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01 (1.40 pm)  
 02 Examination by MR ROCHE  
 03 MR ROCHE: Mr Davis, I ask questions on behalf of a number  
 04 of those who lost loved ones in the disaster.  
 05 A. Yes.  
 06 Q. First of all, can we clarify this point: as with any  
 07 witness, it wasn't your decision as to whether you came  
 08 here to give evidence, was it?  
 09 A. Absolutely my decision.  
 10 Q. Well, you decided that you were willing to give  
 11 evidence.  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. But in the end --  
 14 A. No, of course, it was the coroner.  
 15 Q. In the end, it is up to the coroner to decide which  
 16 witnesses are relevant and which witnesses should be  
 17 called?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. You made yourself available to the IPCC for several  
 20 interviews?  
 21 A. Yes, long interviews, yes.  
 22 Q. Again, the length of the interview is dictated partly by  
 23 the person who is being asked the questions.  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. But, more so, by the number of questions which the

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01 officers doing the interview choose to ask?  
 02 A. Yes.  
 03 Q. The officers who are asking the questions also select  
 04 the key topics. To take one example, much was made of  
 05 the conversation during your interview in December about  
 06 Freemasonry.  
 07 A. Yes.  
 08 Q. Could you have a look at the transcript of that  
 09 interview at INQ000419560026.  
 10 THE CORONER: It is divider 21, I think internal page 26, if  
 11 I am right.  
 12 MR ROCHE: It is. Thank you very much.  
 13 I am not going to go into great detail about the  
 14 discussion on Freemasonry, but if we look halfway down  
 15 that page we can see Wendy Arnold, the interviewer,  
 16 saying halfway down that page:  
 17 "We just need to clarify."  
 18 And you say, "Yeah, sure".  
 19 "You touched on it slightly and we spoke about it  
 20 [this was with reference to your previous interview],  
 21 but it was mainly in relation to your views and opinions  
 22 and that's in relation to Freemasonry within the  
 23 police."  
 24 And you say "Okay, yeah":  
 25 "So we have, on the interviews that we've been

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01 conducting [and this is general comment about  
 02 Op Resolve's interviews], been asking people about their  
 03 impressions or their interpretations or their  
 04 understanding of whether or not there was any positive  
 05 bias towards being a Freemason within South Yorkshire  
 06 Police at that time and if it had any positive impact on  
 07 any promotional prospects. So do you have anything you  
 08 want to say about that?"  
 09 So the topic is raised by Operation Resolve, and the  
 10 first two people that you mention on page 27 as Masons  
 11 were Brian Mole and David Duckenfield.  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. In fact, the jury has already heard evidence that both  
 14 of them were in fact Freemasons.  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. That is my first topic. The second topic that I have is  
 17 your career. We have heard a certain amount about the  
 18 circumstances in which you came to leave the police  
 19 force by your own choice. What we haven't been referred  
 20 to is the comments that were on your form in relation to  
 21 your resignation from the police. For the benefit of  
 22 other lawyers, we are talking about the first and second  
 23 pages of the personnel file. I can deal with it  
 24 briefly.  
 25 A. Yes, please.

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01 Q. I think it is Chief Inspector Brooke?  
 02 A. Yes, he was the chief superintendent.  
 03 Q. "I have discussed this", and that's the retirement,  
 04 "with Clive and he's given this careful consideration.  
 05 He wishes to pursue a life and career away from  
 06 policing. A bold decision not taken lightly."  
 07 A. Yes.  
 08 Q. Then he reported your comments:  
 09 "Clive is keen to pursue a career away from  
 10 policing. Although he could retire on full pension ...  
 11 he feels it's necessary to resign as he no longer ..."  
 12 Sorry:  
 13 "... he could retire on full pension in two years,  
 14 he feels it necessary to resign as he no longer enjoys  
 15 his role as a police officer."  
 16 In fact, you have told us that part of the reason  
 17 why you decided to retire from the force was that you  
 18 wanted to pursue an alternative career?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. It is right, isn't it, that you, first of all, worked  
 21 for the Royal Mail?  
 22 A. Yes -- well, first of all, I did a return to teaching  
 23 course, paid for by the Department of Education.  
 24 I worked for a short time as a part-time teacher at  
 25 Canklow Woods Primary School and then I worked for

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01 Royal Mail for two years and I have subsequently  
02 returned as a teacher at Brinsworth Manor Junior School,  
03 but only a few hours a day.  
04 Q. How long have you been working in your current job as  
05 a teacher?  
06 A. At the current school, about three years now.  
07 Q. That is a junior school?  
08 A. It is a junior school, yes.  
09 Q. How do you find that work?  
10 A. I thoroughly enjoy it.  
11 Q. You see, the suggestion that is being made by both  
12 counsel for Messrs Wain and Denton and for Mr Bettison  
13 is that you have made up your evidence entirely about  
14 the meeting on 17 April either because you had a grudge  
15 against South Yorkshire Police because of your  
16 experiences there or because you were seeking attention  
17 or perhaps both. It would follow, if that is right,  
18 that in the eight days after the HIP Report was  
19 published, you made up this story, decided to pick on  
20 Messrs Wain and Bettison, and then approached  
21 Hillsborough Family Support Group, or the people -- in  
22 fact, your initial email was simply to the support  
23 group?  
24 A. Yes, to the support group, yes.  
25 Q. And you decided to approach them to peddle this false

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01 story. You don't accept that?  
02 A. Not at all, no.  
03 Q. It hasn't been suggested to you by counsel for any of  
04 the people you have named at the meeting that you had  
05 a grudge against Mr Wain or that you had a grudge  
06 against Mr Bettison. Mr Wain, I think you basically  
07 said you knew him by sight, but you didn't know him  
08 particularly?  
09 A. No, I never had any professional dealings with him,  
10 other than the meeting I went to.  
11 Q. And you have had no dealings since, as I understand?  
12 A. No, none at all.  
13 Q. Therefore, no reason to pick on him?  
14 A. No, not at all.  
15 Q. Chief Inspector Bettison, did you ever fall out with  
16 him?  
17 A. No, not to the best of my knowledge. I have been to one  
18 or two social events with him. He invited our families  
19 to his house one Easter Sunday, we had a nice day with  
20 him. He put an Easter egg hunt on for the kids. It was  
21 a perfectly amicable working relationship.  
22 Q. Again, no reason to pick on him?  
23 A. No. No, he's never -- to the best of my knowledge,  
24 neither Mr Wain nor Mr Bettison have had any detrimental  
25 effect on my career.

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01 Q. Thank you. I will come back to the meeting on 17 April,  
02 but I just wanted to put in context the allegations that  
03 have been made. I wonder if we could have a look --  
04 hoping the technology works, but I know this is on the  
05 system. I want to play you a short extract from what  
06 you told "Panorama", and this is from the rushes, you  
07 understand, not necessarily what actually appeared on  
08 television.  
09 A. Yes.  
10 Q. This is consistent with evidence you have given to  
11 Operation Resolve but it encapsulates what you had to  
12 say about the culture of South Yorkshire Police in 1989.  
13 Jyo, hopefully, the technology will enable us to see the  
14 first clip?  
15 THE CORONER: This is from the rushes, did you say,  
16 Mr Roche?  
17 MR ROCHE: This is from the rushes. For the jury's benefit,  
18 the broadcast was on 15 April 2014, so it is presumably  
19 early 2014.  
20 A. Yes.  
21 THE CORONER: It seems to be coming.  
22 (Video played)  
23 MR ROCHE: Thank you.  
24 You also, in one of your statements, compared  
25 Peter Wright's style of running the organisation to

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01 Henry VIII, didn't you?  
02 A. Same analogy, really.  
03 Q. Do you stand by what you said in this interview?  
04 A. Yes, I do.  
05 Q. In practice --  
06 A. I do make the provision, actually, at the start of  
07 the interview that that wasn't unique to South Yorkshire  
08 Police at the time. It was the way in which I think  
09 most police forces ran at that time.  
10 Q. I should have said that this interview in fact was  
11 filmed in 2013, rather than 2014. That's my mistake,  
12 and I apologise. It follows the rushes were taken at an  
13 early -- in 2013, when Tudor courts were less  
14 fashionable than they are now, thanks to television.  
15 In a sense, South Yorkshire Police was Wolf Hall  
16 with Peter Wright as Henry VIII. I will spare the jury  
17 a history lesson, but can we boil down the main features  
18 of what, as I understand it, you have been saying about  
19 South Yorkshire Police.  
20 First of all, Peter Wright was a total autocrat in  
21 the way he ran South Yorkshire Police? That may apply  
22 to other forces, but let's stick to South Yorkshire  
23 Police. That was the reality?  
24 A. That was my view, yes.  
25 Q. Nothing of any significance would happen in South

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01 Yorkshire Police without the approval of Peter Wright?  
 02 A. Yes.  
 03 Q. Therefore, you said that it is inconceivable that  
 04 Mr Wain could have decided to embark on a meeting such  
 05 as that on 17 April without the knowledge and approval  
 06 of Peter Wright?  
 07 A. Yes, absolutely.  
 08 Q. That wouldn't have happened?  
 09 A. No, it wouldn't have happened, no.  
 10 Q. Secondly, there was something of a climate of fear, what  
 11 you described as a shimmer of fear, and you gave  
 12 a concrete example of that when you said you were going  
 13 to a presentation with a senior officer who was an  
 14 inspector -- elsewhere, you have told Operation Resolve  
 15 that we are talking about Mr Bettison.  
 16 A. Yes, Chief Inspector Bettison. That was the  
 17 presentation of our civilianisation report.  
 18 Q. Basically, the form was that nobody would speak after  
 19 the presentation until Peter Wright had spoken because  
 20 you didn't want to get wrong which way he was going to  
 21 jump?  
 22 A. Yes, they would wait to pick up the signals, yes.  
 23 Q. Thirdly, as in the court of Henry VIII, Peter Wright  
 24 could make or break you on a whim; is that fair?  
 25 A. Yes, absolutely. I mean, maybe not a whim, but, I mean,

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01 as I tried to say -- you saw something in the rushes --  
 02 it was very hard to make genuine mistakes and not have  
 03 them come back to -- have repercussions from them.  
 04 Q. I am going to come to the issue of mistakes in a moment.  
 05 A. Okay.  
 06 Q. If you did -- Peter Wright --  
 07 A. I think "whim" is probably the wrong word.  
 08 Q. Very well.  
 09 A. He was not a whimsical chief constable.  
 10 Q. It is my word and it is your evidence, so you are quite  
 11 right to correct me. But if you did Peter Wright's  
 12 bidding, then you stood to get rapid promotion?  
 13 A. Yes -- well, that was the way to get on, yes.  
 14 Q. If you did anything he disapproved of, you were out?  
 15 A. Well, out in the sense that your career was probably --  
 16 not out in the sense that you would be required to  
 17 resign, but out in the sense that it would stymie your  
 18 development, your opportunities to move on.  
 19 Q. In the "Troubleshooter" programme, the woman police  
 20 officer said if he disapproved, you'd be sent to  
 21 Siberia?  
 22 A. Thorne, I think she said, but the Siberian analogy was  
 23 there, yes.  
 24 Q. Or in the case of Brian Mole, exiled to Barnsley. That  
 25 was the same syndrome, wasn't it?

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01 A. Yes.  
 02 Q. We heard from Mr Page of SYMAS last week that when he  
 03 refused to go along with the South Yorkshire Police  
 04 narrative on drunken fans, his relationship with  
 05 Peter Wright was over. Is that consistent with your  
 06 observations of Peter Wright?  
 07 A. In the sense that he didn't agree with the approach,  
 08 yes.  
 09 Q. Yes.  
 10 A. I was only an inspector at that point in time, so  
 11 I wouldn't have been in those kind of higher level  
 12 meetings.  
 13 Q. Fair enough. In your first statement for  
 14 Operation Resolve, dated 26 February 2014, which is  
 15 tab 10, I think, if we look at internal page 6.  
 16 A. Yes, I have it.  
 17 Q. You say -- I will skip the first sentence, which simply  
 18 says you're discussing the culture:  
 19 "There are two things you should never do. One was  
 20 to admit to anything and, secondly, nothing goes out the  
 21 organisation, nobody goes outside the organisation,  
 22 nobody would admit to making a mistake, because if you  
 23 did, you would have to visit Chief Constable  
 24 Peter Wright who had absolute power within South  
 25 Yorkshire Police."

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01 A. Yes.  
 02 Q. Is it right that breaking the wall of silence or  
 03 whistleblowing, going outside the police, to criticise  
 04 it was regarded as the ultimate form of treachery?  
 05 A. Yes. In fairness to Mr Wright, I don't think that's  
 06 unique to him. In my subsequent experiences with the  
 07 organisation, it has gone beyond his period of  
 08 incumbency.  
 09 Q. Yes. I am certainly not suggesting it was confined  
 10 either to him or his era.  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. But certainly it was a fact of his era, certainly,  
 13 within South Yorkshire Police?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. But not unique at all. Lastly on this topic, as  
 16 a result of the fact that nobody could admit to  
 17 mistakes, let alone be transparent about them outside,  
 18 South Yorkshire Police tended not to learn from mistakes  
 19 because the first step in learning from a mistake is to  
 20 acknowledge it?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. That never happened?  
 23 A. Well, I wouldn't say "never happened", but, generally  
 24 speaking, it was not a learning -- the culture within  
 25 the organisation probably wouldn't even get to the point

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01 of being able to learn from any mistakes because they  
02 wouldn't actually be presented.  
03 Q. 1988, the semi-final. You have accepted that the  
04 kick-off wasn't delayed in 1988. We in fact know that  
05 it was delayed in 1987. If you had been intent, as is  
06 suggested against you, on going to the HIP Report and  
07 simply cherry picking it so that you could present  
08 a factual narrative based on the facts in the  
09 HIP Report, it would have been very easy, wouldn't it,  
10 to look at the HIP Report and check which year the  
11 kick-off was delayed, if, as is suggested to you, you  
12 simply made this up in order to do down South Yorkshire  
13 Police or some ex-member of the force?  
14 A. Yes, you could cherry pick from it, yes, of course.  
15 Q. Then you would have avoided that mistake.  
16 Can I play you one other very short clip from the  
17 "Panorama" rushes. Jyoti, if we can have the second  
18 clip, please. For the jury's benefit, it follows on  
19 immediately from the first passage that you saw.  
20 (Video played)  
21 MR ROCHE: It goes on, "for weeks and months afterwards".  
22 A. All right.  
23 Q. What I want to ask you is this: we have had a number of  
24 officers who were on duty on 15 April who have given  
25 evidence to the jury, and when asked about conversations

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01 that they might have had with other officers about the  
02 disaster or about the role that, for instance,  
03 Mr Duckenfield played, either don't remember anything or  
04 the impression one might get is that there were no  
05 conversations. What you appear to be saying, as one  
06 might expect, is that there were -- basically, that was  
07 the main topic of conversation for really quite a long  
08 time after Hillsborough?  
09 A. Yes, of course.  
10 Q. Because this was the biggest disaster of its kind that  
11 had ever occurred?  
12 A. It was massive, yes.  
13 Q. South Yorkshire Police was obviously centrally involved?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. And presumably -- but tell me if I am wrong -- there  
16 were constant conversations between officers about how  
17 it had happened?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Were there conversations about Mr Duckenfield's role in  
20 what had happened?  
21 A. I think there were, yes. Yes. I think it would have  
22 been a topic of conversation, definitely, yes.  
23 Q. Were there differing views or a consensus?  
24 THE CORONER: We have to be slightly careful, I think, don't  
25 you, Mr Roche?

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01 MR ROCHE: Certainly.  
02 A. The only thing I would say, as a match commander who has  
03 sat in that box in Hillsborough myself, it is a very  
04 difficult role to play.  
05 Q. That is extremely fair.  
06 Let me move on. Let's come to 17 April. You have  
07 been attacked on the basis that there is no minutes of  
08 this meeting, no note taken. You have said that you  
09 don't recollect anybody taking minutes of the meeting.  
10 We know the fact there are no minutes doesn't mean there  
11 is no meeting, because the minutes of 22 March have  
12 disappeared. There is a planning meeting, as you would  
13 expect, before the game, and the first planning meeting,  
14 the minutes have completely disappeared.  
15 You have said you would have expected a note to be  
16 taken of this meeting. If we can go back to around  
17 about 17 April, certainly, on the surface, South  
18 Yorkshire Police was maintaining a front that it was  
19 investigating and wasn't blaming the fans. The McKay  
20 briefing, which the jury have heard about in the  
21 afternoon, was carefully recorded, and Mr McKay says  
22 that there should be an impartial investigation.  
23 A. Yes, I have read those minutes. He does say that.  
24 Q. That is certainly the public front that South Yorkshire  
25 Police were presenting.

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01 A. Yes.  
02 Q. At the same time, and you touched on this, there is  
03 a virulent media campaign which we know the  
04 Police Federation at least were involved in, which is  
05 passing on to the press stories about drunken,  
06 ticketless, violent fans?  
07 A. (Witness nods).  
08 Q. You recall that, I'm sure?  
09 A. I do, yes.  
10 Q. The jury will have to decide, and I am not going to ask,  
11 how far Mr Middup was acting on his own and how far he  
12 was acting as the mouthpiece of the chief constable. As  
13 I say, I am not going to ask you for a view on that.  
14 A. No, I wasn't party to that meeting.  
15 Q. If it was the case that the public front was, "We are  
16 impartial", but in fact this meeting happened, as you  
17 have suggested, with what was far from a brief to go out  
18 and investigate impartially, but, "Let's prove a thesis  
19 that the Liverpool fans were drunk and ticketless", then  
20 it is rather less surprising, isn't it, that all records  
21 of that meeting have vanished?  
22 A. Well, it would not fit well with the police stance at  
23 that point, no.  
24 Q. As far as Mr Wain is concerned, he is somebody you named  
25 from the start?

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01 A. Yes.  
 02 Q. And you are sure that he was involved?  
 03 A. Yes.  
 04 Q. You have been criticised for mentioning Mr Seller, but  
 05 you made it clear, didn't you, to Operation Resolve  
 06 during the course of interviews that you weren't certain  
 07 that he was there?  
 08 A. Yes.  
 09 Q. Isn't the reality of those interviews this, that when  
 10 police officers are interviewing a suspect -- this is  
 11 a general proposition. I said "suspect", I should have  
 12 said "witness". When they are interviewing a witness,  
 13 the police are, quite naturally, interested in people  
 14 who may have been at an event?  
 15 A. Mmm.  
 16 Q. Because they can then establish on other evidence  
 17 whether your memory that X might have been there is  
 18 correct or not?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. That is precisely what we know they did, from what you  
 21 have heard from Mr Daw, with Mr Seller?  
 22 A. In fairness to Mr Wain's legal representative, I think  
 23 he has made that point.  
 24 Q. In the course of your interview in October -- I am not  
 25 going to take you to it unless you want me to, but for

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01 the reference of the lawyers, it is page 127 of  
 02 the December interview -- you said "Possibly  
 03 Malcolm Seller", when you were talking about people  
 04 there, question mark:  
 05 "That may be a memory issue, but that must be  
 06 a matter of record."  
 07 So you have never suggested that Mr Seller was  
 08 definitely there?  
 09 A. No.  
 10 Q. Is it right that what most concerned you about the  
 11 meeting was this: first of all, as far as you  
 12 understood, and there is no evidence that this is wrong,  
 13 there had not been a significant debrief of officers  
 14 who'd been involved before this meeting?  
 15 A. I don't think there ever was and, may I say, to their  
 16 detriment, in terms of their health and well-being.  
 17 Q. You would have expected, wouldn't you, if this was an  
 18 objective investigation, the officer who was running the  
 19 meeting to be asking officers to investigate various  
 20 possibilities, not saying, "We have one thesis and we  
 21 are now going to get the evidence to prove it". That is  
 22 not how you run a proper investigation, is it?  
 23 A. No.  
 24 Q. Indeed, in your --  
 25 A. Well, can I -- you may run that investigation in that

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01 way, provided you have other threads running in other  
 02 areas to do some kind of cross-comparison at the end of  
 03 the day to see whether it stands up. You wouldn't put  
 04 all your eggs in that one basket.  
 05 Q. You wouldn't say, "Now we are going to go away and get  
 06 the evidence to prove this"?  
 07 A. No.  
 08 Q. You described the way Mr Wain delivered this message as  
 09 strident, it was the South Yorkshire fightback?  
 10 A. That's how it felt.  
 11 Q. That was your impression of the way it was delivered?  
 12 A. That's how it felt, yes.  
 13 Q. In terms of timing and what was going on, this wasn't  
 14 a meeting where roles were being allocated or workload  
 15 divided up?  
 16 A. No, not at that point, no.  
 17 Q. It was much more simply a message to the troops who had  
 18 been assembled as to, "This is the way we want to run  
 19 this organisation"?  
 20 A. Yeah, or "This particular inquiry", yes.  
 21 Q. You were concerned by that?  
 22 A. Yes. Concerned -- well, let me say, I hadn't worked on  
 23 the day, I hadn't seen what had happened either on the  
 24 pitch, at the turnstiles or in the terraces or anything.  
 25 There had been an awful lot in the media up to that

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01 point. So the concern was more, "This is very early to  
 02 have formed this kind of conclusion". That was the  
 03 concern.  
 04 Q. As I say, you are quite right to correct my question,  
 05 and, again, it is very fair that you are doing so.  
 06 You used the phrase when you were asked why you  
 07 didn't blow the whistle in 1989 that you would have been  
 08 completely out of sync. The phrase you used, both in  
 09 your statement of December and in the interview in which  
 10 it is based is that you probably would have been  
 11 lynched?  
 12 A. I would not have been popular in the organisation.  
 13 Q. Would your position have been tenable if you had got up  
 14 and started to say, "Why are you doing this?"  
 15 A. Yes, probably, yes. I would have probably had to  
 16 walk -- maybe I should have done -- on the Tuesday.  
 17 Q. That's very honest. Let's move on, then, to the time at  
 18 which the HIP panel is set up.  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. You have told the jury that you had confidence in the  
 21 panel. In particular, you knew Paul Leighton, the  
 22 deputy chief constable of Northern Ireland, although he  
 23 had retired in 2009?  
 24 A. Partly that, but partly we also must remember that this  
 25 was the first time I think we were going to see a full

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01 disclosure of the papers. Up to that point, it was the  
02 case that the organisation that had the most to lose by  
03 the disclosure of the papers had had control of that  
04 same disclosure process, so I felt slightly -- both  
05 positive in the sense that somebody I knew was going to  
06 be on that panel, as in Paul Leighton, and, secondly, at  
07 that point, I think it was Andy Burnham, the then  
08 culture and media secretary, had made it quite plain  
09 that there would be a full disclosure of all the papers.  
10 Q. Is it right, you didn't feel the need at that stage to  
11 stick your head above the parapet and come forward?  
12 A. No, not really, no, in the sense that I felt the panel  
13 would do its work and we would see what came out of  
14 that. I mean, it was obviously a long process, and  
15 I think I said to the solicitor -- sorry, the barrister  
16 representing Mr Wain that I probably should have  
17 actually spoken to either Paul or whomever on that  
18 panel. But, for whatever reason, I didn't, to my  
19 eternal discredit.  
20 Q. The report was published on 12 September with a vast  
21 amount of publicity, not surprisingly --  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. -- given the extent of its conclusions. You came back  
24 from holidays a few days later?  
25 A. Yes.

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01 Q. You read the report, and I don't want to go into the  
02 findings in any detail, but were you generally impressed  
03 by the report?  
04 A. I thought it was a very comprehensive piece of work,  
05 yes. Yes.  
06 Q. What, then, drove --  
07 A. It wouldn't have fitted comfortably with the --  
08 THE CORONER: I think you have answered the question.  
09 A. Thank you, sir, sorry.  
10 MR ROCHE: What I really want to get on to is this: what  
11 then caused you to decide that you ought to -- I will  
12 come to why you go to the Hillsborough Family Support  
13 Group in a moment, but, first of all, why did you think  
14 you needed to come forward at all after you had been  
15 silent for so long?  
16 A. Okay. I can answer that quite simply. My wife and  
17 I were on holiday in Mallorca. Obviously, we were  
18 picking up the press reports. Even at that time, there  
19 were senior police officers still wanting to pursue the  
20 line that this was a result of, dare I say it, drunken,  
21 ticketless Liverpool fans, and on the back of that  
22 I thought, "Oh, no, not again. Here we go again", so  
23 I made that decision.  
24 I read those newspaper reports on holiday. I made  
25 that decision, first of all, to come back and read the

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01 report in full. And then, on the back of that, I wanted  
02 to go and speak to -- I discussed this long and hard  
03 with my wife. I wanted to go and speak to the  
04 Hillsborough Family Support Group to try and join up  
05 some of their dots, if you like, in terms of what it was  
06 like in South Yorkshire Police at that time.  
07 I wasn't there on the day, but things that I had  
08 witnessed subsequent to the event.  
09 Q. One of the officers you'd heard -- you have said this in  
10 your statement -- criticising the fans at that time was  
11 Norman Bettison?  
12 A. Yes. I mean, those reports will be a matter of record.  
13 Q. Yes, they are. You then emailed the Hillsborough Family  
14 Support Group. I am going to come to that email in  
15 a moment. Can we just for a moment look at the  
16 alternatives that you had in terms of blowing the  
17 whistle in September 2012.  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Operation Resolve didn't exist?  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. It wasn't set up until the following year. The IPCC  
22 didn't announce it was starting an investigation until  
23 12 October. Of course, at this stage, you're only in  
24 the week after the HIP Report, so it is not quite clear  
25 where things are going, the inquests aren't quashed.

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01 It may be said you could have gone to South  
02 Yorkshire Police?  
03 A. Yes, you could say that.  
04 Q. Why didn't you go to South Yorkshire Police?  
05 A. I had no confidence that they would (a) receive my  
06 report and (b) act upon it. Which is probably one of  
07 the reasons it had never happened prior to that.  
08 I did talk about that with my wife. We talked about  
09 it long and hard. But I wanted -- part of it, for me,  
10 I've got to say, was, knowing what I had known for some  
11 considerable amount of time, and, to my discredit, as  
12 I have already said, not properly acted upon that, that  
13 this was probably the right time to go and speak to the  
14 Hillsborough Family Support Group. Probably too little  
15 too late, but that was the decision I made.  
16 Q. It has been suggested to you by Mr Hough that South  
17 Yorkshire Police had moved on since 1989, and you  
18 expressed doubts about that.  
19 We now know that the then and current Chief  
20 Constable of South Yorkshire Police was emailing four  
21 days before the HIP Report that the families' version of  
22 events is held to be the truth even though it isn't. Is  
23 that consistent with the reservations that you have  
24 had --  
25 A. Yes.



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01 Q. -- about the South Yorkshire Police's position --  
02 A. Yes, and --  
03 Q. -- in 2012?  
04 A. Yes, and down the years, even up until recently,  
05 constant mail coming to you, "Don't speak to the press.  
06 Don't speak to anybody. You must speak through these  
07 channels", even as recently as -- I forget, a few months  
08 ago, the letter from my own NARPO -- National  
09 Association of Retired Police Officers -- branch  
10 advising me that if I attended at the inquests, under no  
11 circumstances should I speak to the press without first  
12 speaking to the committee of that particular  
13 organisation.  
14 So, over the time when you roll it all up, given  
15 also some of my personal experiences in terms of  
16 the organisation, I had no confidence at that point in  
17 time to take it there. So I went to speak to the  
18 Hillsborough Family Support Group.  
19 Q. I suppose it could be said, "Well, why" -- you could  
20 have gone to West Midlands Police, who had been given  
21 the task of investigating the disaster. We will be  
22 hearing more about them in due course. But did it occur  
23 to you to go to West Midlands Police?  
24 A. I mean, I wouldn't want to comment on the West Midlands  
25 inquiry, but, as I understand it, the manner in which it

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01 was set up --  
02 THE CORONER: I don't think we will go --  
03 A. No.  
04 MR ROCHE: Perhaps I can just ask one question, and can you  
05 answer this yes/no, because I don't want to get into  
06 a lengthy discussion. For our purposes, I think this  
07 question will suffice: did you have any confidence that  
08 West Midlands Police would investigate any complaint you  
09 made fairly?  
10 A. No.  
11 Q. You obviously had been following the media coverage  
12 since the HIP Report was announced. Although you were  
13 abroad --  
14 A. Yes, it was still --  
15 Q. -- you had been following it. Did you see, going to the  
16 Hillsborough Family Support Group, representing the  
17 families who had been campaigning for justice for so  
18 long, as in any way displaying any bias on your part?  
19 Did it occur to you that anybody could suggest that that  
20 was somehow illegitimate?  
21 A. No, not really. No, I didn't see it as bias. I just  
22 felt that they -- that we had people here for 26 years  
23 who had had --  
24 THE CORONER: I think we can follow what you are saying.  
25 A. Thank you, sir. No.

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01 MR ROCHE: Did you, when you were listening to media  
02 coverage, hear or read David Cameron's statement to the  
03 press?  
04 A. I did, yes.  
05 Q. David Cameron said:  
06 "The families have long believed that some of  
07 the authorities ..."  
08 THE CORONER: Mr Roche, I don't want to interrupt you, but  
09 where are we heading here? I think he's explained what  
10 went through his mind. He can say what went through his  
11 mind and why he went to where he went. If there is  
12 anything else that he wants to say about why he went,  
13 what went through his mind, then of course he can, but  
14 I think we have to -- there is a danger we go a little  
15 far and wide here.  
16 MR ROCHE: Perhaps I can just say this, and I will move on,  
17 if I have to. I wouldn't raise this at all, but, of  
18 course, the suggestion has been made that --  
19 THE CORONER: I understand why you are raising it.  
20 MR ROCHE: -- there was something that cast doubt on the  
21 integrity or the motives of this witness --  
22 THE CORONER: I agree.  
23 MR ROCHE: -- in the fact that he went to Mr Hicks and  
24 Mrs Aspinall.  
25 THE CORONER: I agree.

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01 MR ROCHE: It is right that the jury judge that against  
02 looking at all the alternatives, one of which was the  
03 support group.  
04 THE CORONER: It is the alternatives which went through his  
05 mind which is the important thing, isn't it?  
06 MR ROCHE: Yes. He's discussed the other alternatives. It  
07 is why he made the positive choice. I was simply going  
08 to, if you allow me, read out one passage from  
09 Mr Cameron's statement which deals with the families and  
10 which he -- I carefully asked whether he was aware of  
11 the statement or I wouldn't have gone any further.  
12 THE CORONER: Were you aware of the statement?  
13 A. I was aware of the statement, sir. I mean, in  
14 summation, I would just say, it just felt like the right  
15 thing to do.  
16 THE CORONER: I think we have got the picture, Mr Roche.  
17 MR ROCHE: Very well.  
18 When you contacted the Hillsborough Family Support  
19 Group, you did so by an email, and, effectively, what  
20 you were saying was there are pieces of the jigsaw that  
21 need to be filled in?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. You had a meeting at Mr Hicks' office?  
24 A. Yes, in Wakefield.  
25 Q. On 24 September?

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01 A. Yes.  
02 Q. We know, because you provided it to the IPCC -- it was  
03 provided -- I can't remember who initially provided it,  
04 whether it was the families or whether it was yourself,  
05 but, in any event, it was provided some time ago to the  
06 IPCC. Because Ms Roberts, who was there, took a full  
07 note running to 13 printed pages.  
08 A. Yes.  
09 Q. So there is nothing secret about that meeting.  
10 A. No.  
11 Q. Unlike many meetings the jury have heard about, it's  
12 fully recorded.  
13 I'm not going to take the jury to it and I will be  
14 challenged, I'm sure, if I get this wrong. The key  
15 elements of your evidence are in that note. You talk  
16 about the culture of South Yorkshire Police. I am not  
17 going to repeat what you have said. You talk about the  
18 way Peter Wright was running South Yorkshire Police, and  
19 you talk in detail about the meeting of 17 April.  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. So your account was fully formed then when you spoke to  
22 South Yorkshire Police, and no-one is suggesting, apart  
23 from the fact that you have later on talked about  
24 Mr Sellar possibly being there, it's not been suggested  
25 you suddenly made up a different account later on.

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01 A. No.  
02 Q. It's been consistent throughout.  
03 Is it right, neither Mr Hicks nor Mrs Aspinall, nor  
04 anybody else from the families, have ever tried to get  
05 you to change or embellish your account?  
06 A. No, it was freely given.  
07 Q. Mr Hicks was certainly quite keen that you talked to  
08 "Panorama" because he thought you had something new and  
09 valuable to say?  
10 A. Yes. Not for the publicity.  
11 Q. Does it really boil down to this: you have been happy to  
12 come forward finally. You accept that you could, and  
13 should, have come forward earlier, but you have been  
14 happy to come forward finally. Are you surprised by the  
15 fact that you have been attacked in this court, or is  
16 that something you have expected as part of the --  
17 A. No, I understand people have a job to do, yes.  
18 Q. But you have known that coming forward to give evidence  
19 wasn't going to be a cakewalk?  
20 A. No, of course not.  
21 Q. Is there anything else you want to say?  
22 A. No, thanks.  
23 MR ROCHE: Thank you very much.

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01 Examination by MR MUNYARD  
02 MR MUNYARD: Good afternoon, Mr Davis. I am Terry Munyard.  
03 I represent the families of three of those who died.  
04 I want to clarify one point with you, if I may.  
05 A. Yes.  
06 Q. You were asked this morning why, when the HIP panel --  
07 that is to say, the Hillsborough Independent Panel --  
08 was set up you didn't come forward with your account  
09 then. Were you aware that the Hillsborough Independent  
10 Panel was set up to review all the existing  
11 documentation, not to receive oral evidence like  
12 a public inquiry or these inquests?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. So it didn't have the facility to receive evidence from  
15 you?  
16 A. No.  
17 Q. There were no documents that you had to hand --  
18 A. No.  
19 Q. -- that you could have put to them?  
20 A. No.  
21 MR MUNYARD: Thank you very much.  
22 A. And part of it was my confidence that they would  
23 actually review the documentation, as they did.  
24 MR HOUGH: Sir, I have no further questions. Do you?  
25 THE CORONER: I don't. Thank you very much for coming.

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01 A. Thank you, sir.  
02 (The witness withdrew)  
03 MR HOUGH: Sir, the next witness is Colin Allen, who will be  
04 taken by Mr Hill.  
05 MR COLIN DAVID ALLEN (sworn)  
06 Examination by MR HILL  
07 MR HILL: Could you confirm, please, that you are  
08 Colin David Allen?  
09 A. Correct.  
10 Q. Mr Allen, my name is Matthew Hill. I ask questions on  
11 behalf of the coroner. You may also be asked questions  
12 by the other lawyers in the room.  
13 You have next to you a file containing some of  
14 the evidence that you have given.  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. Please feel free to refer to that file or to ask us to  
17 refer to it at any stage.  
18 Please also let us know if at any stage you would  
19 like a break.  
20 A. Yes, sure. Thank you.  
21 Q. Mr Allen, in terms of your previous evidence, is it  
22 right that you gave a witness statement to investigators  
23 from Operation Resolve and the IPCC and the statement is  
24 dated 18 July 2014?  
25 A. Yes.



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01 Q. That is at tab 7 of your file. It may be helpful to  
02 have that open, please.  
03 Is it also correct that you have not previously  
04 given a formal witness statement about the events of  
05 15 April?  
06 A. That's correct, yes.  
07 Q. We may return to that later.  
08 By way of background, in April 1989, is it correct  
09 that you were a police constable with the Merseyside  
10 Police?  
11 A. I was, yes.  
12 Q. Also a keen Liverpool supporter?  
13 A. Very much so, yes.  
14 Q. Were you a regular attender of home and away matches?  
15 A. Duties allowing, yes.  
16 Q. Did you also, on occasion, police Anfield and the  
17 Everton football --  
18 A. Yes, many times.  
19 Q. Had you previously been to Hillsborough before 15 April?  
20 A. Yes, I had.  
21 Q. Is it right that, although you'd been there on previous  
22 occasions, you weren't familiar with the Leppings Lane  
23 end?  
24 A. No, I'd always been in the opposite end.  
25 Q. The Spion Kop end?

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01 A. Well, I don't know what they called it.  
02 Q. Were you present at the 1988 semi-final?  
03 A. No.  
04 Q. Moving on, then, please, to the events of 15 April 1989,  
05 is it right that you had a standing ticket for the  
06 Leppings Lane end that day?  
07 A. Yes.  
08 Q. So we are clear, you were attending solely as  
09 a spectator and you were not on duty?  
10 A. Yes, absolutely.  
11 Q. Is it also right that you travelled to the ground with  
12 your then girlfriend's father?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. But on arrival at the ground, you went your separate  
15 ways?  
16 A. Yes, that's correct.  
17 Q. You arrived at the Leppings Lane end on your own at  
18 about 2.45?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. What did you see outside the turnstiles at the  
21 Leppings Lane end at that time?  
22 A. Just a crowd of people waiting to go through the  
23 turnstiles. There were several mounted officers at the  
24 turnstiles.  
25 Q. The jury has heard a great deal of evidence about the

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01 crowd outside the turnstiles, and I will not ask you  
02 very much about it. But is it right that you joined  
03 that crowd and made your way towards the furthest  
04 turnstile to the right-hand side as you saw it?  
05 A. Yes, that's correct.  
06 Q. That's what we know as turnstile G.  
07 A. Right.  
08 Q. How would you describe the mood of the crowd that you  
09 were in?  
10 A. Good mood.  
11 Q. I'm sorry?  
12 THE CORONER: "Good mood".  
13 A. Good mood.  
14 MR HILL: Had you seen anything amongst your fellow  
15 Liverpool fans outside the turnstiles that caused you  
16 any concern on this day.  
17 A. No, none whatsoever.  
18 Q. Did you actually reach turnstile G?  
19 A. About five, six yards away, maybe.  
20 Q. What happened when you were five or six yards away?  
21 A. One of the mounted officers shouted to the crowd there  
22 was a gate open around the corner and advised us to go  
23 around there.  
24 Q. Jyo, could we have on screen, please, INQ000404640038.  
25 You may recognise this, Mr Allen, as a plan that you

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01 marked whilst giving your evidence to Operation Resolve  
02 and the IPCC.  
03 A. Yes.  
04 Q. We can see that there is an "X" with a "1" next to it,  
05 just in front of turnstile G.  
06 A. Yes.  
07 Q. Is that the location that you were when you heard this  
08 mounted police officer mention that the gate was open?  
09 A. I actually thought I was to the right of those  
10 turnstiles.  
11 Q. We can see that next to the turnstiles there's a line  
12 drawn and it says "Handrail". We know, indeed, that  
13 there was a railing there. Do you think that you were  
14 on the other side of that railing, as it were, the side  
15 away from the turnstile?  
16 A. I'm sorry, I'm struggling to find my bearings with this.  
17 THE CORONER: Yes. It is not easy. The outer gates are at  
18 the top. Do you see?  
19 A. Oh, right, yes, okay.  
20 THE CORONER: They're the outer perimeter gates.  
21 A. I had the wrong place.  
22 THE CORONER: It is not easy, because it is the other way  
23 around from many of them. Then there is what is marked  
24 as "handrail", we have called it a funnel barrier from  
25 time to time, and I think you have marked yourself

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01 immediately to the left of that as one is looking in  
02 towards the ground.  
03 A. Yes.  
04 MR HILL: Does that accurately reflect your position at the  
05 time?  
06 A. Yes, it does, yes.  
07 Q. Would it assist you if I showed you a photograph of that  
08 area, or are you comfortable with that?  
09 A. Possibly not. That's fine. I'm happy, now I have found  
10 my bearings.  
11 Q. We will move on. Once you were told that the gate was  
12 open, did you in fact move towards it?  
13 A. Yes. Quite a few fans walked off in that direction.  
14 Q. Am I right in thinking that that was gate C, as is  
15 marked on that map?  
16 A. As it transpires, yes.  
17 Q. Do you remember if you climbed over or under the  
18 handrail?  
19 A. No.  
20 Q. Were you aware, before the mounted police officer said  
21 anything, of people moving in that direction?  
22 A. No.  
23 Q. Once you had got to gate C, did you in fact go through  
24 it?  
25 A. Yes. We walked through and then stopped, because we

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01 couldn't see where we were supposed to go.  
02 Q. When you say "we", who were you with at that time?  
03 A. Well, I was at the front of the queue, if you like,  
04 where the mounted officer suggested we go around.  
05 I don't know how many more people were behind me. But  
06 at one point, as we walked through the gate, we stopped  
07 because there was nothing to indicate in which direction  
08 we should go.  
09 Q. Were there any stewards or police officers?  
10 A. No, none whatsoever.  
11 Q. You could see no signs, I take it?  
12 A. No.  
13 Q. Do you know how long you stopped for?  
14 A. Momentarily.  
15 Q. Is it right that, having stopped momentarily, somebody  
16 pointed out to you that there was a tunnel in front of  
17 you?  
18 A. Yes. I heard one of the other chaps say, "What's  
19 that?", pointing towards this tunnel. We didn't know  
20 what it was. So we walked off in that direction.  
21 Q. Am I also right in thinking that the people who were  
22 around you were just other fans, not people that you  
23 necessarily knew?  
24 A. No. I was on my own.  
25 Q. You say that you walked off in that direction. Did you

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01 in fact go through the tunnel?  
02 A. Yes.  
03 Q. And onto the terraces?  
04 A. Yes.  
05 Q. Are you able to say whether or not at that stage the  
06 match had kicked off?  
07 A. At that stage, no.  
08 Q. No, it had not kicked off?  
09 A. I didn't know. I couldn't see. If my memory serves me  
10 well, when we got to the end of the tunnel, there was  
11 a short flight of steps up onto the terrace, one or two  
12 steps. So the people who were standing right at the  
13 back obscured -- completely obscured the view of  
14 the pitch and the rest of the ground.  
15 Q. You couldn't see the pitch because of the people in  
16 front of you?  
17 A. Not at that time, no.  
18 Q. You have said in your statement that at the end of  
19 the tunnel you moved to your right, going in to what we  
20 know to be pen 3; is that correct?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Jyo, if we could have on screen, please,  
23 INQ000404640040, this is a photograph that you have  
24 marked. I am afraid the quality is not that good. But  
25 there is a cross marked above gate 3, being indicated

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01 now, at what we know to be barrier 136A, for the sake of  
02 the transcript.  
03 It is the first crush barrier that you would come to  
04 if you went straight down from the tunnel and slightly  
05 to your right.  
06 A. Yes.  
07 Q. Is that the place where you ended up, having gone into  
08 the pen?  
09 A. Yes.  
10 Q. While you were standing in that location, is it right  
11 that the pressure on you built up?  
12 A. Yes, very quickly.  
13 Q. You have described it in your statement as being  
14 vice-like?  
15 A. Absolutely, yes.  
16 Q. Was this a gradual build-up or a sudden surge?  
17 A. It's difficult to give a time span. Possibly over the  
18 course of one, maybe two minutes.  
19 Q. Was there any relenting of the pressure, or did it just  
20 continue to build?  
21 A. No, it just continued to worsen.  
22 Q. You said in your statement that at one point, because of  
23 the pressure, you were actually spun around so that you  
24 were facing the stand behind you; is that correct?  
25 A. Yes.

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01 Q. While you were in that position you heard a roar, there  
02 was a further surge, and then you were spun back to  
03 facing the pitch?  
04 A. Yes.  
05 Q. Is it right that you attributed that roar to  
06 Peter Beardsley hitting the bar at the far end?  
07 A. Subsequently, yes.  
08 Q. But it is not something that you actually saw yourself?  
09 A. No.  
10 Q. We know that Peter Beardsley's shot was at 4 minutes  
11 past 3. Do you have any idea of the time at which you  
12 were spun back?  
13 A. No.  
14 Q. You also said in your statement that, while you were in  
15 that position, your leg became trapped against the  
16 barrier?  
17 A. Yes, it did.  
18 Q. That's the same barrier that you have indicated on this  
19 picture?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. Is it right that you subsequently were diagnosed with  
22 injuries to that leg after the event?  
23 A. Yes. I didn't bother seeking medical attention.  
24 Q. We also know from your statement that at some point  
25 while you were on the terrace you think that you passed

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01 out?  
02 A. Yes, I did.  
03 Q. Was that because of the pressure around you?  
04 A. Yes.  
05 Q. Are you able to give any estimation of how long it was  
06 that you were on the terrace before you did pass out?  
07 A. I have really no idea.  
08 Q. When you came around, your leg had been freed from the  
09 position trapped against the barrier?  
10 A. Yes, somehow, yes. I don't know how, but it did.  
11 Q. But you were still in the vicinity of barrier 136?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. I would like now to read to you a small extract from  
14 your statement. I will ask for it to be brought up on  
15 the screen as well, please, Jyo. It is INQ000329580005.  
16 It's the fifth and sixth paragraphs there, beginning,  
17 "I remember" and then "I realised".  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. I am just going to read these paragraphs to you and ask  
20 you some questions about them as we go along. The first  
21 paragraph is this:  
22 "I remember a child who was either unconscious or  
23 dead being passed down over fans' heads towards the  
24 front. There was a police officer stood near to the  
25 front gate and the fans were shouting to him to open it

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01 and take the child out. He responded with a dismissive  
02 wave, telling them to put the child back.  
03 "I realised something really serious was about to  
04 happen and when the officer waved his dismissive hand  
05 I shouted to him, 'I'm a bobby. Get people out from the  
06 back. People are going to start dying'. He clearly  
07 heard me and looked straight at me, smiling, and, again,  
08 waving his hand, saying, 'You'll be all right'.  
09 I openly declared myself a police officer without  
10 hesitation due to seriousness of the situation. This  
11 officer was standing right by the gate and when some  
12 fans attempted to force it open, he prevented them from  
13 doing so by keeping a tight hold on it."  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. First of all, is that still your recollection today?  
16 A. Yes, sir.  
17 Q. As you describe it. It is right that the statement that  
18 you gave there is, as we have said, dated  
19 from July 2014?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. Just a few questions, if I may, about that statement.  
22 When you saw these events taking place, were you still  
23 at that barrier, barrier 136?  
24 A. I had actually been forced off the barrier and closer to  
25 the wall, right behind the goal.

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01 Q. Forced forward in the pen?  
02 A. Yes.  
03 Q. So this was after you had passed out?  
04 A. Yes.  
05 Q. And your leg had become freed?  
06 A. Yes.  
07 Q. And after you had been spun around to face the stand and  
08 then spun back again?  
09 A. Yes.  
10 Q. That was something that you associated, rightly or  
11 wrongly, with the Beardsley shot at 4 minutes past 3?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. Were you aware of whether or not the game was still  
14 going on at that time?  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. No, you were not aware?  
17 A. No, I wasn't.  
18 Q. You have said that there was a gate and that was -- from  
19 the account that we have just read, it appears to have  
20 been closed or held closed by the police officer. Is  
21 that the gate at the front of pen 3?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. Are you able to estimate how far away you were from that  
24 gate?  
25 A. Possibly as far as the front row of the jury.

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01 Q. I will seek to estimate --  
 02 A. Possibly less. Possibly less, a yard or two less.  
 03 Q. That would seem to be somewhere in the region of,  
 04 perhaps, seven or eight metres, or perhaps less?  
 05 A. Yes, roughly.  
 06 Q. I will be corrected by others if their sense of distance  
 07 is better than mine.  
 08 When you shouted at the police officer, was there  
 09 much other noise in the pen at that time?  
 10 A. No. There was a rather strange silence descended on  
 11 that section of the crowd, because everybody in there  
 12 knew we were all in trouble. It was quite eerie,  
 13 actually. You could hear the noise of the rest of  
 14 the crowd, but there was a really strange silence in  
 15 that central pen.  
 16 Q. How confident are you that the policeman to whom you  
 17 shouted heard?  
 18 A. Oh, he heard, yes.  
 19 Q. Why do you say that?  
 20 A. He acknowledged me straight away.  
 21 Q. Acknowledged you by responding verbally or --  
 22 A. Yes, he waved a hand, and said, "You'll be okay, you'll  
 23 be fine".  
 24 Q. You heard those words?  
 25 A. Yes, I did.

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01 Q. And you considered that they were aimed at you?  
 02 A. Yes.  
 03 Q. You have mentioned the one police officer that you saw.  
 04 Could you see any other police officers around you?  
 05 A. I think, apart from that chap, there was a policewoman  
 06 standing nearby.  
 07 Q. Anybody else that you could see?  
 08 A. No, I didn't see anybody else.  
 09 Q. Could you see any fans on the pitchside at that time?  
 10 A. No.  
 11 Q. Did you see the gate open at any stage during this  
 12 exchange?  
 13 A. No.  
 14 Q. I will ask no more questions about that. Others may do  
 15 so.  
 16 Is it right that whilst you were in the pen, you  
 17 also saw a number of other people in very distressed  
 18 states?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. And, indeed, what you considered to be bodies?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Again, I will ask you no more about that. Others may do  
 23 so.  
 24 You say in your statement that at some stage -- and  
 25 you are not sure how -- you made it over towards the

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01 dividing fence between pens 2 and 3; is that right?  
 02 A. Yes.  
 03 Q. Is it also right that you climbed or were dragged over  
 04 that fence and into pen 2?  
 05 A. Yes.  
 06 Q. Again, are you able to assist at all with how long you  
 07 had been in pen 3?  
 08 A. I have absolutely no idea.  
 09 Q. Are you able to say whether or not at that stage the  
 10 match was still ongoing?  
 11 A. No, I really couldn't.  
 12 Q. Is it right that from pen 2 you made your way onto the  
 13 pitch?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. When you were on the pitch, you saw a female police  
 16 officer trying to resuscitate an individual, a man,  
 17 lying on the ground?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. Is that correct?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Could we have on screen, please, Jyo, INQ000404640040.  
 22 The same photograph that you have previously been shown  
 23 that you have marked. You will see there that there is  
 24 slightly clearer a point marked "X5", and that is at the  
 25 southern edge of the Leppings Lane penalty area,

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01 approximately level with the six-yard line, perhaps  
 02 slightly further infield than that. Is that where you  
 03 saw the policewoman seeking to resuscitate the man?  
 04 A. Yes, within close proximity to that.  
 05 Q. Is it right that you went to assist the policewoman?  
 06 A. Yes, I did some chest compressions while she did  
 07 mouth-to-mouth.  
 08 Q. Was there any effect on the casualty on whom you were  
 09 working?  
 10 A. No. As I was depressing the chest, vomit was coming up  
 11 through his mouth. Good on her, the policewoman just  
 12 wiped away the vomit and started with mouth-to-mouth  
 13 again. I was very impressed by her.  
 14 Q. Did you see any signs of life on the casualty on whom  
 15 you worked?  
 16 A. No.  
 17 Q. For how long did you work on that casualty?  
 18 A. Well, a chap came running over, and I assumed, because  
 19 of his general demeanour, he was some sort of healthcare  
 20 professional, and he just shouted, "How long have you  
 21 been working on him?", and the policewoman said, "About  
 22 ten minutes", and he said, "Leave him. He's dead. Go  
 23 and help someone else".  
 24 Q. Did the man who you assumed was a medical professional  
 25 perform any checks on the casualty?

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01 A. No.  
02 Q. Did you, yourself, perform any checks before leaving  
03 him?  
04 A. No.  
05 Q. I'm not going to ask you anything more about the events  
06 of the day. I would, however, like to turn to one final  
07 topic, which concerns an account of the events that you  
08 gave afterwards.  
09 Is it correct that after the events of 15 April you  
10 were off work for a period of time?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. Is it also right that your girlfriend, who was a police  
13 officer, told you that the West Midlands Police had  
14 asked for any Merseyside officers at the game to come  
15 forward and give short reports?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. Is it also right that your girlfriend brought you the  
18 relevant form to complete?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. That is known as a form 104; is that right?  
21 A. That's correct.  
22 Q. A Merseyside Police form?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. We have that. I won't ask for it to be brought up. But  
25 for the transcript, the reference is INQ000329590003.

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01 It is at tab 1 of your bundle, if you would like to look  
02 at it.  
03 Could you confirm, first of all, that this is  
04 a handwritten short account of the events?  
05 A. Yes, a very brief account.  
06 Q. It is in your own handwriting?  
07 A. It is, yes.  
08 Q. Dated 22 April 1989?  
09 A. Yes.  
10 Q. In the brief account, you refer to being one of  
11 the first through the infamous opened concertina gate.  
12 That is a reference to gate C, is it?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. You also say that you stood behind the goal and saw the  
15 tragic events that followed?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. You state in that account that you looked forward to  
18 giving evidence at the inquiry?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. Is that the Taylor Inquiry that you are referring to?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. As well as completing that short account, is it right  
23 that you signed a form indicating when you would be  
24 available as a witness?  
25 A. Yes, that's right.

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01 Q. Again, for the transcript, the reference is  
02 INQ000329590006. It is on the following page of your  
03 bundle, at tab 1.  
04 A. Yes.  
05 Q. We can see written on that form -- again, I don't ask  
06 for it to be brought up -- the words, "I will be  
07 available at any time"?  
08 A. Yes, that's correct.  
09 Q. Are those in your handwriting?  
10 A. It is.  
11 Q. Is it fair to say that you were indicating that you were  
12 willing to give a further statement and, indeed, wanted  
13 to give a further statement?  
14 A. Absolutely, yes.  
15 Q. It appears from the form that you returned it somehow to  
16 the Merseyside Police, and we know that because it has  
17 a Merseyside Police stamp on it dated 26 April 1989; is  
18 that correct?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. Do you know how you got that form back to Merseyside  
21 Police?  
22 A. When it was retrieved by --  
23 Q. No, sorry, how you had completed the form --  
24 A. Oh, right, sorry, I gave it to my girlfriend and she  
25 took it in.

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01 Q. We can also see from the form itself that somebody in  
02 different writing, underneath your short account, has  
03 written on it, suggesting that it be forwarded to, and  
04 I quote, "The Chief Superintendent Operations  
05 Department, Hillsborough Post-incident Operations Centre  
06 at Smithdown Lane."  
07 A. Yes.  
08 Q. Pausing there, Smithdown Lane, was that a Merseyside  
09 Police --  
10 A. Yes, it was traffic headquarters.  
11 Q. So this is a suggestion that it goes to a location  
12 within Merseyside Police?  
13 A. Yes. At that time, I -- well, to this day almost, I was  
14 never aware of a post-incident operations centre.  
15 Q. The same handwriting states that it should be forwarded  
16 "to enable arrangements for an interview to be made".  
17 Do you see that?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Were you in fact ever interviewed by West Midlands  
20 Police?  
21 A. No, I'm still waiting today.  
22 Q. Were you interviewed by anybody else in 1989 about what  
23 you saw?  
24 A. No.  
25 Q. Were you ever told why you weren't interviewed?

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01 A. No.  
 02 Q. Finally, do you know whether or not your report ever  
 03 reached West Midlands Police?  
 04 A. I suspect not.  
 05 Q. You say you suspect not. Do you know one way or another  
 06 what happened?  
 07 A. No, I don't. The chaps who interviewed me said they'd  
 08 retrieved it from a bundle of papers. I don't know  
 09 whether that was part and parcel of the HIP collection  
 10 or it was retrieved from a different location.  
 11 Q. You, yourself, can't help one way or another as to what  
 12 happened --  
 13 A. No.  
 14 MR HILL: Mr Allen, those are my questions, thank you very  
 15 much.  
 16 Examination by MR GREEN  
 17 MR GREEN: Mr Allen, I am Sam Green. I represent the  
 18 Police Federation, a body of which I think you were once  
 19 upon a time, yourself, an active member.  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Just one matter, please. The officer at the gate in the  
 22 perimeter fence who waved, as you put it,  
 23 dismissively -- yes? Was it obvious to you that that  
 24 officer appeared, for whatever reason, wholly to fail to  
 25 appreciate the severity of what was going on, in fact?

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01 A. That was quite apparent, yes.  
 02 Q. Just so we are crystal clear, you are not suggesting for  
 03 a moment that a police officer deliberately and  
 04 knowingly refused to take a dead child or an unconscious  
 05 child?  
 06 A. Absolutely not, no.  
 07 MR GREEN: That's all I ask, thank you very much, sir.  
 08 Examination by MS CAMPBELL  
 09 MS CAMPBELL: Mr Allen, my name is Brenda Campbell and I ask  
 10 questions on behalf of 12 families of men and boys who  
 11 died at Hillsborough.  
 12 The focus of my evidence is very much going to be  
 13 your experience outside the ground and up to the point  
 14 of going in. Just so you know, others may ask you more  
 15 questions.  
 16 Before I get on to the detail, can I assist the jury  
 17 with giving them an overall impression of your  
 18 experience as an officer by the time you come to attend  
 19 the match in 1989.  
 20 You had joined the police force in 1973?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. So, by the time you turned up in Sheffield on  
 23 15 April 1989, you had some 16 years' experience as  
 24 a police officer?  
 25 A. Yes.

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01 Q. That experience included policing football matches, both  
 02 at Goodison Park, at Everton and Liverpool?  
 03 A. Yes.  
 04 Q. And general policing matters?  
 05 A. Yes.  
 06 Q. But you would have considered yourself, firstly, an  
 07 experienced police officer?  
 08 A. Yes.  
 09 Q. Secondly, an experienced football fan?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. You remained, in fact, a police officer, didn't, you  
 12 until 1996?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. Post Hillsborough, you spent a few years working as  
 15 a Police Federation representative?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. Eventually, you retired from the force due to injury?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. Back to April 1989. Up until 14 April 1989, is it right  
 20 that you in fact didn't have a ticket for the match?  
 21 A. That's right, yes.  
 22 Q. It was your girlfriend who managed somehow to obtain  
 23 a ticket for you at what you call the eleventh hour?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. You explained to the officers of the IPCC that you were

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01 extremely grateful for it?  
 02 A. Yes.  
 03 Q. I want to, first of all, set out what your plan was for  
 04 the day, what you anticipated your day would bring.  
 05 Firstly, this: you were travelling with your then  
 06 girlfriend's father in his car?  
 07 A. Yes.  
 08 Q. Did you leave the Liverpool area in good time?  
 09 A. Yes, we did.  
 10 Q. Do you recall what time you left?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. But your intention was, wasn't it, to arrive in the  
 13 Sheffield area well in advance of the match?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. That was to afford you the opportunity to go for a few  
 16 drinks and have something to eat?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. You intended to do that in the police club?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. The Sheffield police club, which was just a few minutes  
 21 from the ground?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. By that, can the jury understand that this police club  
 24 just a few minutes from the ground was serving alcohol?  
 25 A. Yes.



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01 Q. Eventually, we will come to it. You managed to squeeze  
02 in a quick pint?  
03 A. A very quick one, yes.  
04 Q. What you had intended to do was arrive in good time and  
05 have this social experience before the match, thereafter  
06 attending the ground and going in and hopefully seeing  
07 your team victorious?  
08 A. Again, yes.  
09 Q. I want, then, please, your assistance in what happened.  
10 Were you able to make it to Sheffield in good time,  
11 having left in good time?  
12 A. No, because there were substantial roadworks en route.  
13 I think it was just outside Sheffield, the borders of  
14 the city itself.  
15 Q. Indeed. So you were delayed, you and your -- we will  
16 call him your father-in-law for today's purposes, you  
17 were delayed in roadworks?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. What you told the officers of Operation Resolve was  
20 this:  
21 "It took us an eternity to get into the city  
22 centre -- well, to the area of the ground, anyway."  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. You recall feeling annoyance. This is what you told  
25 Operation Resolve, you say:

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01 "I was a little annoyed that they didn't make it  
02 clear to people before travelling that there were  
03 problems with the roadworks, but, hey, that's how it  
04 is."  
05 A. Yes.  
06 Q. So in 1989, with your girlfriend's father, you recall  
07 feeling aggrieved that it hadn't been publicised that  
08 there might be difficulties getting to the ground?  
09 A. Yes.  
10 Q. As a result of those roadworks, I think you managed to  
11 get to Sheffield at about quarter past 2?  
12 A. Roughly, yes.  
13 Q. You park up in the area of the police club?  
14 A. Yes, and the grounds itself.  
15 Q. We, I think, know that as the Niagara police club?  
16 A. Yes, I think it was. I think it was called that.  
17 Q. Now, quarter past 2. You manage to get out of the car.  
18 You know the kick-off is at 3 o'clock?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. What did you decide to do?  
21 A. We had a very, very quick drink and a bite to eat.  
22 Q. I think you told the officers that you had a pint and  
23 a sandwich?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. That took you up until around about half past 2?

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01 A. Yes.  
02 Q. You then made your way to the ground, arriving somewhere  
03 in the region of 20 to 3?  
04 A. Yes.  
05 Q. You then faced a decision, didn't you, in relation to  
06 this vast crowd that you encountered; yes?  
07 A. Yes.  
08 Q. Pausing for a moment there, Mr Allen, you were in court  
09 this morning and you heard the questions that were posed  
10 to the previous witness, Mr Davis?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. Do you recall a gentleman two rows back from me over my  
13 right shoulder discussing the hypothesis of ticketless,  
14 drunken Liverpool fans making a contribution to the  
15 disaster?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. That hypothesis is not unfamiliar to you, is it? You  
18 will have heard it many times over the last 26 years?  
19 A. Many times, yes.  
20 Q. Do you consider yourself in that bracket of Liverpool  
21 fans who contributed to the disaster?  
22 A. No.  
23 Q. Did any behaviour that you saw, as an experienced police  
24 officer of 16 years, on your way into the ground, did  
25 any behaviour of Liverpool fans cause you any concern?

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01 A. Absolutely none whatsoever.  
02 Q. Did you think, "This is going to be a tricky day. This  
03 crowd is going to be difficult to police"?  
04 A. No.  
05 Q. Did you see or witness people in drunken states?  
06 A. No.  
07 Q. Did you see or witness people carrying large amounts of  
08 alcohol?  
09 A. I didn't see any.  
10 Q. What you did when you got to the back of that crowd in  
11 Leppings Lane was make a decision as to how you would  
12 get into the ground. What you decided, at around about  
13 20 to 3, was to join the back of that crowd, didn't you?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. You were conscious at that time that kick-off was  
16 approaching, were you?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. Were you conscious that there was a danger you might not  
19 get into the ground before kick-off?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. You see, this jury has repeatedly heard, Mr Allen,  
22 a case promoted and asked on behalf of the match  
23 commanders that those who -- this is going to take some  
24 introduction -- came late to Sheffield, those who took  
25 opportunities to consume alcohol before the game, those

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01 who arrived at the ground after the build-up had  
02 commenced, those who joined the back of that crowd,  
03 those who were concerned to get into the ground before  
04 kick-off, those who went through gate C and those who  
05 went down that tunnel bear a burden of responsibility  
06 for the 96 deaths that followed. Do you understand  
07 that?  
08 A. Yes.  
09 Q. It hasn't been put to you, but, as a matter of courtesy,  
10 I would like to put it to you, to give you the  
11 opportunity to respond. Do you understand?  
12 A. Absolutely, yes.  
13 Q. Because all of those seven points that I have read out  
14 are points that apply to you. Do you agree?  
15 A. I agree.  
16 Q. Now, we have heard why it was you arrived in Sheffield  
17 at about 10 past 2. You considered yourself running  
18 late at that time, didn't you?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. Nonetheless, you took an opportunity, in the police  
21 club, to grab a quick pint and a sandwich, didn't you?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. Did you consider yourself to be acting recklessly or  
24 ruthlessly in doing so?  
25 A. Absolutely not.

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01 Q. Was it entirely normal behaviour --  
02 A. Yes.  
03 Q. -- for fans?  
04 A. Absolutely.  
05 Q. Were there other off-duty police officers doing the same  
06 in that club?  
07 A. I would assume so.  
08 Q. Having had the opportunity for a quick pint, you arrived  
09 at the ground after a significant build-up of fans had  
10 commenced. Had anyone alerted you on the way to the  
11 ground of problems at the ground?  
12 A. No.  
13 Q. Had any police officer sought to delay your attendance  
14 at the ground and your encountering that mass of people?  
15 A. No, I didn't see any police officers.  
16 Q. You joined the back of that crowd?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. Did you consider you were being ruthless or reckless in  
19 doing so?  
20 A. Absolutely not.  
21 Q. Was it entirely natural in the circumstances?  
22 A. Yes, it was.  
23 Q. Was there anything in the demeanour of the others around  
24 you who were similarly joining the back of the crowd  
25 that caused you concern?

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01 A. None whatsoever.  
02 Q. Did you see people, individuals or groups pushing or  
03 being reckless?  
04 A. No.  
05 Q. Were you concerned to get into the ground before  
06 kick-off?  
07 A. Well, it would have been preferable.  
08 Q. Yes.  
09 A. Not absolutely necessary. If we had to wait, then we  
10 had to wait.  
11 Q. Did the fact that kick-off was approaching imbue you  
12 with some sort of reckless intent to get in before  
13 3 o'clock?  
14 A. No.  
15 Q. Did you witness, amongst all of your fellow supporters,  
16 any reckless intent to get into the ground ruthlessly  
17 before kick-off?  
18 A. No, none whatsoever.  
19 Q. You went through gate C?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. Why?  
22 A. We were told to.  
23 Q. By?  
24 A. A mounted officer.  
25 Q. Did you think, in obeying the instructions of that

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01 mounted officer, you were behaving in any unacceptable  
02 way?  
03 A. No.  
04 Q. Did you think, until this point, that your actions at  
05 any point on this day had contributed to any of  
06 the chaos of which you were experiencing?  
07 A. No, absolutely not. It is something I've always deeply  
08 resented.  
09 Q. On coming into the concourse area through gate C, you  
10 eventually went down that tunnel?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. Why?  
13 A. It was the only place we could see. There were no signs  
14 to indicate where we should go, there were no stewards  
15 or police officers to direct. We literally stopped for  
16 a few seconds, and people were looking around to see  
17 which was the best way to go, until somebody spotted the  
18 tunnel and said, "Shall we go there? What's that?"  
19 Q. Did you feel you were acting recklessly or ruthlessly in  
20 doing so?  
21 A. Absolutely not.  
22 Q. Had you, outside the ground, gained any impression of  
23 the adequacy of the policing of that crowd?  
24 A. Was this outside the turnstiles?  
25 Q. Outside the ground. Outside the turnstiles.

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01 A. I saw the mounted men and that was it.  
 02 Q. Did you see any police officers on foot?  
 03 A. No.  
 04 Q. Did you have an impression that the area outside the  
 05 ground was being adequately policed for the number of  
 06 people?  
 07 A. No, it wasn't.  
 08 Q. I want, please, then, to look with you at something you  
 09 told Operation Resolve in relation to the tunnel.  
 10 THE CORONER: I am going to finish at 3.15.  
 11 MS CAMPBELL: Yes. I imagine I can finish relatively  
 12 quickly. Jyo, INQ000368740028. It is the middle  
 13 passage, please, that starts, "I actually said to Liam".  
 14 Mr Allen, you were being asked about the tunnel by  
 15 IPCC officers, and you say this:  
 16 "I actually said to Liam ..."  
 17 Just so the jury know, Liam is the forename of one  
 18 of the officers who was interviewing you?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. "I actually said to Liam on the phone ..."  
 21 In other words, when he called you for interview:  
 22 "... it would have just take one police officer or  
 23 one steward to stand at that tunnel entrance and say to  
 24 people, 'Sorry, boys, it's full, go either side', and  
 25 that would have been the end of it, end of, not one life

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01 lost. It's as simple as that."  
 02 A. Absolutely.  
 03 Q. That was your impression on the day?  
 04 A. Yes.  
 05 Q. Do you stand by that?  
 06 A. Absolutely. If I'd have been in charge of that game,  
 07 there would have been at least one or two police  
 08 officers or stewards at the end of that tunnel and that  
 09 would have been it. No injuries, no deaths. And these  
 10 people wouldn't be suffering to this day.  
 11 MS CAMPBELL: Mr Allen, I do have a few more questions for  
 12 you, but I will do so after the break. I will be very  
 13 brief.  
 14 THE CORONER: We will have our break, members of the jury.  
 15 (3.16 pm)  
 16 (A short break)  
 17 (3.27 pm)  
 18 MS CAMPBELL: Mr Allen, I want to deal briefly, then, with  
 19 your experience in the immediate aftermath. Others will  
 20 ask you about your experience in the pens.  
 21 When you returned from Sheffield on 15 April, and in  
 22 the days that followed, you were doubtless aware of  
 23 the media presentation and representation of what had  
 24 happened?  
 25 A. Yes.

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01 Q. You, yourself, became aware of the headline of The Sun?  
 02 A. Yes.  
 03 Q. In which allegations were made against Liverpool fans,  
 04 particularly demeaning their behaviour on the day?  
 05 A. Yes.  
 06 Q. You were recuperating from a leg injury, which we know  
 07 you didn't seek any medical assistance for, but there  
 08 came a time when your girlfriend asked you, or informed  
 09 you of a way by which you could make your account known?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. You took that opportunity?  
 12 A. I did, yes.  
 13 Q. I want to look at it, please, Jyo. It is  
 14 INQ000329590003. Jyo, can we put also on screen  
 15 suffix 6 of the same bundle, INQ000329590006. Mr Allen,  
 16 do look at it in hard copy, I am sorry, I should have  
 17 directed you to it.  
 18 I think it is behind --  
 19 THE CORONER: It is divider 1.  
 20 MS CAMPBELL: It is your divider 1. Thank you, sir.  
 21 What happened, Mr Allen, is you submitted these two  
 22 documents through your force in the hope that they would  
 23 reach West Midlands Police?  
 24 A. West Midlands, yes.  
 25 Q. We don't know whether they in fact did or did not?

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01 A. No.  
 02 Q. But here, on Merseyside paper, you have dated and signed  
 03 a brief account of what happened?  
 04 A. Yes.  
 05 Q. It was entirely normal that you would date and sign any  
 06 such official document?  
 07 A. It is, yes.  
 08 Q. You put down your name, your shoulder number, and you  
 09 were sending it to the chief superintendent?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. You say this:  
 12 "I have to report that I attended the  
 13 Liverpool v Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final in an  
 14 off-duty capacity.  
 15 "My ticket was for the Leppings Lane B section  
 16 standing area. I was one of the first people to enter  
 17 the ground via the infamous opened concertina gate and  
 18 I am still in possession of my ticket.  
 19 "I stood directly behind the goal and apart from  
 20 passing out for a brief period, I witnessed the tragic  
 21 events that followed."  
 22 Then this:  
 23 "After some of the sickening speculation that  
 24 followed the disaster, I look forward to giving evidence  
 25 to the inquiry by means of fact, not fiction."

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01 A. Yes.  
 02 Q. Then this page that is rather unusual on the right-hand  
 03 side of the screen is your dates of availability to be  
 04 either interviewed or give evidence to the inquiry?  
 05 A. Yes.  
 06 Q. Was it you who asterisked just on the top right-hand  
 07 side of the page, "I will be available at any time"?  
 08 A. Yes.  
 09 Q. So, although we see in the little boxes on this page  
 10 where you have put "N" for when on night duty, "RD" for  
 11 when you were on rest day, "C" when you were on  
 12 a course, what you were saying is, "I am going to make  
 13 myself available at any point"?  
 14 A. Yes, absolutely.  
 15 Q. What you wanted to do -- we don't know precisely why it  
 16 was you weren't called on -- was to put in proper  
 17 context of some of what you called the "sickening  
 18 speculation"?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Jyo, can we remove these two documents from the screen  
 21 and put up page 8 of 11 from your most recent statement,  
 22 behind divider 7. It is INQ000329580008. It is the  
 23 last two paragraphs, please?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. Do you see that, Mr Allen? In the very last

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01 paragraph -- in the second-last paragraph, you are  
 02 referring to this comment that you made about sickening  
 03 speculation, and then you say in the last paragraph:  
 04 "By saying 'sickening speculation' I was making  
 05 reference to remarks in the media, in particular  
 06 The Sun, that said Liverpool fans urinating on and  
 07 stealing from the dead. By 'fact not fiction' I meant  
 08 that it was apparent that the authorities were trying to  
 09 put the blame on Liverpool fans. I was there and I know  
 10 the Liverpool fans were not to blame."  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. That would have been your account, had you been afforded  
 13 the opportunity to give it in 1989, or thereafter?  
 14 A. It would indeed.  
 15 Q. It remains your strongly held belief --  
 16 A. Absolutely.  
 17 Q. -- over the course of the last 26 years?  
 18 A. It does, yes.  
 19 MS CAMPBELL: Thank you.  
 20 Examination by MS MUNROE  
 21 MS MUNROE: Mr Allen, my name is Allison Munroe and  
 22 I represent ten of the bereaved families. Just a few  
 23 matters, if I may, of clarification with you.  
 24 When you entered via gate C and you got to the  
 25 concourse, you entered the tunnel, this wasn't

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01 a question of people rushing through the concourse and  
 02 rushing through the tunnel, was it?  
 03 A. No, absolutely not.  
 04 Q. In fact, you deal with this in your interview. Sir,  
 05 this is in tab 6, internal page 27. Sir, it is the  
 06 penultimate paragraph. I won't ask for it to be brought  
 07 up on the screen. But if Mr Allen can be shown the hard  
 08 copy, please.  
 09 THE CORONER: Have you got that, Mr Allen, the bottom  
 10 right-hand side, 27?  
 11 A. Yes, sir, thank you, yes.  
 12 MS MUNROE: Mr Allen, what you say there, in answer to  
 13 questions:  
 14 "Well, I can't say, because I was at the front of  
 15 the queue, if you like. As we walked through the gate,  
 16 we literally just stopped, nobody ran, there was no  
 17 pushing, and we actually stopped and said, 'Where the  
 18 hell are we supposed to go?'. Nobody knew until  
 19 somebody said, 'What's up there in the middle?',  
 20 pointing to this tunnel."  
 21 When you went through the tunnel, again, from your  
 22 experience and your recollection, Mr Allen, people  
 23 weren't running at a mad pace, pushing and shoving, you  
 24 were walking through that tunnel. It was dark in fact,  
 25 wasn't it?

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01 A. Yes, it was dark, yes.  
 02 Q. You didn't know what was going to greet you at the other  
 03 end?  
 04 A. No.  
 05 Q. Just before we had our short break, you were taken to  
 06 another passage in your interview, where you described,  
 07 in your view, it would be very easy for one police  
 08 officer to block that tunnel and divert fans to the  
 09 sides?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 THE CORONER: Or steward.  
 12 MS MUNROE: Or indeed a steward, yes, sir, thank you.  
 13 Is part of the reason, Mr Allen -- again, I am  
 14 asking you to build on your own experience, not just as  
 15 an experienced Liverpool fan, but as a serving police  
 16 officer then for 16 years -- you say that would have  
 17 been such an easy thing to do because, by and large,  
 18 football fans are quite compliant, aren't they?  
 19 A. Yes, very much so.  
 20 Q. I think, again, in your interview you describe that if  
 21 fans are shepherded, they tend to go where they're  
 22 shepherded?  
 23 A. Yes, absolutely.  
 24 Q. At that stage, in 1989, you were no stranger to standing  
 25 on terraces?

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01 A. No. I went to hundreds, thousands, of matches with  
02 Liverpool over the years.  
03 Q. Home, away and you followed Liverpool in Europe?  
04 A. And across Europe, yes.  
05 Q. When you went to Anfield, your favourite position would  
06 be on the Kop, wouldn't it?  
07 A. It was, yes.  
08 Q. Amongst tens of thousands of people on the Kop?  
09 A. In the '60s, it held 28,000, the Kop.  
10 Q. So you were used to being in a fairly robust, tight  
11 crowd?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. Indeed, when you were outside the ground, in the crush,  
14 before the opening of gate C, you found that manageable?  
15 Some people didn't, but you found that manageable,  
16 didn't you?  
17 A. Yes, absolutely.  
18 Q. But once you got into the pen, almost immediately you  
19 got into the pen, that was an experience you had never  
20 felt ever before in your life as a football fan, had  
21 you?  
22 A. Yes, that's right.  
23 Q. That vice-like grip was something quite abnormal, wasn't  
24 it?  
25 A. Yes, and I knew instantly something was amiss.

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01 Q. In your view, immediately on getting into pen 3, it  
02 wasn't just full, was it, Mr Allen? You felt it was  
03 overfull?  
04 A. Way overfilled.  
05 Q. Way overfull?  
06 A. Yes.  
07 Q. You've been taken through the conversation you had with  
08 the policeman at the gate, the perimeter gate, when  
09 you're in the pen, and it is during the time you're in  
10 the midst of the crush. You deal with this in some  
11 detail in your interview. If I can just very briefly,  
12 sir, take you to your interview, Mr Allen. It is,  
13 again, tab 6, suffix 41 of that interview. Actually, it  
14 starts on suffix 40, internal page 40. You are being  
15 asked at the top of the page -- you have described how  
16 you blacked out at one stage, you came around, your leg  
17 is by the bar, then a child was passed -- can you see  
18 that at the top of the page, Mr Allen?  
19 A. Yes, I can.  
20 Q. "Then a child was passed down over the heads and the  
21 child was either unconscious or dead, I can't say which,  
22 and there was a bobby stood here by the gate."  
23 Questions and answers with Mr Grover, the  
24 Operation Resolve investigator. Then, towards the  
25 bottom of the page, you are asked:

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01 "It looked as if the bobby was some distance from  
02 you."  
03 Do you see that? This is Mr Grover:  
04 "I mean, it looks like you're a fair distance from  
05 the bobby to there. Did you shout to him?"  
06 And you said:  
07 "I did, actually."  
08 "Mr Grover: Did you?"  
09 You say:  
10 "And it looks bigger than it actually is when you're  
11 in there."  
12 "Mr Grover: Yes, it does."  
13 And you say this:  
14 "I'm 6' 3" and I was head and shoulders above the  
15 rest and I realised something really serious was about  
16 to happen and he waved this dismissive hand. I shouted  
17 to him, 'I'm a bobby, get people out from the back.  
18 People are going to start dying', and, again, he just  
19 went."  
20 You were asked a question:  
21 "But would he have heard you, though, amongst all  
22 that?"  
23 "Oh, he heard me. He looked straight at me and just  
24 waved a dismissive hand."  
25 "Did he?"

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01 "Yeah, I'd love to meet the guy."  
02 Mr Grover: I mean, a bobby's a bobby, I suppose, on  
03 that occasion, isn't it?"  
04 You say:  
05 "I mean, the last thing you would do at a football  
06 crowd is shout out, 'I'm a police officer'.  
07 "Mr Grover: Yeah, exactly.  
08 "You just don't do it.  
09 "Mr Grover: You remember doing that?  
10 "Oh, I did, yeah.  
11 "Did you?  
12 "Because it was that serious", that's what you say:  
13 "And you seem to think he heard you?"  
14 And you say this, Mr Allen:  
15 "Yeah, he actually sort of giggled and smiled and  
16 waved a dismissive hand, 'Oh, you'll be all right'.  
17 Firstly, Mr Allen, is that extract I have just read  
18 accurate, in terms of your recollection of this  
19 interview which was last June, an accurate account of  
20 that exchange with Mr Grover?  
21 A. Yes, it is.  
22 Q. Mr Allen, are you in any doubt -- at the time, were you  
23 in any doubt that by your words and actions that police  
24 officer at the perimeter gate knew what you wanted him  
25 to do?

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01 A. As I said previously, I don't think for one moment the  
02 officer intended to be difficult or incompetent. I just  
03 don't think he realised what was going on.  
04 Q. Were there other people around you also shouting?  
05 A. No. It was quite surreal, actually. For some reason,  
06 a silence descended on that section of the crowd. It  
07 was quite unreal.  
08 Q. Thank you. Mr Allen, just two more matters. Firstly,  
09 in terms of a question you were asked, again in  
10 interview, and it appears in your Operation Resolve  
11 statement, you were asked about the police performance  
12 on the day. Can I take you to your Operation Resolve  
13 statement -- tab 7, sir, at suffix 7. Third  
14 paragraph -- do you have that, Mr Allen?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. Thank you. I will just read that paragraph. You say  
17 this:  
18 "Regarding my recollection of the police performance  
19 on the day, generally speaking, I would say they were  
20 pretty much non-existent from start to finish, although  
21 I must say, the female police officer I made mention of  
22 deserves full credit for the way she addressed the male  
23 on the pitch."  
24 That is reference to a female officer you had seen  
25 trying to resuscitate a young person?

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01 A. Yes, she was excellent. She really was.  
02 Q. Do you stand by your comment there, Mr Allen, that it  
03 was pretty much non-existent, the police performance on  
04 that day?  
05 A. Yes, I do. I've policed hundreds and hundreds of games  
06 and -- well, I can only speak for the Leppings Lane end.  
07 The policing was non-existent, or shambolic, at best.  
08 Q. Finally, Mr Allen, can I just return to the document  
09 this was last on the screen. Jyoti, can we have that  
10 back, please? It is INQ000329590003 this is your report  
11 from 22 April. Jyoti, could we just hone in on the  
12 fourth paragraph, that begins, "After some of  
13 the sickening speculation". It is clear, isn't it,  
14 Mr Allen, from the words you use there, that you felt  
15 very strongly about what had happened on the day and how  
16 it had been reported subsequently?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. This report is written seven days after the disaster?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. You were fully expecting, as a result of doing this  
21 report, to be interviewed by the West Midlands Police,  
22 weren't you?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. It was quite clear, reading this report, that you were  
25 going to be critical if you were interviewed by the

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01 West Midlands Police. That is fair to say, isn't it?  
02 A. Yes, I think that is fair comment.  
03 Q. The West Midlands Police, of course, failed to interview  
04 you --  
05 THE CORONER: I think we have covered this, haven't we,  
06 Ms Munroe? Ms Campbell said one doesn't know one way or  
07 the other whether --  
08 MS MUNROE: Sir, yes, I don't want to ask that, because it  
09 is dealt with at length in the interview, but is this  
10 a fair summary, effectively, of why you were so keen or  
11 why you felt so strongly about wanting to be interviewed  
12 and wanting to put across your account of what happened  
13 on that day?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. Firstly, because you were a serving police officer and  
16 you felt that, as such, you were something of  
17 a professional witness, I think is how you described it,  
18 or potentially a professional witness?  
19 A. Yes, that is fair to say.  
20 Q. That is based upon not just the fact that you are  
21 a serving police officer --  
22 THE CORONER: We know his experience.  
23 MS MUNROE: Thank you.  
24 The second reason you were so keen is because you  
25 felt that, as a police officer who had experienced the

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01 actual pen on that day, you would be putting forward  
02 a view that was contrary to what you had read from the  
03 South Yorkshire Police?  
04 A. Yes, that's right.  
05 Q. Finally, you felt so strongly because you felt that the  
06 message that had been put out by South Yorkshire Police  
07 was, to quote you, "misinformation". Is that right?  
08 A. I think that's fair comment.  
09 MS MUNROE: Thank you very much, Mr Allen.  
10 Examination by MR GEORGE  
11 MR GEORGE: Mr Allen, my name is Mr George. I ask questions  
12 on behalf of 22 of the families who lost loved ones in  
13 the disaster. I suppose it is fair to say that when you  
14 wrote that statement back on 22 April 1989, you didn't  
15 think it was going to be 26 years that you would have to  
16 wait to give evidence, did you?  
17 A. Absolutely.  
18 Q. I am not going to ask you anything about the period  
19 after you went into the ground. I want to just return  
20 briefly to your getting to the ground.  
21 You'd gone to this police club, and I don't know if  
22 you know, it is called Niagara?  
23 A. I understand so, yes.  
24 Q. On Clay Wheels Lane. So you had obviously walked the  
25 full length of Leppings Lane to get to the turnstiles,



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01 hadn't you?  
02 A. Yes.  
03 Q. So you would have seen a considerable number of your  
04 fellow Liverpool fans on the way to the ground?  
05 A. Yes.  
06 Q. You have told us you saw no problems with their  
07 behaviour. This was just like a normal match?  
08 A. Any other match day.  
09 Q. Except that it was obviously a big crowd?  
10 A. Yes -- well, not particularly large. I don't think the  
11 capacity of Sheffield Wednesday was particularly large.  
12 Q. We don't have to worry too much about that.  
13 I just want to ask you about your experience when  
14 you got to the turnstile area. You queued, and then,  
15 before you get to the turnstiles, because a police  
16 officer, a mounted officer, attracts your attention, you  
17 were one of those who goes out from the queue and in  
18 through the gate?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. The jury have seen the video showing exactly that  
21 scenario. So you were outside Leppings Lane around  
22 about 20 to 2 through to just after 10 to, when we know  
23 this gate was opened. Thousands of fans in that area,  
24 and obviously in as good a position as anyone to see the  
25 demeanour of the crowd around you. Do you agree?

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01 A. Yes.  
02 Q. Just picking up on a point that Ms Campbell asked you  
03 about a few minutes ago -- she is the lady just to my  
04 right behind me. I just want to put a little more  
05 detail on this, because you were here this morning, but  
06 I don't think you were in court on Monday; is that  
07 right?  
08 A. That's correct.  
09 Q. You weren't here on Monday?  
10 A. No.  
11 Q. I just want to ask you to consider this, please. It is  
12 a theory. That in the area outside the turnstiles that  
13 afternoon, at exactly the sort of time you were there,  
14 I want you to imagine about 2,000 to 3,000 Liverpool  
15 fans, who have had a drink, but, unlike you, with  
16 a quick pint, these fans, you are to imagine, have been  
17 drinking steadily for between three and four hours, and  
18 in that time they have drunk perhaps somewhere between  
19 five pints and eight pints of alcohol, the result being  
20 that they are perhaps not particularly cooperative with  
21 the police.  
22 Just keeping that image in your mind, of that  
23 phalanx of fans, would you agree with me, first of all,  
24 that if there were such people in that area that  
25 afternoon, it would be pretty difficult to miss them,

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01 wouldn't it?  
02 A. Yes, I agree.  
03 Q. That number of them, you would have had to say, "Well,  
04 there were quite a few people around who were obviously  
05 the worse for drink"?  
06 A. Yes.  
07 Q. We are not here talking about people who have just had  
08 a pint, but people who have been drinking heavily for  
09 quite a sustained period?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. Anything you saw that afternoon that remotely supports  
12 that theory?  
13 A. Absolutely not.  
14 MR GEORGE: Thank you very much. That is all I ask. Thank  
15 you, sir.  
16 Examination by MS WILLIAMS  
17 MS WILLIAMS: I just have one very quick topic.  
18 Good afternoon, Mr Allen, my name is  
19 Heather Williams. I represent another of the bereaved  
20 families.  
21 Mr Allen, can I ask you to look, please, at your  
22 witness statement again, which is in tab 7. I don't  
23 think we need to have it up on the screen. If you could  
24 look at the third page, please. Do you see the third  
25 paragraph starts, "On my arrival at the Leppings Lane

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01 turnstile area"?  
02 A. Yes.  
03 Q. Then if you can look, please, at the last four lines of  
04 that paragraph, you are describing mounted police backed  
05 up against the wall of the turnstiles attempting to  
06 control the fans, and then you come to the passage that  
07 I want to ask you about, where you appear to be drawing  
08 a contrast with policing at Anfield. You say this:  
09 "They were attempting to control the fans,  
10 marshalling them the way they do at Anfield into  
11 individual queues for each turnstile. But there were no  
12 orderly queues. What should have been queues of fans  
13 had just become a crowd, a mass of people."  
14 So you had, yourself, personal experience of  
15 policing at Anfield?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. It is right, is it, that on match days at Anfield the  
18 supporters would be marshalled by use of mounted police  
19 into orderly queues?  
20 A. Yes, and foot officers as well.  
21 Q. And that was something as a result of appropriate  
22 planning, organisation and resources you were able to  
23 do?  
24 A. Yes, and it was the sensible thing to do.  
25 Q. The sensible thing, because it enabled the police to

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01 retain management of the crowd insofar as they needed to  
02 do so?  
03 A. Yes.  
04 Q. Whereas the failure to do so resulted in the kind of  
05 chaos that you saw on 15 April?  
06 A. Yes.  
07 MS WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.  
08 Examination by MR HILL  
09 MR HILL: Mr Allen, just one area of re-examination from me,  
10 if I may.  
11 You have been asked questions about the events  
12 outside the ground by several of those who stood up  
13 before me. Ms Munroe referred to your evidence of  
14 finding the situation manageable. Do you remember that?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. Can I just take you to your statement, and see what you  
17 actually said, which is at INQ000329580003. I don't in  
18 any way suggest that Ms Munroe was not putting it  
19 accurately, but these are the words in the statement?  
20 THE CORONER: This is divider 7, is it?  
21 MR HILL: Divider 7, I'm sorry, sir, yes, the third page of  
22 the statement, and it is the penultimate paragraph,  
23 please, Jyo.  
24 What you said in the statement was this:  
25 "I joined the back ..."

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01 This is the back of the crowd of people:  
02 "... and we moved forward slowly. I did not feel  
03 particularly uncomfortable or in fear of being crushed  
04 at that time. I had experience of standing on the Kop  
05 at Liverpool many years ago, amongst 29,000 supporters.  
06 That was a 'crush'. The situation at Hillsborough was  
07 'nothing'. All football fans were used to queuing, this  
08 wasn't anything exceptional. I did not witness anyone  
09 around me who appeared to be in distress or being  
10 crushed."  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. First of all, is that an accurate account of your  
13 experience at that time?  
14 A. Yes, it is.  
15 Q. The jury have heard a lot of evidence about there being  
16 a very severe crush at about 2.45, which is the time  
17 that you give in your statement for arriving at the  
18 Leppings Lane end.  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. And a crush in which many people were in distress at  
21 that time. Is it right that that simply wasn't your  
22 experience that day?  
23 A. Not my experience, no.  
24 Q. It wasn't something that you witnessed in other people?  
25 A. No.

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01 Q. One possibility -- I state it no more than that -- is  
02 that you may actually have arrived at the Leppings Lane  
03 end sometime before 2.45, before --  
04 A. Possibly. When I reached the queue, it was only  
05 a matter of moments before the mounted officer suggested  
06 we go to the left, around the corner, through the gate.  
07 Q. You had only --  
08 A. So I actually spent very little time in the queue.  
09 Q. Very little time from arriving at the Leppings Lane  
10 end --  
11 A. From arriving at the ground, yes, very little time.  
12 THE CORONER: It may be a fraction later, but shorter.  
13 MR HILL: Indeed. That was going to be my next question.  
14 It may have been later on, when whatever crush had been  
15 there may have dispersed?  
16 A. Possibly, yes.  
17 MR HILL: I have no further questions, thank you, sir.  
18 I don't know whether you do?  
19 THE CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr Allen. No, I don't.  
20 (The witness withdrew)  
21 MR HOUGH: Sir, I am in your hands. We have a short  
22 statement from Dr Wardrope by way of clarification which  
23 I can read to the jury. It should take no more than  
24 about 15 minutes. Or we can finish now?  
25 THE CORONER: I know there are some legal matters that we

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01 need to discuss. I think it would be sensible to  
02 discuss those and delay hearing Mr Wardrope's statement.  
03 Members of the jury, we will finish now. We are not  
04 finishing now, I might say. But if we meet again  
05 tomorrow at 10.00 am.  
06 (4.38 pm)  
07 (The hearing was adjourned until  
08 Thursday, 5 March 2015 at 10.00 am)  
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