehicle mean?  
 2 A. We have two vehicles, a big Mercedes Sprinter which is  
 3 a big heavy vehicle and we were deploying in the Land  
 4 Rover Discovery at the time. It is a smaller, faster  
 5 response vehicle.  
 6 Q. So it literally is a lighter vehicle than a heavy  
 7 vehicle?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. Is it right that a heavy vehicle did attend as well?  
 10 A. Well, we had a report of what we believed to be suicide  
 11 bombers at the time and also there was a report of the  
 12 accident of the vehicle on the bridge so the idea was  
 13 that we were going to go and deploy with the suicide  
 14 vests -- report of suicide vests, and the heavy team was  
 15 deployed after us to go and deal with the vehicle that  
 16 was on the bridge.  
 17 Q. So that's the van that had collided into the railings?  
 18 A. Yes, it is.  
 19 Q. And it was thought there might be some devices in that  
 20 van?  
 21 A. Yes, there was.  
 22 Q. It hadn't been ruled out at that time?  
 23 A. No.  
 24 Q. And is it right that the heavy vehicle had the call sign  
 25 Central 1191?

8

1 A. I'm not sure of its call sign sir.  
 2 Q. Well if we go, please, to page 9 of the same CAD maybe  
 3 you can help us with this. We see at 22.31.39, Central  
 4 1191 also deployed.  
 5 A. Right, okay.  
 6 Q. So is it likely that that's the heavy vehicle being  
 7 deployed?  
 8 A. Yes, yes it is.  
 9 Q. Did you proceed straight to Stoney Street?  
 10 A. Sorry, sir?  
 11 Q. Did you go straight to Stoney Street by the Wheatsheaf?  
 12 A. We deployed south of the river as quick as we can and we  
 13 met up with a whole load of road blocks, people coming  
 14 up the street. Until we actually asked or found out  
 15 where we needed to be we were sort of stopped at every  
 16 stage that we could and asked advice: where do we need  
 17 to go? Where do we need to go? And we were just pushed  
 18 further east, further east, further east.  
 19 Q. If we look, please, at another CAD, {DC6559/11}, we'll  
 20 see a message there timed at 23.00.56. It's the fourth  
 21 message down. It's a message from an ARV, from an armed  
 22 response vehicle, saying:  
 23 "3 suspects currently shot with IEDs on them.  
 24 Currently being made safe by Expo."  
 25 A. Mm-hm.

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1 Q. Is it quite likely that that ARV officer is referring to  
 2 you being on the scene in Stoney Street at exactly  
 3 11 o'clock?  
 4 A. Well, we arrived at the junction so there were ARVs  
 5 everywhere at the time and the premises were still being  
 6 cleared, so we arrived on scene, reported that: I'm the  
 7 Expo, who do I need to speak to, who is in charge, who  
 8 is coordinating this. So they would probably mean that.  
 9 Q. So the fact that the ARV officer has said at 11 o'clock  
 10 that Expo, that you, are currently working --  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. -- must mean that you were there by 11.00.  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. We don't know the exact time you arrived and we don't  
 15 need to, but we can see from this that having been  
 16 deployed at 22.24, by 11.00 --  
 17 A. We were actually on scene and they knew that the Expo  
 18 was on scene.  
 19 Q. Upon arrival, do you remember what you already knew  
 20 about the attack?  
 21 A. Only briefly from what we saw on the CAD that there was  
 22 an incident going, there was a vehicle on the bridge,  
 23 because obviously we deployed the heavy team to deal  
 24 with the vehicle on the bridge and we weren't sure what  
 25 state the terrorists were in at that stage and whether

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1 they actually did have IEDs on them, we were not sure.  
 2 Q. Is it right that you and your colleague got some  
 3 information from the firearms incident commander when  
 4 you arrived?  
 5 A. I think I spoke to a police sergeant on the ground and  
 6 I said what's happening and they explained there were  
 7 three terrorists further forward of us, two on the right  
 8 and one on the left and they had been shot and they were  
 9 carrying around their waists what they believed to be  
 10 suicide vests.  
 11 Q. Your colleague records in their witness statement that  
 12 it was also said to you too that the three suspects were  
 13 lying motionless at that point, do you remember that  
 14 being said?  
 15 A. Yes. Yes. I do, yes.  
 16 Q. What did you instruct the police officers on scene to  
 17 do?  
 18 A. At the time they were -- bearing in mind that they were  
 19 still evacuating the buildings left and right of us so  
 20 I said there were two policemen left and right covering  
 21 the bodies, using their scopes on their weapons and  
 22 I asked them to move back a bit and try and move away  
 23 from -- if they were suicide vests, you know, they could  
 24 function at any time, I said move yourself back, get  
 25 behind hard cover and try and clear the area as best

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1 they can for a safe working area for us to operate in.  
 2 Q. Hard cover is a phrase that the jury have heard a couple  
 3 of times. What does it mean in this context?  
 4 A. Out of the line of sight, basically, away from glass.  
 5 Q. Out of the line of sight.  
 6 A. Out of the line of sight.  
 7 Q. Were there members of the public present?  
 8 A. They were still being evacuated, sir, from the  
 9 buildings. There was a lot of distraction charge going  
 10 on, lots of screaming, people were still in buildings,  
 11 locked themselves in, locked behind shutters, there were  
 12 still people in around the area.  
 13 Q. So you were aware of people in multiple businesses along  
 14 the road?  
 15 A. Oh yes, they were, yes.  
 16 Q. So what steps did you and your colleague then take?  
 17 A. The normal sequence is we would use our robots, we have  
 18 various robots to use. Due to issues we had in the  
 19 area, certainly safety issues we couldn't deploy our  
 20 robots.  
 21 Q. Is it right then that you were able to make what you  
 22 call a manual approach?  
 23 A. Yes, that's the final option. We had to do that, to go  
 24 and physically look at these devices to see whether they  
 25 were live devices and at that time I was led to believe

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1 that they were viable devices and that's how I treated  
 2 it up until the moment I arrived at each of the  
 3 casualties -- the terrorists .  
 4 Q. So to put it very bluntly, you had hoped to have some  
 5 technical way of dealing with it remotely?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. For whatever reason it wasn't possible, you had to walk  
 8 up there and deal with it yourself hands on?  
 9 A. The thing is, sir, we thought they may have been other  
 10 terrorists loose in the area, we weren't sure at the  
 11 time, because there was a report of a fourth or a fifth  
 12 terrorist in and around the area, we weren't sure  
 13 whether there was or not, and nobody could tell us that,  
 14 but typically our normal render safe procedure would be  
 15 we would use a robot to go and have a look because it's  
 16 got cameras on.  
 17 Q. Is it right that with time maybe you could have got over  
 18 the technical issues, but the decision was that it was  
 19 quickest for you to have a manual approach and that was  
 20 what you decided to do?  
 21 A. Well, time is a thief, sir, you know, we weren't sure  
 22 how the devices were manufactured, how they were going  
 23 to function, so the best choice we had, nothing been  
 24 seen, they hadn't moved, the terrorists, for a while so  
 25 we just took a time that we thought was best to go

13

1 forward and examine these devices and see whether they  
 2 were viable or not.  
 3 Q. Time was of the essence?  
 4 A. Time, sir, yes.  
 5 Q. How were you protected while approaching?  
 6 A. Well, we have our personal protective equipment anyway,  
 7 we have goggles, helmets, ballistic protection, body  
 8 armour, that is our personal protective --  
 9 Q. Did you have firearms cover as well?  
 10 A. We did, sir. I'm unarmed, so basically what we intended  
 11 to do was take the ballistic shield. My number 2 picked  
 12 up a ballistic shield and we were using that as cover,  
 13 so we walked forward for the two terrorists on the  
 14 right-hand side, as protection using the vehicles, then  
 15 I broke cover and then went forward again to have a look  
 16 at the first terrorist on the ground and check the vest.  
 17 Q. So is it right that you and your number 2 have firearms  
 18 officers who advance with you?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Providing direct close cover?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. But is it right that also there was firearms cover of  
 23 other officers along the side of Stoney Street?  
 24 A. Yes, they were --  
 25 Q. They were, okay.

14

1 A. -- because they were still looking up the street,  
 2 because we believed there was still a terrorist, another  
 3 terrorist loose, we are not sure where.  
 4 Q. Is it right that those officers providing cover along  
 5 the side of Stoney Street, some of them were pointing  
 6 their weapons at the three subjects, some of them were  
 7 pointing their weapons more widely around?  
 8 A. I think they were just giving cover in the area to see  
 9 if there was anything still coming down the street.  
 10 Q. In case other people approached, other attackers?  
 11 A. Yes, yes. I think mainly, sir, as well, it was if there  
 12 was any members of the public coming down the street  
 13 because, you know, they could still come out of  
 14 buildings we don't know, there were people everywhere at  
 15 the time.  
 16 Q. Did you inspect the bodies of the subjects or did your  
 17 number 2 do so?  
 18 A. The first one, the plan was I go forward, breaking cover  
 19 from the ballistic shield, I will go forward, check  
 20 their bodies, check the vests, then I'll ascertain as to  
 21 what state the devices were in and then we'll make  
 22 a plan after that.  
 23 Q. If we pause there to look at some photographs, the first  
 24 is {DC7283/112}. So this is the view down  
 25 Stoney Street. Did you park your light vehicle

15

1 somewhere in this area?  
 2 A. It would be in at the T junction, sir, further back.  
 3 Q. But it was this view that would have been your first  
 4 view of the immediate scene?  
 5 A. It was more chaotic than that.  
 6 Q. If we then look at {PH0426/1}, we've moved further  
 7 forwards now.  
 8 A. Mm-hm.  
 9 Q. We've got the ARV right in the middle of the screen, and  
 10 if you look just to the right at the driver's side of  
 11 the ARV, just in front of it, you can see two of the  
 12 attackers there in that photograph?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. So as you approached, that would have been the sort of  
 15 view that you had?  
 16 A. We went between the vehicles, sir. We went using the  
 17 vehicles as cover until as best -- as we could because  
 18 we weren't sure the manufacture of the devices. So we  
 19 used the cover of the vehicles and we went to the back  
 20 of the vehicle to the left-hand side of the vehicle as  
 21 you look at it then between them and we broke cover and  
 22 towards the right-hand side.  
 23 Q. So you wouldn't have had as clear a view as that as you  
 24 approached?  
 25 A. No. Again we were trying to keep away from either side.

16

1 Q. If we look then at {DC7181/292}, this is very similar to  
 2 the image that we're currently looking at, but we've got  
 3 a higher viewpoint, and we're looking down at the  
 4 positions of the attackers; is that how you remember it?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Using that image, if it helps, whose belt did you  
 7 inspect first?  
 8 A. The first one on the right-hand side by the big post.  
 9 Q. So if we're looking at the top image, we can see a torch  
 10 from one of the officers, maybe from BY28, illuminating  
 11 the stripey clothing --  
 12 A. Mm-hm.  
 13 Q. -- of Redouane, and if we look a bit closer towards the  
 14 camera, slightly to the right, it is that person there,  
 15 Zaghba, that you were talking about?  
 16 A. Yes, the first person -- the first body I met.  
 17 Q. Ultimately from what distance did you inspect the  
 18 device?  
 19 A. I touched him, sir.  
 20 Q. For how long were you inspecting the device?  
 21 A. As long as it took me to physically search his body and  
 22 then remove the belt from around his waist.  
 23 Q. What conclusions did you reach?  
 24 A. When I removed the belt I was surprised that there was  
 25 nothing else of interest to me. It was just a bottle or

17

1 bottles with silver tape wrapped round. I picked it up  
 2 and inspected each of the bottles and then I cut the  
 3 tape off and I just saw that they were empty bottles.  
 4 Q. Is it right that as an expert, as somebody able to see,  
 5 perhaps, what a layman wouldn't be able to see, you were  
 6 able to identify the belts as fake very quickly?  
 7 A. Up until the moment I actually cut the belt off, sir,  
 8 because it was a leather belt and I cut it with a sharp  
 9 knife to cut it off and held it and inspected each of  
 10 the bottles, then that's the time I could say they're  
 11 hoax devices, but up until that time, no. I believed  
 12 they were still live devices up until that moment.  
 13 Q. So would you agree then that police officers who haven't  
 14 had your training and who hadn't had the opportunity to  
 15 cut off the belt and actually hold it in their hand,  
 16 those police officers in the heat of the moment might  
 17 reasonably regard the belts as real?  
 18 A. They were at a distance and I was up close, picking up,  
 19 holding these belts myself, until I actually held them,  
 20 inspected them and said these were hoax devices, until  
 21 that time I still believed they were live devices.  
 22 Q. If we pause to look at three further images, the first  
 23 is {PH0659/1}. So this is a photograph the next  
 24 morning, I would have thought with the light, and it's  
 25 taken looking back towards Borough High Street, so the

18

1 Wheatsheaf is to the right just behind the cameraman.  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. And is it right that we can see by the letter A on the  
 4 floor, we can see a knife?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. By the letter B we can see one of the belts?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. And by the letter C, we can see another belt.  
 9 A. Mm-hm.  
 10 Q. And if we look, please, at {PH0691/1} is it right there  
 11 that we can see the body of Redouane in the striped  
 12 clothing in the background?  
 13 A. Which one is which sir? On the right-hand side are we  
 14 looking at, or the left side?  
 15 Q. We can see the striped clothing which is Redouane, and  
 16 I think we can see an arm and the legs of Zaghba on the  
 17 right of that?  
 18 A. Yes, I did the two terrorists on the right-hand side  
 19 then I assisted with the one on the left-hand side which  
 20 is just in front of that barrel on the screen.  
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: What I'm going to suggest, Mr Moss, is  
 22 we perhaps ask Oli to put the cursor on the area that we  
 23 are focusing on.  
 24 MR MOSS: Yes. Oli, if you could please put the cursor  
 25 where the striped clothing is on Redouane.

19

1 A. I see.  
 2 Q. So that's the person who is further away from the ARV?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. Then if we move to the right of that, we can see a hand  
 5 most clearly I think --  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. -- and that's the hand of Zaghba there.  
 8 A. So where the cursor is now, that's the first body  
 9 I searched, then the second body I searched.  
 10 Q. And if you look in the foreground of that photo, can you  
 11 see the belt labelled B and the belt labelled C?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. So this is the same as we've just seen but from  
 14 a different angle?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And if we now, please, look at {PH0149/1}, this is  
 17 a close-up of belt B from above, belt B being the one  
 18 that was nearer Zaghba --  
 19 A. Right.  
 20 Q. -- Zaghba being the person nearest to the ARV?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Just so I understand, Mr Short, you have  
 23 told us that it's only the point that you have cut  
 24 through the belt and you remove it that you realise the  
 25 first one you take off is a hoax?

20

1 A. Yes, sir.  
 2 THE CHIEF CORONER: Does that apply to the second one?  
 3 A. We still had another two bodies to search at the time.  
 4 The fact that this one was a hoax device didn't suggest  
 5 that the others may have been the same. They looked the  
 6 same but they could have been totally different.  
 7 THE CHIEF CORONER: So until you had removed those you  
 8 were --  
 9 A. Again, sir, until I have actually cut the belt off and  
 10 shined a torch at them and inspected each of the  
 11 bottles, that was the same conclusion I came to.  
 12 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.  
 13 MR MOSS: Is it right, Mr Short, that actually looking at  
 14 that image on screen we can see that the belt has been  
 15 cut. It hasn't been opened up in the way you would have  
 16 taken off a belt.  
 17 A. No, I cut it with a -- I've had a sharp knife, sir.  
 18 Q. What did you do when you realised that the first belt  
 19 was fake?  
 20 A. Well, I shouted to Central 1191, I said "The belt's  
 21 a hoax, so I'm going to go and search the other body".  
 22 Q. Did you then inspect the second body, Redouane in the  
 23 stripey clothing?  
 24 A. I searched the first one, the first body, I took the  
 25 belt off, then I declared that this was a hoax device,

21

1 then I called my number 2 across to check the body for  
 2 any correspondence or ID or anything. So he checked the  
 3 first body we searched, and then I went forward again to  
 4 do the same as I done with the first body and checked  
 5 the body quickly and then removed that second belt.  
 6 Q. If we please go back to the last image, which is  
 7 {PH0691/1} and we see belts B and C lying there in the  
 8 road, is that where you put them down?  
 9 A. Well I pulled it off them, held it aloft, shone the  
 10 torch at it, then I push it out the way, put it on the  
 11 floor, because I was going to go forward and there were  
 12 people going forward. What I didn't want to do was  
 13 people standing all over these belts so I just put them  
 14 in the centre of the road. I thought it was out of the  
 15 way from the bodies.  
 16 Q. So probably that's the location in which you put it,  
 17 roughly?  
 18 A. Yes, I certainly would have took it off and placed it to  
 19 the left-hand side, yes.  
 20 Q. Having dealt with the two belts, did you turn your mind  
 21 to whether there might be other devices on the subjects?  
 22 A. Having searched the first one, no correspondence on  
 23 there at all. Second one I have removed the belt and  
 24 searched and I found it on his -- I think it was his  
 25 left pocket, that there was an ID card or some keys or

22

1 something like this, and that's when I told my number 2  
 2 I think there's some correspondence or keys or ID in his  
 3 pocket. Can you search the body to see if there's  
 4 anything in there that I can use as evidence.  
 5 Q. If we now, please, look at {PH0697/1}, we'll see the  
 6 third belt by the letter F, so this is the belt from the  
 7 subject on the other side of the road?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. It too has been cut off, we can see.  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Did you cut it off?  
 12 A. No, that would have been Central 1191 who did that.  
 13 Q. Did you have any involvement with it?  
 14 A. I went across and assisted with him and said this is the  
 15 make up of my devices and this is exactly the same as  
 16 the two that I've just seen.  
 17 Q. And once you had completed your work, is it right that  
 18 you were then able to advise the police officers present  
 19 that there was no risk from explosive devices?  
 20 A. Until that one -- until I'd seen that one and said that  
 21 they were all three the same and they were all hoax  
 22 devices, that's when we can say there's no explosive  
 23 viability of any of these and then we were into  
 24 a recovery mode then.  
 25 Q. Looking to the rest of what you did that evening now,

23

1 later in the shift, you didn't have any involvement with  
 2 the van that crashed into the railings?  
 3 A. No, another team that was deployed from our central  
 4 location was deployed to deal with that.  
 5 Q. If I told you that was Central 1064, does that sound  
 6 right?  
 7 A. Right, yes.  
 8 Q. Is it right though that you did inspect a parked vehicle  
 9 on Stoney Street later in the shift?  
 10 A. That was further on up, but that was just -- the vehicle  
 11 was just there, I think it had -- a Chinese delivery  
 12 vehicle or something like that. I remember there was a  
 13 smell of food in there when I opened it up.  
 14 Q. And when you inspected it, there was no sign of concern?  
 15 A. There was nothing. It was just a vehicle that was in  
 16 the street.  
 17 Q. You stayed at the location until about 2 o'clock in the  
 18 morning?  
 19 A. We stayed until, yes, and in around the area because  
 20 there were still reports of a terrorist loose and we  
 21 didn't know was going on. Until it all settled down and  
 22 we can decide that we were going to leave the location  
 23 and head to our base then we stayed there until we had  
 24 nothing more to do.  
 25 Q. If, finally, we please look at two CCTV images, these

24

1 help a bit with the timing of what it was you did. The  
 2 first of those is {DC7249/3}. So remember, Mr Short, we  
 3 know from the CAD communication that we saw from the ARV  
 4 that you were on scene approximately 11.00 pm. Is it  
 5 right that we see you and your colleagues just behind  
 6 the ARV here at, we're told it's 11.16.49?  
 7 A. Yes, sir.  
 8 Q. So this is you on your approach?  
 9 A. It is.  
 10 Q. You describe going down the passenger side?  
 11 A. It probably took at least, the time from when we arrived  
 12 to that time to go forward to make some sort of  
 13 semblance of the area and get people away from the area  
 14 and then make a plan as to what we were going to do and  
 15 the equipment preparation that we needed to make to go  
 16 forward and decide what we were going to do when we  
 17 arrived at the terrorists.  
 18 Q. So we don't know how early you got there but we know  
 19 that you had been there for at least 17 minutes by this  
 20 point.  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. That timescale sounds about right to you?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. And if we please look at {DC7249/4} of the same document  
 25 we see, I think, you in front of the vehicle, and can we

25

1 see that you're holding something in your hand?  
 2 A. It's probably the vest, sir.  
 3 Q. And what are you doing, briefly, in that photograph?  
 4 A. Well, I'd obviously taken it off the body by then and  
 5 I'd carried -- I was looking with some of the torches  
 6 and I was going to place it on the floor.  
 7 Q. We're told by the SO15 officers who have reviewed the  
 8 footage, looking at the words of the report, that this  
 9 is the second belt that you had removed there, and we  
 10 see that this is timed about a minute and a half after  
 11 we saw you advancing down the side of the vehicle?  
 12 A. Right.  
 13 Q. Does that sound right, that in about a minute and a half  
 14 you were able to look at both belts?  
 15 A. As I said, sir, time's a thief, just because the first  
 16 belt I had proved to be a hoax, the second one might not  
 17 have been a hoax, that's why I was trying to do it as  
 18 speedily as I could to deal with these devices to make  
 19 sure they were as the first one, as a hoax, and not  
 20 a live device, because the longer we stand there, we're  
 21 at more risk by standing in that area, given that they  
 22 had three vests at the time.  
 23 Q. Is it right to say that it's in your interests to work  
 24 quickly but you've got to work at a pace that allows you  
 25 to review things properly?

26

1 A. Yes, sir.  
 2 MR MOSS: Mr Short, thank you. I have got no further  
 3 questions for you, I don't know if others do.  
 4 Questions by MR HORWELL QC  
 5 MR HORWELL: Mr Short, I've only a few questions.  
 6 A. Okay, sir.  
 7 Q. Simply a little bit more detail than you have provided  
 8 already.  
 9 The terrorists, or at least one of them, obviously  
 10 went to some time and effort to make these belts and the  
 11 assumption must be that they intended those that saw  
 12 them to believe that they were real --  
 13 A. Yes, sir.  
 14 Q. -- otherwise, why go through the exercise? Now, we've  
 15 heard from a number of police officers that police  
 16 officers must work on the basis that a belt such as that  
 17 is real until the contrary is established by somebody  
 18 like you?  
 19 A. Yes, sir.  
 20 Q. And you would agree with that principle?  
 21 A. I do, sir, wholeheartedly, yes.  
 22 Q. It would be foolish and dangerous to decide otherwise?  
 23 A. Yes, sir.  
 24 Q. And as you have told this jury, even when you were  
 25 standing above the belts you worked on the basis that

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1 they were real, and it was only when you cut the belt  
 2 and picked them up that you appreciated for the first  
 3 time that they must be fake?  
 4 A. Until I did each of the two that I'd searched, yes, sir.  
 5 MR HORWELL: Yes. Thank you.  
 6 MR MOSS: Sir, unless you have any questions, those are all  
 7 the questions we have.  
 8 THE CHIEF CORONER: No, thank you very much indeed for  
 9 coming, Mr Short. Very interesting, thank you.  
 10 A. Thank you, sir.  
 11 MR MOSS: Thank you for your evidence.  
 12 MR HOUGH: It will be necessary to take a short break on the  
 13 basis that the next of our two witnesses are both  
 14 subject to special measures and therefore we will have  
 15 to reconfigure the court and ask those in the public  
 16 gallery and the press to leave this court.  
 17 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Hough, as you will know it's almost  
 18 impossible to have a very short break in this building  
 19 for lots of very good reasons. What I'm going to  
 20 suggest, although it's a little bit early, is that we  
 21 actually take a 20-minute break now, because by the time  
 22 we've sent everyone out, we've got the court  
 23 reconfigured, it will take us 10 or 15 minutes to do  
 24 that, so if we take a 20-minute break now we can then do  
 25 so.

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1 I know because you have been kind enough to tell me  
 2 that it is likely that our evidence today will not  
 3 occupy the whole of the day and we may well finish this  
 4 side of lunchtime.  
 5 MR HOUGH: We may well do.  
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Partly because we have saved one witness  
 7 the need to come to give evidence, so that's one reason.  
 8 So, in fact, taking a break now of that length is not  
 9 going to interfere with the smooth-running of the day so  
 10 far as we are concerned and the jury may be pleased to  
 11 know that actually the day is shorter than it might  
 12 otherwise be, but it doesn't affect the overall timing  
 13 of where we're at.  
 14 Members of the jury, we'll take our break there,  
 15 thank you.  
 16 (10.43 am)  
 17 (A short break)  
 18 (11.04 am)  
 19 MR HOUGH: V134.  
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Mr Hough, just while we're waiting for  
 21 the witness to come in, we're moving on -- we're moving  
 22 topic now.  
 23 MR HOUGH: Yes, the next two witnesses will be officers from  
 24 the control room who were involved in coordinating the  
 25 armed police response to the attack.

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1 V134 (sworn)  
 2 MR HOUGH: Sir, before I begin asking questions, may I just  
 3 say that this witness and the next are subject to orders  
 4 for anonymity and special measures which you made  
 5 in November of last year. Their names are to be  
 6 withheld in evidence. Pseudonyms are to be used for  
 7 them. No question may be asked which might lead to  
 8 their identification. They are being screened, as you  
 9 see, and pursuant to section 11 of the Contempt of Court  
 10 Act 1981, there should be no publication of the name of  
 11 either one or identifying information about them in  
 12 connection with these Inquests or their subject matter.  
 13 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much. Good morning.  
 14 A. Good morning.  
 15 Questions by MR HOUGH QC  
 16 MR HOUGH: Could you please confirm that you are  
 17 a Metropolitan Police officer being referred to for  
 18 these Inquests as V134?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. What is your current role, officer?  
 21 A. I'm currently a tactical firearms commander with the  
 22 Metropolitan Police.  
 23 Q. What is your rank?  
 24 A. I'm an inspector.  
 25 Q. Are you attached to any particular command?

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1 A. I currently work for SO19, Specialist Operations 19,  
 2 which is the firearms command for the  
 3 Metropolitan Police.  
 4 Q. Is it right that on the night of Saturday, 3 June, you  
 5 were the tactical firearms commander on duty in the  
 6 Metropolitan Police command and control centre?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. And you appreciate you're here to give evidence both as  
 9 to matters of background and about your role in that  
 10 duty on that night?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. You made a witness statement on 7 June 2017. You may  
 13 refer to that as you wish.  
 14 A. Thank you.  
 15 Q. When did you first join the Specialist Firearms Command?  
 16 A. I joined the Specialist Firearms Command in May 2016.  
 17 Q. You've told us that you are trained as a tactical  
 18 firearms commander. Does the training involve both  
 19 theory training and practical exercises in a wide range  
 20 of incidents?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. And do those incidents include marauding terrorist  
 23 attacks nowadays?  
 24 A. They do.  
 25 Q. Do the exercises involve coordinating armed response

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1 vehicle officers?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. And do they involve liaison with other emergency  
 4 services?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Now, is it right that the Metropolitan Police has  
 7 a command centre known as the specialist operations  
 8 room?  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. Is it right that within that room at any one time there  
 11 will be on duty a tactical firearms commander?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. Will that individual be in an area known as the ARV pod?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. Is that an area of the control room from which armed  
 16 response vehicles are directed?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. In addition to the tactical firearms commander on duty  
 19 in the control centre, will there also be at any time  
 20 a duty mobile tactical firearms commander?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. What's the responsibility of that person in short?  
 23 A. The mobile TFC will be responsible for attending scenes  
 24 such as sieges or MTAs, or any job that requires  
 25 a ground-assigned tactical firearms commander to be in

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1 control.  
 2 Q. Is this right: when you are the tactical firearms  
 3 commander in the ARV pod, you are part of a larger  
 4 control room which is receiving communications and  
 5 deploying units for a wide range of purposes?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. May I ask you a few questions now by way of background  
 8 about CADs, computer aided dispatches. Is a computer  
 9 aided dispatch a form of live working log kept on  
 10 computer?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Will a CAD often be produced when a 999 call is made and  
 13 a connection is made to the police?  
 14 A. Yes, any calls into the police, a CAD will be created.  
 15 Q. Will the CAD then record further information and actions  
 16 following the call with time entries?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. Is a CAD started with some initial information being  
 19 input by an operator following either the 999 call or  
 20 whatever else causes the CAD to be created?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Does each CAD have a sequential number starting with 1  
 23 for a given day?  
 24 A. Yes, it happens after midnight.  
 25 Q. Is it right that a single incident can generate multiple

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1 CADs as, for example, when a major incident results in  
 2 many, many 999 calls?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. In that case, is there a procedure for creating a main  
 5 working CAD in order to coordinate information in one  
 6 place?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. But is it right that some information may continue to be  
 9 recorded on other CADs even after that has happened?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. Once a CAD has been created, how will that lead to units  
 12 being dispatched to the scene?  
 13 A. If it's with regards to a firearms operation or  
 14 a firearms call or there's any weapons, then it will be  
 15 sent to us via a tag-in and then we'll review it to see  
 16 whether we are going to deploy officers or not, and  
 17 that's the same with regards to borough officers as  
 18 well.  
 19 Q. So if a CAD is created which appears to require  
 20 a firearms response, it will be diverted to your team in  
 21 the ARV pod?  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. Otherwise, if conventional police resources are  
 24 required, will a CAD be sent to local dispatch centres?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. And then a local unit may be dispatched within  
 2 a particular borough?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. When a response is required from the City of London  
 5 Police or the British Transport Police, are there  
 6 procedures in place for the CAD to be passed to that  
 7 force from the Metropolitan Police?  
 8 A. Yes, it's a very similar process when it comes to us so  
 9 it gets tagged to them as well.  
 10 Q. Now, in this case I think the incident response was  
 11 directed at a borough level by the Lambeth dispatch  
 12 centre?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. But the CAD was also passed to City of London Police,  
 15 British Transport Police and Westminster Borough?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. In addition, the incident was communicated to your  
 18 command pod and circulated to other specialist units by  
 19 a pan-London dispatcher?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. As you sit with your colleagues in the command pod, what  
 22 is it your general responsibility to do, without any  
 23 major incident having developed?  
 24 A. We're responsible for a number of actions. In relation  
 25 to any calls that come in, we assess each call to see

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1 whether we are going to deploy armed officers or if it's  
 2 suitable for local officers to deal and go forward. We  
 3 also review special schemes which are tags on addresses  
 4 and cars and we obviously we review also any information  
 5 that is coming in to see whether we need to do also  
 6 a pre-planned operation.  
 7 Q. Who else is with you in the pod assisting you with these  
 8 tasks?  
 9 A. In general a pod is made up of a police officer,  
 10 an intelligence officer, a TFC and a tactical advisor.  
 11 Q. If you determine that a central firearms response is  
 12 required to an incident, what actions then follow?  
 13 A. Okay, once I've assessed an incident and I'm going to  
 14 declare it a firearms incident, then I will look at my  
 15 work strategy, my threat assessment. I will then pass  
 16 it over to my colleague with regard to -- he's basically  
 17 my tactical advisor, he's been trained in tactics and  
 18 he'll give me advice in regards to what tactics would be  
 19 best suited to my working strategy.  
 20 Q. Now, you said if you decide that something is a firearms  
 21 incident. How do you make that decision?  
 22 A. With regards to dispatching the firearms officers, there  
 23 has to be certain criteria met, which is reason to  
 24 suppose officers may have to protect themselves or  
 25 others from somebody that's in possession of or has

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1 access to a firearms or a potentially lethal weapon, or  
 2 is otherwise dangerous. There are various aspects to  
 3 those.  
 4 Q. So you consider the information provided in a CAD, for  
 5 example. You determine whether it meets the criteria  
 6 requiring the response of armed officers, and if you  
 7 think it does, then you declare it a firearms incident?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. You then receive advice from your tactical advisor on  
 10 the resources that are required to respond to the  
 11 incident?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. The City of London Police, of course, have their own  
 14 firearms officers, as we've heard during the course of  
 15 these Inquests. Is it right that the City of London  
 16 Police has its own separate control room through which  
 17 those officers can be directed?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. In an incident in or near to the City of London area  
 20 which requires a firearms response, how are the firearms  
 21 resources coordinated between the Metropolitan Police  
 22 and the City of London Police?  
 23 A. If we need them to assist us, then the CAD is passed  
 24 over to them, or we'll go and listen to their channel,  
 25 and vice versa.

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1 Q. Is it also the case that the City of London in their  
 2 control room have access to Metropolitan Police CADs and  
 3 can observe what is going on --  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. -- through monitoring those CADs. Is it right also that  
 6 there are various channels of communication between your  
 7 control room and theirs?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. May I now ask you a few questions about Operation Plato.  
 10 The jury have heard a little about that. In brief, is  
 11 Operation Plato the set of procedures governing the  
 12 operational response to a marauding terrorist attack?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. Now, if we may, I'd like to look at a few parts of one  
 15 procedural document to explain those procedures, and  
 16 they should come up, the relevant extracts should come  
 17 up on the iPad you have with you. May we have, please,  
 18 on the screen {DC8206/1}. Can we see here a document  
 19 providing contingency planning guidance on Operation  
 20 Plato procedures?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Page 3, please {DC8206/3}. Now, Operation Plato is  
 23 sometimes referred to as the response to a marauding  
 24 terrorist firearms attack, but is it right that,  
 25 certainly within the Metropolitan Police, Plato

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1 procedures are used for an attack which doesn't involve  
 2 attackers actually bearing firearms?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. Do we see that at paragraph 3.1 the document recognises  
 5 that such an attack doesn't have a single recognised  
 6 definition, there are many factors that can be  
 7 considered to indicate one is taking place?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. And if we look at paragraph 3.3, does the document  
 10 recognise that such an attack is an extraordinary event  
 11 that places extraordinary demands on all aspects of  
 12 police and other emergency services in their response?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. And is it therefore because of those demands that  
 15 special procedures have been established to deal with  
 16 such attacks?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. If we can go to the next page, please {DC8206/4}, do we  
 19 see at 3.8 a number of indications that such an attack  
 20 is underway, including multiple subjects, subjects  
 21 working cohesively in pairs or groups, multiple sites of  
 22 attack. Moving down the page, indiscriminate attacks  
 23 designed to cause mass casualties, targeting soft  
 24 targets, targeting of iconic sites, willingness of  
 25 subjects to confront and attack initial responders, and

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1 use of improvised explosive devices.  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. So is it right that those are indications that such  
 4 an attack is underway, the police and others have drawn  
 5 from other similar events across the world?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. If we can go to {DC8206/5}, please, can we see that the  
 8 Plato procedures specifically recognise that some  
 9 attacks are of a less sophisticated kind?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. And at 3.11, that a less sophisticated attack may  
 12 involve bladed weapons and moving vehicles as weapons?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. Aspects of the London Bridge attack?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And then at 3.14, can we see that the procedures  
 17 recognise that less sophisticated attacks may be the  
 18 beginning of, or precursor for more complex attacks?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. So when you, as a command officer, or when officers at  
 21 the scene face an apparently unsophisticated attack, it  
 22 may be the beginning of something bigger and more  
 23 dangerous?  
 24 A. Yes, it could be a multi-seated attack also.  
 25 Q. So you can't assume from the fact that an attack is

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1 concentrated or apparently concentrated or apparently  
 2 low sophistication, that that is the end of it?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. Then {DC8206/7}, please, do we see at 5.1 that the  
 5 response of the emergency services to such an attack is  
 6 always to be police-led and likely to be managed within  
 7 a police force control room?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. 5.8, can we see that the document recognises that:  
 10 "Once the information in relation to the identity  
 11 and location of subjects is confirmed then the ability  
 12 to confront and neutralise the threat becomes more  
 13 achievable and the ability to begin the process of  
 14 identifying where other emergency services may be able  
 15 to operate to save life through treatment and/or  
 16 casualty extraction can begin".  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. So is it right that the process of dealing with such  
 19 an attack operates in stages, identifying and locating  
 20 the subjects --  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. -- the attackers, then confronting and neutralising the  
 23 threat?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. And only when that happens can the process of saving

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1 life through treatment and casualty extraction be  
 2 properly managed?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. And at 5.9, do we see that the initial authorisation and  
 5 command of such an operation will usually be by the  
 6 initial tactical firearms commander in the control room?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. So someone in your position?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Then if we can go, please, to page 8 {DC8206/8}, do we  
 11 see at 5.15 that the ordinary procedure will involve  
 12 that person, the initial tactical firearms commander,  
 13 deciding whether to declare an incident an Operation  
 14 Plato incident?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. Do we see that it advises that that declaration should  
 17 be in clear and unambiguous language?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. Then can we see from 5.17 that once that declaration has  
 20 been made, it triggers a series of preplanned responses  
 21 and actions from a range of emergency services?  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. And then if we go to page 9, please {DC8206/9}, can we  
 24 see at the bottom of the page a series of immediate  
 25 actions, which follow from such a declaration. And on

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1 to {DC8206/10}, can we see first of all that it's the  
 2 responsibility of the initial tactical firearms  
 3 commander to consider urgent initial actions to maintain  
 4 momentum and create the foundation for an effective  
 5 response, including notifying key resources of the  
 6 potential for an extreme threat firearms deployment?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. So is it a responsibility of somebody in your position,  
 9 as the TFC, to get the word out, in simple terms, of the  
 10 need for firearms to be deployed against an extreme  
 11 threat?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. Do we see also that the document recommends that  
 14 guidance be sent out to unarmed officers to stay safe  
 15 while also seeking to locate subjects and also evacuate  
 16 the public?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. Next, towards the bottom of the page, do we see that the  
 19 document tells initial tactical firearms commanders to  
 20 deploy firearms assets without delay --  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. -- using the resources at their disposal?  
 23 Then {DC8206/11}, please. Can we see also further  
 24 actions, contacting and deploying intervention response  
 25 teams of counter terrorism specialist firearms officers?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. And are they officers who are trained and deployed to go  
 3 into potentially dangerous scenes with other emergency  
 4 services to get help to those who need it?  
 5 A. Yes, they're highly trained.  
 6 Q. Another action to inform a counter terrorist policing  
 7 reserve?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. An action required to set up continuous open  
 10 communications with ambulance and fire service control  
 11 rooms?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 Q. An action to set an initial working strategy for the  
 14 incident based on what is required?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. And do we see under that heading that the most  
 17 appropriate response will likely be to identify, locate  
 18 and confront subjects in order to neutralise the threat  
 19 as quickly as possible?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. So when we heard from the armed officers earlier in this  
 22 hearing that their approach was to identify, locate and  
 23 confront subjects and to neutralise threat, that was the  
 24 textbook response to a Plato incident?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. Then briefing of further commanders, towards the bottom  
2 of the page, and then if we can look at {DC8206/14},  
3 please, do we see in this part of the document that the  
4 procedures involve joint working with the ambulance and  
5 fire service, including at 11.4, setting up a three-way  
6 telecommunications link early on in such an incident?  
7 A. That's correct.  
8 Q. Then at 11.6, identifying a rendez-vous point for the  
9 emergency services.  
10 A. That's correct.  
11 Q. Is that a point where vehicles and personnel from the  
12 various emergency services can be deployed initially  
13 before they are sent into the scene?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. Then identifying suitable forward command posts for  
16 specialist emergency service personnel. What is  
17 a forward command post and what is its function?  
18 A. The RVP is further back. The forward control point is  
19 somewhere we can go forward and act, so it's a lot  
20 closer to the scene.  
21 Q. Is it typically on the border of the more dangerous  
22 scenes?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. And then {DC8206/15}, please, at the top of the page:  
25 "Joint dynamic decision-making process leading to

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1 the identification of Hot, Cold and Warm zones and  
2 an agreed tactical plan to treat and evacuate  
3 casualties."  
4 The jury has heard a little about hot, cold and warm  
5 zones; is it right that the hot zone is the area of  
6 immediate threat where attackers may be?  
7 A. That's correct.  
8 Q. A warm zone is an area typically adjacent to that where  
9 attackers often will have been at an earlier stage?  
10 A. That's correct.  
11 Q. And a cold zone is everywhere else, the area  
12 surrounding, which is believed currently to be safe?  
13 A. That's correct.  
14 Q. And is it the case in simple terms that there are joint  
15 procedures whereby the police, armed officers, along  
16 with trained ambulance and fire officers, may go  
17 together into a warm zone?  
18 A. That's correct.  
19 Q. In order to treat and extract casualties?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. But that hot zones will only normally be entered by  
22 armed police officers?  
23 A. That's correct.  
24 Q. And then do we see that the police strategy, at  
25 paragraph 12.7, is intended to serve the obvious

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1 objectives of minimising the risk to the public while  
2 also maximising the safety of emergency service  
3 responders?  
4 A. That's correct.  
5 Q. And once again at 12.4, the overarching strategic aim  
6 identified as being for armed police to identify, locate  
7 and confront subjects in order to neutralise threat?  
8 A. That's correct.  
9 Q. We can take that document down now. So that's the  
10 textbook background to what you were doing that night.  
11 When did you come on duty on that day, 3 June?  
12 A. I was on night shift so I started in the control room at  
13 about 6.30 in the evening.  
14 Q. Did you, in the usual way, have a tactical advisor, F69,  
15 and other officers with you to assist?  
16 A. That's correct.  
17 Q. Before you were told about the incident in the  
18 London Bridge and Borough Market area, was there  
19 anything remarkable that happened that evening?  
20 A. I was passed CADs to assess to see whether it warranted  
21 a firearms response. I declared one incident prior to  
22 the London Bridge incident, and that was at about 21.17,  
23 and that was in one of the boroughs where a male was  
24 seen walking down the road with a gun.  
25 Q. So there was one firearms incident which you had to

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1 declare and address before the attack we're concerned  
2 with?  
3 A. That's correct.  
4 Q. Is it also the case in general terms that at that time,  
5 with the recent Manchester attack having taken place,  
6 armed officers were in demand, for example, for special  
7 events?  
8 A. That's correct.  
9 Q. Shortly after 10 o'clock that night, were you notified  
10 of events unfolding in the London Bridge area?  
11 A. I was approached by the chief inspector in our SOR and  
12 he asked me to look at a CAD that had come in. I then  
13 looked at the CAD and basically he came over and said he  
14 was looking at Plato with regards to this incident.  
15 I concurred that, yes, it was potentially Op Plato.  
16 Q. Is this right: that there is a chief inspector sometimes  
17 known as the grip chief inspector who is in overall  
18 charge of the specialist operations room?  
19 A. That's correct.  
20 Q. You say that he came over to you and showed you a CAD?  
21 A. Yes, he asked me to call a CAD up on the system.  
22 Q. If we look, please, {DC8184/1}, we can see a CAD  
23 numbered 8810, and if we go, please, to {DC8184/8} we  
24 can see that the initial information on this CAD was  
25 that a white van had just driven along London Bridge and

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1 crashed into around seven people. Was that the initial  
 2 CAD brought up?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. The chief inspector told you it was a possible Plato  
 5 incident. Did he tell you why he had come to that  
 6 conclusion, why he didn't regard it simply as a road  
 7 traffic accident?  
 8 A. We didn't have that discussion at the time.  
 9 Q. He just said he thought it was an Operation Plato  
 10 incident?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Why did you concur? Why did you think it was Operation  
 13 Plato?  
 14 A. It was gut feeling, because of previous incidents that  
 15 had happened in London, around the world, and the  
 16 Manchester bombing, obviously it didn't -- something  
 17 didn't feel right about it.  
 18 Q. Was that the location, the number of people hit?  
 19 A. It was central London, so that was one of the factors.  
 20 It wasn't about the number of people.  
 21 Q. So you concurred that this was likely to be a Plato  
 22 incident. Who was to declare that this was Plato?  
 23 A. Okay, with regards to at that time it could have been  
 24 chief inspector SOR or it could have been myself. We  
 25 were the only two people that were allowed to declare an

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1 Op Plato at the time, so either one of us could have  
 2 done.  
 3 Q. Who in fact made the declaration ultimately?  
 4 A. We both made it to our own -- he's responsible for the  
 5 pan-London resources, I am responsible for the firearms  
 6 officers, so in our own areas we both declared it.  
 7 Q. In the minutes that followed did a large number of CADs  
 8 start to be created as a result of calls coming in in  
 9 response to the attack?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. If we look, please, at {DC7194/1}, please. Now, this is  
 12 a schedule of the CADs that came in that night, where we  
 13 can see simply by looking down by reference to the  
 14 times, a large number of calls starting at 22.08 with  
 15 many calls in just the first few minutes?  
 16 A. That's correct.  
 17 Q. If we scan over the page to the content of those calls,  
 18 we can see that the early calls primarily referred to  
 19 a van which had struck people on a bridge, but then  
 20 within a few minutes, calls referring to a terrorist  
 21 attack and to people being stabbed?  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. We can take that off screen now.  
 24 Having decided that this was likely to be  
 25 a terrorist incident, what did you then proceed to do?

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1 A. I spoke to my tactical advisor and declared that -- said  
 2 that I was declaring Operation Plato, so then we got  
 3 resources running towards the London Bridge area.  
 4 Q. Did he proceed to deploy armed response vehicles to the  
 5 scene?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. And he used the radio for that purpose, using, among  
 8 other things, a firearms channel?  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. So when the firearms officers from the  
 11 Metropolitan Police and indeed the City of London Police  
 12 refer to hearing communications over a firearms channel  
 13 from control, that was from him, was it?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. Did you have any armed response vehicles held back from  
 16 deployment to the scene?  
 17 A. Yes, part of our operational procedures are to hold four  
 18 back in case there's any other attacks anywhere else.  
 19 Q. Is that partly because of the risk of a multi-seated  
 20 attack of the kind you've described already?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Did you also make a call to a strategic firearms  
 23 commander, a higher level commander who might later take  
 24 control of the incident?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. If we look, please, at notes you made, {WS0089A/12},  
 2 please. Can we see towards the bottom of the page you  
 3 noted down the number of the CAD, which we looked at  
 4 earlier; yes?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. You identified a reference in one of the communications  
 7 to a male being outside the vehicle?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. You referred to keeping four units --  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. Were they the reserve units?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. You referred to armed response vehicles being sent to  
 14 the scene?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And you referred to the strategic firearms commander  
 17 being called at 10.15?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. We can take that off screen now.  
 20 Apart from the Plato declaration, did you also  
 21 declare that this was a firearms incident?  
 22 A. I did.  
 23 Q. What channel were you using for communicating both the  
 24 Operation Plato declaration and your other  
 25 communications?

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1 A. With regards to any actions of my firearms officers we  
 2 were using our firearms channel because the other  
 3 channels were extremely busy, but it was also being run  
 4 on City Ops 1 and also the local borough, CWAD dispatch.  
 5 Q. Is City Ops 1 a channel for officers operating in the  
 6 City of London area?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. But a channel to which both Metropolitan Police and City  
 9 officers, City of London police officers, have access?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. In these early minutes, was the scene a very busy and  
 12 hectic one in the control room?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. You've described the radio traffic as being very busy;  
 15 were you receiving many calls for urgent assistance from  
 16 officers at the scene?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. In those early minutes, what were the main actions that  
 19 you carried out?  
 20 A. My main actions were to get as many firearms officers as  
 21 possible to the scene to neutralise the threat.  
 22 Q. Did you also task the constable in the pod to monitor  
 23 other incidents across London and to flag any for your  
 24 review?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. Did you make arrangements for a firearms commander to go  
 2 to the scene?  
 3 A. Yes. Trojan 1.  
 4 Q. And that that officer with call sign Trojan 1 was to  
 5 take up the operational firearms command at the scene?  
 6 A. That's correct.  
 7 Q. And would you have expected that person to be at the  
 8 forward command or control point, which you've described  
 9 in relation to the document?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. While you were making those arrangements for officers,  
 12 armed officers to be deployed to the scene, were you  
 13 also aware that officers would be deploying themselves  
 14 to the scene after hearing calls about what was going on  
 15 over the radio?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. And did you also know that both City of London Police  
 18 and Metropolitan Police officers were going to the  
 19 scene?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. We know that the three attackers were shot at 10.16, so  
 22 very shortly after you had, for example, had that call  
 23 with the strategic firearms commander. Was that  
 24 information passed to you?  
 25 A. At the time I knew that three people had been shot.

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1 I was unaware who had been shot.  
 2 Q. Did you even know at that early stage whether they were  
 3 suspects, police officers or members of the public?  
 4 A. No.  
 5 Q. Did a time come shortly after that when you were told  
 6 more about them?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. What were you told?  
 9 A. I was told that three people had been shot and they had  
 10 IED vests on them.  
 11 Q. How quickly were you given that information?  
 12 A. A while later.  
 13 Q. You were told that they had IED vests on. Were you told  
 14 where they were?  
 15 A. I believe they were in Borough Market.  
 16 Q. The Borough Market area. How did you respond to that  
 17 information? What deployment decisions did you make?  
 18 A. I arranged for the EOD to attend to deal with the  
 19 threat.  
 20 Q. We've looked at this document before today, but can we  
 21 please have on the screen {DC6525/7}. Now, we can see  
 22 towards the bottom of the page at 22.24, 10.24 that  
 23 night, "CTC, Expo advised". Can you interpret that for  
 24 us, please.  
 25 A. Yes, information from the ARV pod, that would have been

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1 from ourselves that two had been shot by police and Expo  
 2 required, both were believed to be suspects and they had  
 3 IEDs attached to them.  
 4 Q. So within, certainly, 8 minutes of the shooting, 7 or 8  
 5 minutes of the shooting, you had been notified that  
 6 these individuals who had been shot were suspects and  
 7 that they had apparent explosive devices on them?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. You had made arrangements for explosives officers to go  
 10 to the scene?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. And, as we see, the communication recorded that a unit  
 13 of those officers was deploying at that time?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. And then if we go to page 9, please {DC6525/9}, and look  
 16 at 22.31, can we see that a second unit of explosives  
 17 officers was also deployed to the scene?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. The jury have heard that that was likely because the van  
 20 which had crashed south of London Bridge was thought  
 21 possibly to present a further risk of an explosive  
 22 device; is that right?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. And, again, was that a deployment you directed?  
 25 A. I can't confirm that.

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1 Q. Based on the fact that it was a reference to CTC, it  
 2 would certainly have been deployed from your control  
 3 room?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. You can take that off screen now.  
 6 Were you involved in selecting an initial  
 7 rendez-vous point for police and other emergency  
 8 services?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Where did you select?  
 11 A. Great Maze Pond.  
 12 Q. Now that, I think, is to the south east of the  
 13 Stoney Street area, near Guy's Hospital?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Why did you select there?  
 16 A. I would have called up officers on the scene to see  
 17 which was the most suitable point to put an RVP so that  
 18 all the resources could go to that location prior to  
 19 being deployed.  
 20 Q. What are the ideal characteristics of a rendez-vous  
 21 point; where do you want it to be?  
 22 A. A safe area, that seems safe, so a cold area. Somewhere  
 23 that is -- that has easy access routes in and out.  
 24 Somewhere that's near the hospitals. Parking, several  
 25 other things.

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1 Q. Were you notified at a relatively early stage that  
 2 Trojan 1, the operational commander on the ground for  
 3 the firearms assets, had arrived?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. We understand that he arrived and took on command by  
 6 about 10.30 that night?  
 7 A. Yes, that's correct.  
 8 Q. I'm now looking towards the end of your statement,  
 9 around page 8 in my copy, yours may be slightly  
 10 different. In the time that followed that, after the  
 11 operational commander had reached the scene, what roles  
 12 did you take on?  
 13 A. Okay, once Trojan 1 had become the ground assigned,  
 14 I then took the outward facing command. So he was  
 15 concerned with regards to what was happening at  
 16 Borough Market, I was concerned with what was happening  
 17 across London, pan-London, so any jobs that came in or  
 18 any issues that happened, reviewing all the calls and  
 19 passing on the information to him.  
 20 Q. So you were monitoring the CADs coming in from across  
 21 London to -- both to check on other incidents?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. And also to determine whether this was turning into  
 24 a wider attack?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Did you also take steps concerning public transport?  
 2 A. Yes, obviously as -- when an incident happens, you have  
 3 to look at everything pan-London so with regards to any  
 4 venues that had an event, any trains in and out, and  
 5 make decisions on those.  
 6 Q. And did you, as part of that, have trains stopped?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. If we could put on screen {DC6559/7}. Can we see at  
 9 22.36 towards the bottom of the screen, Network Rail was  
 10 told shortly after 10.30 to stop trains?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. Did you also have communications sent out to other  
 13 forces?  
 14 A. Yes, in case an attack was happening in their area.  
 15 Q. Did you give instructions about people inside locations,  
 16 inside venues in the Borough Market area?  
 17 A. Yes, they are to stay inside.  
 18 Q. Now, is it often the case that armed response vehicles  
 19 are located at airports?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Did you do anything about deploying those resources?  
 22 A. Yes, I moved them towards central London and had the  
 23 airports covered by the surrounding county forces.  
 24 Q. Meanwhile, were various reports coming in about events  
 25 in the London Bridge area not all of which were correct?

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1 A. That's correct.  
 2 Q. Did one in particular refer to people being held  
 3 hostage?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. Were there reports about shots being fired?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. And reports about explosions?  
 8 A. That's correct.  
 9 Q. So you were dealing with a mass of sometimes confusing  
 10 information?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. Did you pass on these reports as necessary to the ground  
 13 commander through your tactical advisor?  
 14 A. That's correct.  
 15 Q. If we can go to {DC6559/11} of the document we have on  
 16 screen, we can see at 23.00 that the suspects who had  
 17 been shot were being made safe by explosives officers at  
 18 the scene. Were you made aware when that was happening?  
 19 A. That would have been Trojan 1, but I was probably aware  
 20 of it in the control room at the same time.  
 21 Q. As the explosive devices were made safe, were directions  
 22 then given to carry out an emergency search of the area?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. What was the purpose of the emergency search?  
 25 A. Just to see whether there was any further suspects in

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1 the area.  
 2 Q. Was that followed by a more deliberate slow-time search?  
 3 A. That's correct.  
 4 Q. And what was the purpose of that search?  
 5 A. The purpose of a deliberate search is to find out if  
 6 anybody's injured and deal with them.  
 7 Q. If we can put on screen now, please, {WS0089A/21}, we're  
 8 back, I think, to your manuscript notes. You identified  
 9 in your notes a series of areas with the word "Clear".  
 10 What did those references signify?  
 11 A. That would signify that the premises were clear of any  
 12 suspects.  
 13 Q. And that would have been part of the emergency search,  
 14 would it?  
 15 A. That's correct.  
 16 Q. And then we can see that a number of areas were  
 17 identified as hot zones. Were you, as you sat in the  
 18 pod, noting down the areas which had been designated as  
 19 hot zones and therefore still potentially areas of  
 20 danger?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Were those designations, however, being made by Trojan 1  
 23 at the scene with his ambulance and fire service  
 24 colleagues?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. We can take that off screen now.  
 2 Meanwhile, while all that was going on, did you also  
 3 receive a report of a potentially dangerous incident in  
 4 the Vauxhall area?  
 5 A. That's correct. I believe it was a person walking down  
 6 the road with a machete towards the station.  
 7 Q. So a piece of information about somebody apparently with  
 8 a machete. Did you take action in response to that?  
 9 A. Yes, that was declared, and I passed it to one of the  
 10 cars to go and command it.  
 11 Q. Did you also receive a report of shots heard by people  
 12 in a Novotel hotel?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. And that's been timed in some other documents we have as  
 15 taking place after midnight, so, in fact, after all the  
 16 shots had been fired at the scene?  
 17 A. That's correct.  
 18 Q. Did you also direct officers to a number of other key  
 19 areas, such as the South Bank and other areas to the  
 20 north of the Thames?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Did a time come after 1.00 am that you were given  
 23 an update about those who had been killed and injured in  
 24 the attack?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. What were you told?  
 2 A. I was told that the three subjects had been neutralised,  
 3 five members of the public had died. There were seven  
 4 priority 1s and seven others.  
 5 Q. Is a priority 1 a casualty of highest priority who is  
 6 potentially in a critical condition?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Did you also receive some more information that caused  
 9 you to deploy armed response vehicles to the Oxford  
 10 Street area?  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. Are you able to say why that was?  
 13 A. Information in the car that was on London Bridge  
 14 suggested that they may well be targeting the Oxford  
 15 Street area.  
 16 Q. So the jury have seen that the mobile phone that was  
 17 left in the car had directions to Oxford Street?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. Was that why armed vehicles were sent to that location?  
 20 A. That's correct.  
 21 Q. Over the period from midnight to 1.00 am and immediately  
 22 after that, were searches of warm and hot zones carried  
 23 out by intervention teams comprising police officers and  
 24 other emergency service personnel?  
 25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. With a view to identifying whether there were any  
 2 remaining casualties in those areas?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. Although, is this right, many casualties had already  
 5 been extracted from those areas?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. Were you informed after 2.00 am that the emergency  
 8 search had been completed in its entirety?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Were you relieved from your post at shortly before  
 11 3.00 am?  
 12 A. That's correct.  
 13 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much, officer. Those are all the  
 14 questions I have.  
 15 A. Thank you.  
 16 MR HOUGH: I don't know whether any others have questions.  
 17 No, they don't. Thank you very much for giving your  
 18 evidence.  
 19 A. Thank you.  
 20 MR HOUGH: Thank you for your efforts on that night.  
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.  
 22 MR HOUGH: Sir, the final witness is F69.  
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you.  
 24 F69 (sworn)  
 25 THE CHIEF CORONER: Good morning. Please do take a seat

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1 because the microphone is positioned for you to be  
 2 seated and it will help amplify your voice.  
 3 A. Thank you, sir.  
 4 Questions by MR HOUGH QC  
 5 MR HOUGH: Officer, can you confirm that you are an officer  
 6 of the Metropolitan Police and being referred to as F69  
 7 in these Inquests?  
 8 A. Yes, I am.  
 9 Q. On the night of 3 June 2017, were you the pan-London  
 10 tactical advisor for the specialist firearms command on  
 11 duty in the ARV pod?  
 12 A. Yes, I was, at Lambeth, that's correct.  
 13 Q. We'll deal with the duties of that role in a moment, but  
 14 do you appreciate you are here to give evidence about  
 15 your role in the police response that night?  
 16 A. Yes, sir, I do.  
 17 Q. You made a witness statement on 7 June 2017 and you may  
 18 refer to that as you wish.  
 19 A. Thank you.  
 20 Q. By way of your personal background, did you join the  
 21 Metropolitan Police in 2002?  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. Were you trained as an armed response officer from 2008?  
 24 A. That is correct, yes.  
 25 Q. Have you also since then qualified as an operational

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1 firearms commander as well as being a tactical advisor?  
 2 A. That is correct, yes.  
 3 Q. In particular, have you done the job of tactical advisor  
 4 since 2013?  
 5 A. Yes, that's correct. That's four years from the  
 6 incident.  
 7 Q. Did you subsequently also train as a tactical firearms  
 8 commander?  
 9 A. No, I did not.  
 10 Q. On the night of 3 June, we've heard that you were on  
 11 duty in the ARV pod along with a tactical firearms  
 12 commander, V134, from whom we've just heard, and with  
 13 other officers.  
 14 A. That is correct, yes.  
 15 Q. Can you explain in a few sentences what the role is of  
 16 the tactical advisor outside of emergency situations and  
 17 major incidents?  
 18 A. The tactical advisor sits slightly apart from the  
 19 command structure, which is a BSFC strategic firearms  
 20 commander and the TFC, the tactical firearms commander,  
 21 who is in the pod, and the OFCs who are out on the  
 22 ground, the operational firearms commander, sit to one  
 23 side and give tactical advice, practical and experienced  
 24 as tac ads are operational firearms officers, whereas  
 25 sometimes -- a TFC is never an operational firearms

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1 officer and so we can give experience to them about what  
 2 tactics look like and ultimately help them and assist  
 3 them in making the proper decisions about tactics.  
 4 Q. So is this right: you might advise on the number of  
 5 units required for an incident?  
 6 A. That is correct, yes.  
 7 Q. Specialist units that might be required for an incident?  
 8 A. We may suggest that specialist units might be required  
 9 with their skills or for them to contact specialist  
 10 commanders to get units with those skills available,  
 11 that's correct.  
 12 Q. You may advise on the tactics to be adopted at the  
 13 scene?  
 14 A. We provide a description and what we believe the best  
 15 tactics could possibly be, although give them all  
 16 available options for the TFC to choose from, so what  
 17 our tactics would ultimately look like so they have all  
 18 the information they need to make their decisions.  
 19 Q. Then in an emergency or major incident is there any  
 20 difference in the role?  
 21 A. The difference in the role is due to the circumstances.  
 22 If it's a very serious situation, a fast-moving  
 23 situation, we might take a slightly more proactive role,  
 24 whereas before you had all the time in the world to  
 25 describe what six or seven tactics might look like, you

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1 might only suggest one tactic or even put forward  
 2 yourself the one tactic due to the timings and the  
 3 critical nature of that incident.  
 4 Q. Now, on 3 June in the early part of the evening before  
 5 you were notified of what was going on in the  
 6 London Bridge area, what did your role involve? What  
 7 were you doing practically over that period?  
 8 A. There are a few CADs, computer aided dispatch messages  
 9 that come through to us, calls that come through and we  
 10 would review these with the tactical firearms commander,  
 11 the TFC, and we would assist in then making a decision  
 12 whether to declare that call, what type of tactics to  
 13 use, and to deploy the units you kind of take over as  
 14 a controller and deploy the units from our pod from  
 15 wherever they are in London.  
 16 Q. So you would be going on the radio?  
 17 A. That is correct, yes.  
 18 Q. And directing units to attend a scene?  
 19 A. I would be contacting the armed response vehicles on our  
 20 own radio channels to get them to go to where they're  
 21 needed and from that point they would then adopt the  
 22 local radio channel to work the job.  
 23 Q. Reference has been made to the Trojan 99 channel; is  
 24 that the channel over which you would initially make  
 25 contact with them?

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1 A. That is right. It's, I think the official term is CO19  
 2 hailing group, it still comes up as, and that is one  
 3 radio channel that all ARVs in London, whether they're  
 4 Met or City of London, should be listening to and should  
 5 have access to at all times.  
 6 Q. So you can direct armed response vehicles to a scene  
 7 using that channel, and also tell them a little about  
 8 the incident they will be likely to attend?  
 9 A. That is right, yes. We try and give them as much  
 10 information as possible with the information that we  
 11 have, so they know what to expect and maybe even the  
 12 possibilities of what tactics will be decided upon by  
 13 the TFC, so they know in their mind when they are either  
 14 en route what they have to prepare for mentally and with  
 15 kit, and operational.  
 16 Q. Did a time come that evening when you were told of  
 17 an incident unfolding in the London Bridge area?  
 18 A. That's correct. I believe it was around 22.10 hours.  
 19 Q. What happened to notify you of that?  
 20 A. The chief inspector of IR at the time, or SOR, silver  
 21 operations room, came towards me and directed our  
 22 attention towards a particular CAD.  
 23 Q. Now, V134 has explained that she brought up the CAD on  
 24 the system and that you looked at it together?  
 25 A. We're slightly separate but yes, we both have access to

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1 CAD machines and we were both looking at the same CAD,  
 2 that is correct.  
 3 Q. What did the CAD say, so far as you recall?  
 4 A. As far as I can remember, it was concerning pedestrians  
 5 being knocked down by a van on London Bridge.  
 6 Q. What did you immediately think had gone on?  
 7 A. Due to the recent attacks at Westminster, and other  
 8 updates I'd received on training, and previous attacks  
 9 in London, I was concerned that this was the start, if  
 10 not a full-on terrorist attack.  
 11 Q. Why did you think that it was or could be a terrorist  
 12 attack given that at this stage all you knew was that  
 13 a van had knocked some people down?  
 14 A. It was the fact that a number of people had been knocked  
 15 over and recently, especially with our updates we'd  
 16 received, that a tactic of using a vehicle-as-a-weapon  
 17 was fast coming in.  
 18 Q. I think we've heard evidence in the Inquests of the  
 19 victims that in the months and years immediately before  
 20 this attack there had been a number of attacks around  
 21 the world using vehicles as weapons to mow people down?  
 22 A. Yes, that's correct, either in its entirety or as part  
 23 of the attack.  
 24 Q. What did you do in response to that and what did your  
 25 colleagues immediately around you do in response to that

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1 concern?  
 2 A. Initially when the information was first drawn to my  
 3 attention I read it quickly, I read the CAD quickly and  
 4 directed ARV units towards London Bridge on the hailing  
 5 group channel.  
 6 Q. So that was the Trojan 99 channel?  
 7 A. That's correct, yes.  
 8 Q. As others have dubbed it?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. What did you say in those immediate communications?  
 11 A. I believe I said that people had been knocked over  
 12 around -- by a van in the London Bridge area and ARVs  
 13 were to head towards and engage any threat.  
 14 Q. Did you say anything about your concern or suspicion  
 15 that this might be a terrorist attack?  
 16 A. I did say it was a possibility, it was probable that  
 17 this was a terrorist attack, although that hadn't been  
 18 declared at the time, but again, I wanted them to -- the  
 19 ARV officers to have a heightened awareness in their  
 20 mind.  
 21 Q. So you told them to go to the scene and engage any  
 22 threat there. It may be obvious, but what was the  
 23 rationale for immediately instructing ARV officers in  
 24 numbers to head to the scene?  
 25 A. So if it was, indeed, a terrorist attack, the only and

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1 the best way to save life is to get the armed assets to  
 2 the scene as quickly as possible to engage and confront  
 3 any threat; any delay to that will cause further loss of  
 4 life.  
 5 Q. In the minutes that followed, while you were on the  
 6 radio and hearing further information, were you told  
 7 anything else in the control room about decisions being  
 8 taken there?  
 9 A. Within a very short time the chief inspector of SOR came  
 10 back to me and said that he was declaring this as  
 11 an Operation Plato.  
 12 Q. Would you put on the screen, please, {DC7752/6}, please.  
 13 This is his log, Mr McKibbin's log, and we can see that  
 14 he times at 22.16, so something like 5 or 6 minutes  
 15 after you'd first been notified, that Operation Plato  
 16 had been declared, and he referred to a second incident  
 17 at Borough Market involving an armed response vehicle.  
 18 When did you hear of events taking place in  
 19 Borough Market a little away from London Bridge?  
 20 A. It was pretty much the same point that Mr McKibbin said  
 21 he was now declaring Operation Plato. I personally  
 22 thought it was slightly earlier than 22.16, but he did  
 23 have to record things on his log and the time was very  
 24 fluid.  
 25 I heard the information coming from the SI desk,

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1 which is another desk in the SOR, sits behind us, and  
 2 they were mentioning the fact that people were being  
 3 attacked by males with knives in Borough Market, very  
 4 close to London Bridge.  
 5 Q. We can take that log down now.  
 6 The incident had been declared an Operation Plato  
 7 incident. You'd heard about people attacking with  
 8 knives in the Borough Market area. What did you now do?  
 9 A. I immediately got back onto the Trojan 99 CO19 hailing  
 10 group and I used it to contact all available ARVs to  
 11 attend Borough Market, gave them the information that  
 12 males were now attacking people with knives and  
 13 reiterated the tactical advice that they were to head  
 14 straight to the scene, engage and confront the male  
 15 attackers and use whatever force is appropriate.  
 16 Q. Did you say that it had been declared a Plato incident  
 17 over the radio?  
 18 A. That was the very first thing, that again to set  
 19 everybody's mental thought process as in how serious and  
 20 what a high-risk situation this was by using the words  
 21 "This is declared an Operation Plato".  
 22 Q. We've heard from a number of the armed response officers  
 23 who attended the scene, they heard shortly before  
 24 arrival over the radio that this had been declared  
 25 an Operation Plato incident and that immediately

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1 affected their mindset. Was it you who was passing that  
 2 information over and giving them effectively that  
 3 warning?  
 4 A. On the hailing group, yes, it was, sir.  
 5 Q. Did you become aware that armed response vehicles were  
 6 now on their way to the area and some very close to the  
 7 area?  
 8 A. That is correct. Not knowing exactly how far off or  
 9 which ones were going, because I'd asked for the radio  
 10 channel to be kept clear for any emergency messages from  
 11 units that were arriving.  
 12 Q. Over this time were you in contact with, were you having  
 13 discussions with, the tactical firearms commander, V134?  
 14 A. Yes, I was, sir.  
 15 Q. What decisions did you make with her?  
 16 A. A confirmation upon the sending the ARVs forward to  
 17 confront the armed terrorists.  
 18 Q. So she ratified your decision in that regard?  
 19 A. That is correct.  
 20 Q. Meanwhile, did you take any steps to ensure that calls  
 21 relating to other parts of London were being monitored?  
 22 A. That's correct, sir. Even though this information, this  
 23 incident was happening, we're still responsible for  
 24 policing, armed policing the whole of London, which  
 25 would still bring up armed incidents, possibly life

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1 threatening. So I asked a PC in the pod to monitor all  
 2 the other CADs that were coming in, screen them for me,  
 3 and interrupt me if anything life threatening, of  
 4 importance was happening elsewhere in London so we could  
 5 focus on what was happening in the London Bridge area.  
 6 Q. Was it also necessary to keep the rest of London in view  
 7 for fear that this might be a multi-seated attack?  
 8 A. That is correct, sir, that is another issue and concern  
 9 that we have. If we throw all our resources into one  
 10 area, not only are we not able to respond to a normal  
 11 armed policing in the rest of London, but if it is  
 12 a multi-seated attack, then we have no resources to send  
 13 there.  
 14 Q. Now, the jury have heard also from V134 that at an early  
 15 stage an incident response team of specialist firearms  
 16 officers was contacted and deployed at an early stage.  
 17 Were you involved in that action?  
 18 A. I asked the pod PC, the assistant in the pod to ensure  
 19 that the SFO IRT had been contacted.  
 20 Q. We've also heard from V134 that SFOs, specialist  
 21 firearms officers, are trained to a very high level.  
 22 They are, as it were, a step up even from armed response  
 23 vehicle officers?  
 24 A. It's correct, sir, they have additional skills,  
 25 additional training time.

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1 Q. What was the purpose of deploying them to the scene?  
 2 A. It is part of the Plato response but also with their  
 3 additional skills, the better trained officers heading  
 4 towards the scene can provide better response and also  
 5 possibly save more lives.  
 6 Q. Did a time come shortly after that that you were told of  
 7 the suspects having been engaged?  
 8 A. I received a message over the radio shortly after that  
 9 that, yes, suspects had been engaged and shot by ARV  
 10 officers.  
 11 Q. Put on screen, please, {WS0088A/7}. Is this a set of  
 12 notes you made --  
 13 A. It was one of the four scribbled notes that I managed to  
 14 make during the time, sir, yes.  
 15 Q. Do we see at the top of the page timed at 10.20 a note  
 16 that two males had been shot by police, and a reference  
 17 to Borough Market as the area?  
 18 A. That is correct. 22.20 was the time I received that  
 19 message.  
 20 Q. And you noted "2 x-rays down Borough Market". Is that  
 21 a reference to potential attackers or suspects?  
 22 A. Yes, that is a reference to attackers and suspects.  
 23 Q. Then did you refer to other subjects in the  
 24 Borough Market area?  
 25 A. That is correct. Some of the information we've received

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1 was that there were other subjects still into the  
 2 Borough Market area.  
 3 Q. If we can put on screen, please, {DC7287/7}. If we look  
 4 towards the bottom, this is a transcript of radio  
 5 communications within the MPS and we can see reference  
 6 to two males who had been shot in the area of the Market  
 7 Porter. So does that tally with the information that  
 8 you received initially that two rather than three men  
 9 had been shot?  
 10 A. Initially, the first information I'd received about  
 11 persons being shot by ARVs, it was definitely two.  
 12 Q. We can take that off the screen now.  
 13 Did you update other senior officers about that  
 14 information?  
 15 A. Every pertinent update coming through the radios, any  
 16 information that we could get out of the situation was  
 17 being fed upwards to the TFC, the SFC, the chief  
 18 inspector in the IR room, and other senior officers.  
 19 Q. What else were you told about the scene in  
 20 Borough Market and the males who had been shot?  
 21 A. Sorry, sir?  
 22 Q. Were you also told anything about improvised explosive  
 23 devices?  
 24 A. Oh, that's correct, yes. Within a couple of minutes,  
 25 the second message came through that the males that had

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1 been shot were wearing bomb vests. They had IEDs on  
 2 them.  
 3 Q. And if we put back your note, {WS0088A/7}, did you make  
 4 a note at 10.24 of further information you'd received?  
 5 A. That's correct, yes.  
 6 Q. What was that?  
 7 A. That an urban search had begun by the ARV officers.  
 8 Q. What's an urban search?  
 9 A. It's just a term used that officers, armed officers  
 10 working in a group, will search an area, in this case  
 11 an urban area, using tactics, pointing guns, looking --  
 12 actively looking for suspects in an incident.  
 13 Q. And if we go down the page, did you make a further note  
 14 at 10.25, recording that a third suspect had also been  
 15 shot in the area?  
 16 A. That is correct. I have received an information that  
 17 three males had actually been shot outside the  
 18 Wheatsheaf public house.  
 19 Q. You noted the Wheatsheaf towards the bottom of the page?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Over the period that followed, what were you doing?  
 22 A. Over the next couple of hours, it was very hectic within  
 23 that control room. Numerous calls were coming in  
 24 regarding this situation, talking about people being  
 25 attacked and hostages being taken, other information,

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1 and as best we could from the control room we were  
 2 setting up a control and directing officers to that  
 3 scene.  
 4 Q. We've heard from V134 that that involved deploying armed  
 5 response vehicles from the airports in towards the  
 6 scene?  
 7 A. That's correct. I was -- at that point I was trying to  
 8 liaise with and gather as many resources as possible  
 9 from the airport, from City, from the DPG assets.  
 10 Q. DPG is Diplomatic Protection Group?  
 11 A. That is correct, sorry, yes. As well as unarmed  
 12 officers to act as cordons. It was trying to provide as  
 13 much support as possible to the ARV officers down at the  
 14 scene.  
 15 Q. Just to be clear, when you have a scene like this  
 16 unfolding in a busy urban area you need to establish  
 17 a cordon around the area to stop members of the public  
 18 going into a danger zone?  
 19 A. That is correct, to prevent, effectively, suspects  
 20 getting out and to prevent innocent members of the  
 21 public getting in where they may be harmed.  
 22 Q. In an area of this kind, Borough Market, that cordon  
 23 would need to be very large?  
 24 A. It would, there are numerous pedestrian access points as  
 25 well as accesses for vehicles. It would be quite a feat

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1 to contain it with not many officers.  
 2 Q. So part of your role involved deploying very many  
 3 officers for that function too?  
 4 A. That is correct, yes, sir.  
 5 Q. Did you also make arrangements for armed response units  
 6 to be in the area as a reserve at the rendez-vous point?  
 7 A. That's correct, sir. Part of the plan, the prescribed  
 8 plan is to have a reserve as well as good practice.  
 9 We had put four ARV units into this reserve and we  
 10 can use this reserve to police the rest of London and  
 11 also in case of a multi-seated attack we at least have  
 12 four units that we can send to offer life-saving action.  
 13 Q. And if we turn to {WS0088A/8} of the same document, do  
 14 we see you noted down the call signs of the reserve  
 15 units?  
 16 A. That is correct, yes.  
 17 Q. We can take that off the screen now.  
 18 Did you also receive reports of a hostage situation  
 19 in the Borough Market area?  
 20 A. I believe I -- one of the numerous calls was to the  
 21 Borough Market area where people were being held hostage  
 22 within a premises.  
 23 Q. If we look at {DC6501T/1}, please. We can see here,  
 24 I think, a 999 call, not obviously a call with which you  
 25 in your position would have dealt, but we can see about

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1 a quarter of the way down the text the caller referring  
 2 to somebody with a "massive machete holding people  
 3 hostage" in the Boro Bistro area near London Bridge.  
 4 A. That is correct, yes, sir.  
 5 Q. Was that the hostage situation which ultimately was  
 6 notified to you?  
 7 A. That is correct, yes.  
 8 Q. We can take that off screen now.  
 9 So some time after the attackers had actually been  
 10 shot, you believed you had a significant hostage  
 11 situation to deal with on top of everything else?  
 12 A. Numerous -- untold numbers of calls into police were  
 13 coming in, various situations including this one as well  
 14 as others mentioning knives and people still being  
 15 attacked even after we'd received messages that three  
 16 males had been shot.  
 17 Q. Now after a time, the jury have heard from  
 18 an experienced firearms officer, DA87, that he had gone  
 19 to see the scene in Stoney Street and that he set up  
 20 a control nearby at an early stage. Did you hear from  
 21 him?  
 22 A. I did, I was contacted by DA87 and he'd set up a forward  
 23 control point and was attempting to manage the on-scene  
 24 requirements down from there.  
 25 Q. Did you do anything to assist with his communications?

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1 A. I assigned him a back-to-back radio channel for his sole  
 2 use, also maintained communication with him on our  
 3 hailing group channel and tried to offer as much support  
 4 as possible, which is difficult, being removed from the  
 5 scene.  
 6 Q. Did you inform him of the units which were at the scene  
 7 and which were therefore available for the command  
 8 officers there?  
 9 A. He made requests from all units and I'd sent as many  
 10 units as possible to him ensuring that he knew we had  
 11 a reserve in place.  
 12 Q. Did a point come when you had to turn away to an extent  
 13 from the Borough Market attack to deal with other  
 14 firearms incidents?  
 15 A. That's correct, sir. There's still life-threatening  
 16 firearms calls happening in the rest of London and two  
 17 of these arose not long afterwards. These had to be  
 18 dealt with and I used the mobile reserve, giving  
 19 tactical advice and running a remote control for these  
 20 incidents to be dealt with.  
 21 Q. During that time, were you also having simultaneously to  
 22 deploy armed assets to the Borough Market scene?  
 23 A. That is correct, sir.  
 24 Q. Were you informed as the night went on of areas being  
 25 designated as hot and warm zones by those at the scene?

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1 A. I was receiving regular updates from DA87 telling me hot  
 2 zones and cold zones and warm zones, and also as best he  
 3 could what the situation was and how it was changing  
 4 down there.  
 5 Q. Were you kept informed of the emergency searches being  
 6 carried out in those areas about which we've heard from  
 7 V134?  
 8 A. That is correct, yes.  
 9 Q. Shortly after 1.30 in the morning, did you receive  
 10 a casualty update?  
 11 A. I received a form -- yes, a form of casualty update  
 12 from, again, as best they could down at the scene, they  
 13 were trying to update us with what they had.  
 14 Q. If we could put on screen {WS0088A/10}. Can we see you  
 15 noted that there were three suspects deceased, as far as  
 16 you knew. Four victims deceased, seven priority 1  
 17 casualties, and seven others injured?  
 18 A. That is correct, sir, yes.  
 19 Q. During the night, were you also informed of another  
 20 vehicle which was at one point thought to be involved in  
 21 the attack?  
 22 A. That's correct, sir. A vehicle was highlighted to us as  
 23 possibly being involved in the attack at London Bridge  
 24 and possibly had been in convoy with the white van being  
 25 used.

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1 Q. Was that because it had been identified as potentially  
 2 close to the vehicle involved in the attack?  
 3 A. That is right. It had been in convoy directly behind  
 4 the white van through ANPR and traffic cameras.  
 5 Q. ANPR is automatic number plate recognition technology?  
 6 A. I do apologise, yes. We tend to use a lot of acronyms,  
 7 it doesn't make things easy.  
 8 Q. Did you then have to make arrangements for that vehicle  
 9 to be stopped?  
 10 A. That is correct, yes, in liaison with the SFC we  
 11 developed some strategies and tactics around stopping  
 12 that vehicle.  
 13 Q. In the event, when the vehicle was stopped, was it found  
 14 to have, in fact, had nothing to do with the attack?  
 15 A. That is correct. The persons inside were quickly  
 16 discounted as having anything to do with the attack on  
 17 London Bridge.  
 18 Q. So over all this period, you were dealing with a wide  
 19 range of developing problems, some of which involved  
 20 information that was in fact misleading?  
 21 A. That is correct, sir. On top of -- I'd like to --  
 22 I wouldn't like to say, but an average night in the ARV  
 23 pod, we were dealing with all those calls that normally  
 24 we would receive as well as specific calls around  
 25 London Bridge, Borough Market, as well as additional

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1 information that couldn't be confirmed or denied that  
 2 might possibly be involved with London Bridge.  
 3 Q. Was it shortly before 3.00 am that you were told that  
 4 the emergency phase of the operation had come to an end?  
 5 A. That is correct, yes.  
 6 Q. And shortly after that were you relieved by another  
 7 tactical advisor?  
 8 A. I was relieved so I could attend the PIP process, that's  
 9 correct.  
 10 Q. That's the post-incident procedure where you give your  
 11 initial account of events?  
 12 A. That is correct, yes.  
 13 MR HOUGH: Thank you very much. Those are all my questions.  
 14 I'll just check whether others have any questions.  
 15 A. Thank you.  
 16 MR HOUGH: Those are all the questions we have for you.  
 17 Thank you very much for giving evidence and for all your  
 18 assistance for the other police officers on that night.  
 19 A. Yes, sir.  
 20 THE CHIEF CORONER: Thank you very much indeed, thank you.  
 21 A. Thank you, sir.  
 22 MR HOUGH: Sir, that's all our evidence today.  
 23 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.  
 24 MR HOUGH: We have, for the jury's information, a rather  
 25 fuller day of evidence tomorrow.

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1 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.  
 2 MR HOUGH: And a half day on Friday to finish at a similar  
 3 time to this on Friday.  
 4 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes. So that will conclude the evidence  
 5 on Friday.  
 6 MR HOUGH: That will conclude the evidence on Friday towards  
 7 lunchtime.  
 8 THE CHIEF CORONER: Then, as I say, on Monday next week,  
 9 members of the jury, I will give you my summing-up of  
 10 the evidence you've listened to and some legal  
 11 directions, so that's helped you, I hope, with  
 12 timescale.  
 13 Just in terms of topics tomorrow, Mr Hough, we're  
 14 going, I know, to deal with some expert evidence in  
 15 relation to the firearms.  
 16 MR HOUGH: First of all there will be a ballistics expert to  
 17 discuss the shots fired and where they went.  
 18 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.  
 19 MR HOUGH: Then there will be an expert on the Molotov  
 20 cocktails that were found in the van.  
 21 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes.  
 22 MR HOUGH: There will then be the chief firearms instructors  
 23 at the time from the Metropolitan Police and the City of  
 24 London Police to provide information about the officers'  
 25 training, and their assessments of the officers'

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1 conduct. That will be the evidence tomorrow. The  
 2 evidence on Friday morning will be that of two  
 3 pathologists giving evidence of the post mortem  
 4 examinations of the three attackers and what they  
 5 concluded.  
 6 THE CHIEF CORONER: Yes. And just by way of warning,  
 7 whenever people say "pathologists" people get slightly  
 8 worried about what they might be shown. Can I just  
 9 assure you, you won't be seeing anything graphic. If it  
 10 is necessary at all you will have stylised body image  
 11 material to look at, so it's a bit like looking at  
 12 a dummy in a shop rather than looking at an actual  
 13 person, but just to allay your concerns, because I know  
 14 sometimes when I mention the word "pathologist", members  
 15 of the jury go different colours and different shades  
 16 thinking that actually it sounds pretty horrific, but it  
 17 won't be.  
 18 So thank you very much, I hope you can enjoy this  
 19 afternoon, whatever you wish to do, and we will see you  
 20 again, please, tomorrow morning, for 10 o'clock.  
 21 (In the absence of the jury)  
 22 THE CHIEF CORONER: Again, for the benefit, really, of  
 23 counsel coming in through the front door tomorrow, it's  
 24 likely to be quite a busy day here, I think that the  
 25 certain person that was here last week is due back, so

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1 just by way of warning that there may be some  
 2 distractions out the front.  
 3 MR HOUGH: Yes.  
 4 THE CHIEF CORONER: I'll rise.  
 5 (12.37 pm)  
 6 (The court adjourned until 10.00 am on  
 7 Thursday, 11 July 2019)

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