

<p>1 Wednesday, 6 October 2021</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR MARK RICHARDS (sworn)2</p> <p>4 Questions from MR O'CONNOR2</p> <p>5 Questions from DR VAN DELLEN61</p> <p>6 Questions from MS DOBBIN62</p> <p>7 Questions from MR SKELTON66</p> <p>8 Statement of MR CHRISTOPHER SOOLE67</p> <p>9 (read)</p> <p>10 Statement of MR WILLIAM COUPER84</p> <p>11 (read)</p> <p>12 Statement of MR CHRISTOPHER SOOLE86</p> <p>13 (read)</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 your involvement in the MPS investigation named</p> <p>2 Operation Lilford, which the jury heard something about</p> <p>3 during the coroner's opening yesterday. That was the</p> <p>4 investigation into the four deaths of Anthony Walgate,</p> <p>5 Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor,</p> <p>6 starting in October 2015 when the four deaths were</p> <p>7 linked?</p> <p>8 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. We will come to talk about Operation Lilford in a bit</p> <p>10 more detail in a moment, but before we do that, can you</p> <p>11 just give the jury a very high-level summary of your</p> <p>12 role in that investigation?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, from the outset, when Operation Lilford was</p> <p>14 commenced and allocated to my team, I was part of major</p> <p>15 investigation team 1, of 21 teams within the</p> <p>16 Metropolitan Police.</p> <p>17 That team at the time was led by Detective Chief</p> <p>18 Inspector Tim Duffield, who has now retired, and at that</p> <p>19 time I was a detective sergeant on that team.</p> <p>20 My role initially was what is known as a case</p> <p>21 officer. A case officer is the rank of detective</p> <p>22 sergeant, which I was, and they are responsible for the</p> <p>23 progression day to day of the criminal investigation,</p> <p>24 the compiling of the evidence and ensuring that the</p> <p>25 evidential material is prepared and ready for a court</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 (10.00 am)</p> <p>2 (In the presence of the jury)</p> <p>3 THE CORONER: Good morning, members of the jury.</p> <p>4 I think some of the screens have been moved so I can</p> <p>5 now see you all, which is good.</p> <p>6 Mr O'Connor, I think our first witness this morning</p> <p>7 is Detective Inspector Richards.</p> <p>8 MR O'CONNOR: Detective Inspector Richards, that's right.</p> <p>9 Could the witness be sworn, please.</p> <p>10 MR MARK RICHARDS (sworn)</p> <p>11 Questions from MR O'CONNOR</p> <p>12 MR O'CONNOR: Could you give us your full name, please.</p> <p>13 A. My name is Mark Richards, I am a detective inspector in</p> <p>14 the Metropolitan Police.</p> <p>15 Q. How long have you been a member of the</p> <p>16 Metropolitan Police?</p> <p>17 A. I have been a police officer for over 29 years.</p> <p>18 Q. We will come to talk in a minute about the role you were</p> <p>19 fulfilling back in 2014, 2015 and 2016. What is your</p> <p>20 current role within the police service?</p> <p>21 A. My current role is I am part of the Crime Academy,</p> <p>22 I teach new homicide detectives and senior investigating</p> <p>23 officers.</p> <p>24 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>25 Inspector, you know that you are here because of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 case.</p> <p>2 Q. So a central role, in other words?</p> <p>3 A. Absolutely, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Again, just by way of introduction, so that the jury</p> <p>5 have a sense of how you are going to help us in these</p> <p>6 inquests, inspector, you know, but the jury don't, that</p> <p>7 in fact this is, today, the first of four occasions when</p> <p>8 you are going to give evidence in these proceedings.</p> <p>9 After today, the intention is that you are going to</p> <p>10 come back and give evidence at the end of each of the</p> <p>11 three sort of factual sections that we will be starting</p> <p>12 with at the end of this week, the first one into the</p> <p>13 original investigation into Anthony Walgate's death, the</p> <p>14 second one the investigations into Gabriel and Daniel's</p> <p>15 deaths and the last one into Jack's death?</p> <p>16 A. That's right.</p> <p>17 Q. When you do come back on those occasions, you will be</p> <p>18 telling us, won't you, about what it was that</p> <p>19 Operation Lilford managed to discover about the</p> <p>20 circumstances of those four deaths?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. I am not going to go into that level of detail about</p> <p>23 those matters today. What I am going to ask you about</p> <p>24 for the next hour or so is more to do with the general</p> <p>25 investigation that Lilford was and what you were able to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 discover about Stephen Port, do you understand?</p> <p>2 A. I do, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Just before we go on, I can see you have got a folder</p> <p>4 open in front of you, just so there is no mystery about</p> <p>5 this, you have prepared a very helpful witness statement</p> <p>6 for our purposes, for the purposes of the inquest.</p> <p>7 Everyone behind me has had a copy of it for a long time.</p> <p>8 The statement contains a great deal of detail, doesn't</p> <p>9 it, about the matters that I am going to ask you about?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p>11 Q. This is not a memory test, there is no difficulty in you</p> <p>12 having that witness statement open in front of you so</p> <p>13 that you can refer to it as you give your evidence.</p> <p>14 A. Thank you.</p> <p>15 Q. Let me start, again, then, just by asking you a few more</p> <p>16 questions about Operation Lilford. You referred when</p> <p>17 you gave your answer a moment ago to the fact that you</p> <p>18 were a member of what you describe as a murder</p> <p>19 investigation team. Can you tell us a little bit more</p> <p>20 about that and how it is distinct from what we have</p> <p>21 heard about the borough policing teams who conducted the</p> <p>22 initial investigations into these deaths?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, as was outlined yesterday by the coroner, the local</p> <p>24 policing, the Borough Operational Command Units, or</p> <p>25 BOCUs as we call them, deal with, as you would expect,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Q. That's right and we will hear more about, I just wanted</p> <p>2 to get it clear in the jury's mind about the different</p> <p>3 organisations involved. We know about the borough</p> <p>4 policing, you have told us about the murder</p> <p>5 investigation team, you have also referred to it as</p> <p>6 homicide command. We may hear other acronyms to</p> <p>7 describe much the same thing, there is something called</p> <p>8 SC&O1, which we will hear about, but broadly speaking</p> <p>9 that is the other body which is the specialist body</p> <p>10 which you were part of at the time?</p> <p>11 A. That's correct.</p> <p>12 Again, as the coroner outlined, the</p> <p>13 Metropolitan Police love an acronym and a name change</p> <p>14 and there are varying names over the years, particularly</p> <p>15 since this begun in 2014, but it is essentially the</p> <p>16 people that investigate murder as a specialist</p> <p>17 department.</p> <p>18 Q. Operation Lilford then was a homicide command</p> <p>19 investigation?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>21 Q. I just want to ask you a little bit about the resources</p> <p>22 that were available to Operation Lilford, so this is</p> <p>23 some of the detail you give at paragraph 12 of your</p> <p>24 witness statement.</p> <p>25 First of all, give us a general idea -- I am sure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 local policing issues and crimes to a certain degree of</p> <p>2 severity. The homicide command, part of the serious</p> <p>3 crime command, have varying departments. I worked for</p> <p>4 the homicide department within there. The homicide</p> <p>5 department obviously deal with murder, manslaughter --</p> <p>6 there are a few other offences, industrial accidents,</p> <p>7 corporate manslaughters, but in the main the work is</p> <p>8 homicide and manslaughter.</p> <p>9 Q. As the coroner mentioned in her opening yesterday, when</p> <p>10 we come to hear the evidence about some of the initial</p> <p>11 investigations, we will hear some evidence about this</p> <p>12 issue of primacy?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. I don't want to get into the detail of that now, but is</p> <p>15 it right that the options, as it were, were between the</p> <p>16 borough investigations carrying on or those</p> <p>17 investigations being taken over by homicide command?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, to a degree. There is a middle ground as well,</p> <p>19 whereas if primacy remains with the borough local</p> <p>20 detectives or primacy comes to the homicide team, but</p> <p>21 there is the middle ground of almost collegiate working,</p> <p>22 as in we would assist them with the enquiries, the</p> <p>23 primacy would stay with them but we would assist them</p> <p>24 with those enquiries until such time a definitive answer</p> <p>25 could take place.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 you don't know the exact number and it probably</p> <p>2 varied -- of the number of police officers or police</p> <p>3 staff who were involved in Operation Lilford?</p> <p>4 A. Murder investigation team 1, as such, Operation Lilford</p> <p>5 belonged to us as an investigation. On our team, we had</p> <p>6 1 detective chief inspector, 2 detective inspectors, 3</p> <p>7 detective sergeants, 16 detective constables and 8</p> <p>8 members of police staff, civilian support staff, not</p> <p>9 officers but performing a role within that team.</p> <p>10 We were also able to draw upon numerous specialist</p> <p>11 officers from varying teams with regards to searches,</p> <p>12 forensics as you will hear as the evidence comes out,</p> <p>13 but the core team who investigated Operation Lilford is</p> <p>14 as I have described with those numbers.</p> <p>15 Q. We may hear in due course that there was what is known</p> <p>16 as a major incident room, which was where</p> <p>17 Operation Lilford was run from, was it?</p> <p>18 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Is that something which is associated with perhaps</p> <p>20 a specialist investigation?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, each murder investigation team has their own</p> <p>22 incident room, which unglamorously is a room with</p> <p>23 computers in. It is the staff and the computer system</p> <p>24 we use that make it a major incident room.</p> <p>25 Q. Is it a facility that perhaps would not be available,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

1 let's say, were the borough police investigating
 2 an offence?
 3 **A. That's correct. There is a couple of departments within**
 4 **the Metropolitan Police that do use it, but borough**
 5 **policing do not.**
 6 Q. Let me ask you about the computer system -- you
 7 mentioned the computers, there is a computer system
 8 called HOLMES -- spelt as in the name of the
 9 detective -- was that available to you on
 10 Operation Lilford?
 11 **A. Yes, it was.**
 12 Q. In general terms, what is its functionality, what does
 13 it enable you as an investigation to do, how do you use
 14 it?
 15 **A. It is essentially a large database. It was introduced**
 16 **after the Yorkshire Ripper to show links between**
 17 **offences of murders, because hypothetically a car for**
 18 **instance could appear in one murder investigation and**
 19 **this database would flag up that it is also in another**
 20 **murder investigation. Essentially it is a large**
 21 **database, everything is indexed, everything is**
 22 **cross-referenced by the computer itself and human input.**
 23 **If used to its nth degree it should be there to**
 24 **eliminate everybody apart from the offender or offenders**
 25 **you are looking for.**

Page 9

1 Q. Again, was HOLMES a computer system that was available
 2 to the boroughs when they were investigating crimes?
 3 **A. No, it wouldn't have been.**
 4 Q. You refer in your statement to the number of witness
 5 statements that were stored on the Operation Lilford
 6 HOLMES account. Just to give us an idea of the scale of
 7 the investigation, how many witness statements did you
 8 take in total?
 9 **A. There were 929. 929 witness statements for**
 10 **Operation Lilford. Some of those had been taken by the**
 11 **borough officers prior to us taking ownership, but in**
 12 **total 929.**
 13 Q. Just to be clear, that wouldn't be 929 different
 14 witnesses, would it? Because some of the witnesses
 15 would have given more than one statement?
 16 **A. Absolutely, each time a person is introduced to the**
 17 **inquiry and makes a statement, it is just a running**
 18 **number of one, then two, then three. However, if person**
 19 **two makes four statements, the first one would be**
 20 **number 2, then it would be 2A, 2B, 2C, so the 929 is not**
 21 **essentially 929 people, just 929 individual statements.**
 22 Q. Moving on, we know that Operation Lilford started, as
 23 the coroner explained yesterday, in October 2015. That
 24 was when the borough police made the connection between
 25 Stephen Port and Jack Taylor and then the other deaths.

Page 10

1 How long did Operation Lilford last?
 2 **A. It is hard to say how long it lasted, because a murder**
 3 **investigation will always last until it is finished as**
 4 **such. The trial for Stephen Port took place effectively**
 5 **a year later in October 2016 and a murder investigation,**
 6 **some people would say the hard work starts after**
 7 **somebody is charged with an offence, because then you**
 8 **have to prove it. The investigation will continue up to**
 9 **the point of the trial and sometimes during the trial,**
 10 **if different issues come out.**
 11 **So essentially a year.**
 12 Q. I want to move on and ask you a series of questions,
 13 inspector, about the different types of investigation
 14 that Operation Lilford conducted. There are seven of
 15 them. Let me just tell you what they are, so everyone
 16 knows what to expect.
 17 First of all, I am going to ask you a little bit
 18 about telephone enquiries.
 19 Then about investigations relating to electronic
 20 devices.
 21 Then about physical searches, so just old-fashioned
 22 searches of the ground and properties.
 23 Then I am going to ask you a little bit about
 24 witnesses.
 25 About CCTV.

Page 11

1 About DNA.
 2 And, lastly, pathology.
 3 Those are the topics, so let's take them in turn.
 4 First of all then telephone enquiries and this is
 5 paragraph 22 of your statement and following.
 6 What do we mean by telephone enquiries in the
 7 context of a police investigation?
 8 **A. Obviously we know telephones have evolved over the**
 9 **years. At the time of Operation Lilford and as such**
 10 **now, nigh on everybody will have a mobile phone, if not**
 11 **two mobile phones.**
 12 **Mobile phone evidence comes in two sections quite**
 13 **distinctly, you have evidence provided by data**
 14 **providers, O2, EE, people like that, they can provide**
 15 **call times, length, where you were at the time of that**
 16 **call starting and ending.**
 17 **Then you will have the other side of telephone**
 18 **evidence, which is the actual handset itself, the**
 19 **Samsung, the iPhone, whichever brand of phone is owned,**
 20 **the material that is held on that phone separately,**
 21 **photographs, internet history, music, anything that is**
 22 **held within the device, is distinctly separate from what**
 23 **the data providers can provide to the police in**
 24 **an investigation.**
 25 Q. Okay, that is helpful. Let's focus for these purposes

Page 12

<p>1 on the first of those two categories, which really, as</p> <p>2 you say, is enquiries that the police would make to the</p> <p>3 mobile phone companies.</p> <p>4 A. That's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. You mentioned two different types of information they</p> <p>6 can give.</p> <p>7 First of all, call data, so that is really what you</p> <p>8 see on a bill, isn't it?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, essentially. They --</p> <p>10 Q. When calls were made, the number you made it to, how</p> <p>11 long it lasted, that sort of information?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, and the opposite way round. The numbers -- on</p> <p>13 a traditional phone bill you will see the numbers that</p> <p>14 you call going outwards, out calls. Incoming calls are</p> <p>15 also provided to us, the numbers that called you on your</p> <p>16 number.</p> <p>17 Q. But not the content of the calls?</p> <p>18 A. Definitely not.</p> <p>19 Q. The other matter you mentioned was where someone is when</p> <p>20 a call was made or received, sometimes known as cell</p> <p>21 siting?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Just tell us a little bit about that.</p> <p>24 A. For traditional telephone calls as we know them, there</p> <p>25 are thousand and thousands of masts all around the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 first death to when Operation Lilford became effective</p> <p>2 and took it over, it was over a year. Most data</p> <p>3 providers at that time would only retain the data that</p> <p>4 we require, they were only obliged to retain that data</p> <p>5 for a 12-month period. So for most of the incidents we</p> <p>6 needed to look at the data was already lost from the</p> <p>7 suppliers, so we couldn't obtain it.</p> <p>8 Q. Just so we have the dates in mind, you have explained</p> <p>9 that Operation Lilford commenced in October 2015 --</p> <p>10 perhaps we can have this up on screen. Members of the</p> <p>11 jury, if you want to look, it is tab 1 of jury bundle A,</p> <p>12 on screen, it is INQ000038.</p> <p>13 Thank you.</p> <p>14 Inspector, to see on the chronology the point you</p> <p>15 have made, Operation Lilford started in October 2015 and</p> <p>16 we see that date of 15 October, that indicates the start</p> <p>17 of your investigates, doesn't it?</p> <p>18 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. You have explained that this data is generally only</p> <p>20 available retrospectively for a year?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. But we can see, just reminding ourselves of the dates,</p> <p>23 that Anthony had been found dead in June 2014, Gabriel</p> <p>24 in August and Daniel in September. By that time the</p> <p>25 data that the telephone companies might have held</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 country and generally the nearest mast you are to with</p> <p>2 your mobile phone, your mobile phone will connect to</p> <p>3 that mast. There are some anomalies, if you are at the</p> <p>4 top of a hill, line of sight across to another peak but</p> <p>5 generally within an urban context you will connect to</p> <p>6 the strongest nearest mobile phone to you. That will</p> <p>7 give you an indication of where you were when the call</p> <p>8 started and for instance if you are driving down the M1,</p> <p>9 your call will move masts as you go away from another</p> <p>10 one, become closer to another one, and so the telephone</p> <p>11 providers can indicate to us the masts that you were on</p> <p>12 for the entirety of your call or where you were when</p> <p>13 a text message was sent or received.</p> <p>14 That is for traditional calls.</p> <p>15 For the use of data, for instance using the internet</p> <p>16 or sending iMessages or WhatsApp, that is part of what</p> <p>17 is known as a data session, which will only give us</p> <p>18 an indication of where you were when that data session</p> <p>19 was begun. It will not give us the journey that you</p> <p>20 took during that data session.</p> <p>21 Q. That is telephone enquiries. One can see how they would</p> <p>22 be very helpful in a police investigation. What</p> <p>23 telephone enquiries were you able to make in</p> <p>24 Operation Lilford relating to these four deaths?</p> <p>25 A. Due to the time period that had taken place from the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 relating to the days around those three deaths would not</p> <p>2 have still been kept?</p> <p>3 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>5 Were you able to obtain some of this material in</p> <p>6 relation to Jack's death, which obviously was much</p> <p>7 closer in time?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>9 Q. In very brief summary, tell us about what that helped</p> <p>10 you with?</p> <p>11 A. For Jack Taylor it would have provided exactly as</p> <p>12 I said, where he was on certain times, where he had made</p> <p>13 the calls, because it was within the 12-month period we</p> <p>14 were able to obtain everything we would have needed from</p> <p>15 the data providers.</p> <p>16 Q. When we get to that stage, we will hear evidence about</p> <p>17 the communications between Jack and Stephen Port and how</p> <p>18 Jack went to Barking, and met Stephen Port and so on.</p> <p>19 That would have been material that would have assisted</p> <p>20 in piecing that together?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Thank you. You can take the chronology down now.</p> <p>23 As far as the earlier period though is concerned,</p> <p>24 2014, were you nonetheless able to obtain some evidence</p> <p>25 about Stephen Port's use of telephones during that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 period?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, the local BOCU officers had conducted some</p> <p>3 telephone enquiries during their investigations and</p> <p>4 therefore we took that from them and used it for our</p> <p>5 enquiry.</p> <p>6 Q. Were you able to obtain some evidence from other</p> <p>7 witnesses who knew about Stephen Port's use of phones?</p> <p>8 A. Yes. If for instance I am communicating with a friend</p> <p>9 or family member, the data held on their phone, their</p> <p>10 handset, is also in some ways a mirror-image reflective</p> <p>11 of what is held on mine. So if we went to a witness and</p> <p>12 they had material still held on their mobile phone, text</p> <p>13 conversations, photos taken together, we retrieved that</p> <p>14 as evidence and used it in our case.</p> <p>15 Q. Lastly on this subject, was there a pattern that you</p> <p>16 discerned in Stephen Port's behaviour relating to his</p> <p>17 telephone use in relation to the four deaths?</p> <p>18 A. Yes. Stephen Port clearly, at the time of each incident</p> <p>19 of the death, each death, he would either change his</p> <p>20 SIM, the part that provides the telephone number to your</p> <p>21 phone, and the handset, so disposing of the handset and</p> <p>22 the SIM card, complete distance from that phone or he</p> <p>23 would dispose of the handset and not the SIM or vice</p> <p>24 versa dispose of the SIM and not the handset.</p> <p>25 So after each death there was a clear pattern that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 Q. Thank you. That is what I wanted to ask you about the</p> <p>2 telephone enquiries.</p> <p>3 Let's move on to electronic devices. That is</p> <p>4 paragraph 43 of your statement.</p> <p>5 As you have mentioned, in fact mobile phones</p> <p>6 themselves are little computers, are they not?</p> <p>7 A. They are, absolutely.</p> <p>8 Q. Is it right that Operation Lilford seized a number of</p> <p>9 electronic devices, including, for example, laptop</p> <p>10 computers but also mobile phones?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. No doubt Operation Lilford then analysed the contents of</p> <p>13 those devices?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, we did, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. In very general terms, can you give us an idea of the</p> <p>16 type of information that this analysis provided?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, if we deal with -- I have half dealt with mobile</p> <p>18 phones, they are small computers these days. It will</p> <p>19 contain your internet history, your search history, any</p> <p>20 photos you have taken, any messaging itself, the content</p> <p>21 of the message, and unless it has been deleted, and</p> <p>22 sometimes when it has been deleted, will still be</p> <p>23 retained within your handset. So you can find the</p> <p>24 conversation between yourself and your partner, yourself</p> <p>25 and your brother, that conversation will still be there</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 was emerging of his disposal of either and/or the phone</p> <p>2 handset and the SIM card.</p> <p>3 Q. Of course when you change your SIM, that means your</p> <p>4 number changes, generally speaking?</p> <p>5 A. Generally speaking,</p> <p>6 What Stephen was doing at the time, if I take</p> <p>7 someone's SIM card from their phone and put it into my</p> <p>8 handset, my phone essentially becomes their number.</p> <p>9 What Stephen was doing was sometimes keeping the handset</p> <p>10 and disposing of the number as such, the SIM, but other</p> <p>11 times he was disposing of the phone.</p> <p>12 SIMs don't generally as much retain any data on them</p> <p>13 anymore. Some do, not very much. The handsets retain</p> <p>14 a lot of data, obviously they are small computers in our</p> <p>15 pockets now, whereas the SIM card is essentially your</p> <p>16 phone number.</p> <p>17 Q. We will come in due course to some evidence from some</p> <p>18 witnesses, at least one witness who the jury will hear,</p> <p>19 but that witness will be able to say that he, who was</p> <p>20 a friend of Stephen Port and had no idea what was going</p> <p>21 on, was told on a couple of occasions by Stephen Port</p> <p>22 during this period that he had changed his phone number.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. That coincided with some of the earlier deaths?</p> <p>25 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 and can be downloaded so we can read it as if we were</p> <p>2 reading from the handset.</p> <p>3 That is the same with computers, laptops that we</p> <p>4 seized during this investigation. The laptops are</p> <p>5 effectively big versions of a computer, of a handset.</p> <p>6 We will find in there your internet history, your search</p> <p>7 history, images, what date and time you looked at</p> <p>8 material, when documents were created. Everything you</p> <p>9 can do with a laptop in front of you, once we have</p> <p>10 seized it and downloaded it in our forensic laboratory,</p> <p>11 we can view it as if it were everything in front of us.</p> <p>12 Q. Focusing on Stephen Port, was there one particular</p> <p>13 electronic device that you seized from him or that had</p> <p>14 been seized from him that provided a great deal of</p> <p>15 information?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, during the first investigation by the local</p> <p>17 officers they seized the laptop from him from his first</p> <p>18 arrest in relation to Anthony. That laptop was still</p> <p>19 within police possession, so we took it from the</p> <p>20 original inquiry and looked at the material that it</p> <p>21 held.</p> <p>22 Q. That computer was given the exhibit number BSG/9, was it</p> <p>23 not?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. We will sometimes see it and hear it referred to as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 BSG/9?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, when any item is seized, whether it be my pen or</p> <p>3 the computer, the officer that is seizing it uses their</p> <p>4 initials to form the first three letters and then it is</p> <p>5 an oblique and then a consecutive number. Some officers</p> <p>6 will use two if they don't have a middle name, but there</p> <p>7 is where exhibit numbers, exhibit references come from.</p> <p>8 Q. Inspector, you mentioned that that laptop had actually</p> <p>9 been seized at an earlier date when Stephen Port was</p> <p>10 first arrested. The jury did hear about that yesterday,</p> <p>11 but then they heard about an awful lot yesterday and no</p> <p>12 doubt these dates are still sort of settling.</p> <p>13 Let's just have another look at the chronology,</p> <p>14 please. You may still have it open, members of the</p> <p>15 jury. It is tab 1 of jury bundle A and it is INQ000038.</p> <p>16 If we can zoom in on the top half, maybe, we can see</p> <p>17 there, inspector, is this right, we see the date of</p> <p>18 19 June, when Anthony's body was discovered. We heard</p> <p>19 yesterday, and we will hear plenty of evidence about</p> <p>20 this in fact in the next week or two, that, in fact</p> <p>21 a week later, Stephen Port, having been identified as</p> <p>22 the person who had arranged with Anthony to come to his</p> <p>23 flat in Barking was arrested for, amongst other things,</p> <p>24 perverting the course of justice because he told</p> <p>25 a different story to police when he had initially been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 using WhatsApp and other communication devices on</p> <p>2 a computer, did the analysis of that laptop, plus other</p> <p>3 information that you had, enable you to reconstruct</p> <p>4 communications between Stephen Port and at least some of</p> <p>5 his victims?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, that's correct. At that time, going back in the</p> <p>7 technology, a lot of the messaging systems were online,</p> <p>8 were on a computer, the use of Skype and the dating</p> <p>9 sites that were being used were all online using</p> <p>10 a computer at that time. So we were able to obtain</p> <p>11 hundreds and thousands of lines of messaging between</p> <p>12 Stephen and varying partners, friends, online</p> <p>13 acquaintances. It really is a comprehensive full</p> <p>14 picture.</p> <p>15 Q. We will come back to the detail of this, of course, but</p> <p>16 the messaging that we will see, in terms of the direct</p> <p>17 messaging between Stephen Port on the one hand and</p> <p>18 others, were you able to obtain evidence in fact of</p> <p>19 direct messaging between Port and Anthony Walgate and</p> <p>20 Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor?</p> <p>21 A. Not from that laptop.</p> <p>22 Q. No.</p> <p>23 A. But ultimately, yes, with all the devices, but from that</p> <p>24 laptop no, because it was seized at the point of</p> <p>25 Anthony's investigation, so with direct contact between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 interviewed. We see that date there as 26 June 2014.</p> <p>2 Was that the occasion when this laptop, BSG/9 was</p> <p>3 seized -- I should have added that his flat was searched</p> <p>4 at the same time, was it not?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, it was, it was seized by the original investigation</p> <p>6 into Anthony's death.</p> <p>7 Q. That was the time when this laptop was seized?</p> <p>8 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. We will hear in due course that Operation Lilford</p> <p>10 conducted a very full analysis of that computer, amongst</p> <p>11 other things, and someone called DC Craig Thomas</p> <p>12 prepared two lengthy reports relating to that computer.</p> <p>13 Did that analysis enable you to gain a detailed</p> <p>14 understanding of Anthony Port's internet search history?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, Stephen Port's --</p> <p>16 Q. Sorry, Stephen Port.</p> <p>17 A. Stephen Port's search history was on that laptop fully</p> <p>18 outlined. It didn't appear that anything had been</p> <p>19 deleted at times. In an investigation you can see when</p> <p>20 somebody has deleted time periods or chunks of activity</p> <p>21 or small lines of activity. Most of that we can</p> <p>22 recover, with Stephen's laptop it is what we call it is</p> <p>23 complete. It had not been attempted to be deleted.</p> <p>24 Q. That is the internet search history.</p> <p>25 In terms of communications, you mentioned earlier</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Stephen Port and Anthony, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. The other two, from as you say other enquiries that</p> <p>3 followed.</p> <p>4 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. Again, just so the jury have this clear in their mind,</p> <p>6 in fact no direct messaging between Stephen Port and</p> <p>7 Gabriel Kovari?</p> <p>8 A. No, no link was found between Stephen Port and</p> <p>9 Gabriel Kovari electronically at all.</p> <p>10 Q. You have mentioned, inspector, that the product of all</p> <p>11 this analysis amounts to very detailed schedules, going</p> <p>12 on for many, many pages. We will have to get into the</p> <p>13 detail of some of that in due course. I am not going to</p> <p>14 go into the detail of it now but just so the jury have</p> <p>15 an idea of what is coming, as it were, and now you have</p> <p>16 explained the process, I wonder if we can just look at</p> <p>17 one page of one of these schedules.</p> <p>18 It is in the jury bundles, members of the jury, but</p> <p>19 I am not going to ask you to go to it now because it is</p> <p>20 in a different jury bundle and we can look at it on</p> <p>21 screen, which is quite sufficient for these purposes.</p> <p>22 If we could look, please, at IPC000741.</p> <p>23 Inspector, is this one page of one of these</p> <p>24 schedules that you have been describing. If we could</p> <p>25 maybe zoom in on the top half so we can actually see it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 a bit more clearly. Do we see there, inspector, in 2 fact, as you have said, this is just a line-by-line 3 schedule showing communications to and from 4 Stephen Port? 5 A. That's correct, yes. 6 Q. The date on the left-hand side we can see is actually 7 2012. We know that of course Anthony's body was not 8 found until 2014, so it just happens this is the first 9 page of a schedule we are unlikely to go back to this 10 page. There are similar pages which show communications 11 in 2014 which we will be looking at, but just to use 12 this as an example, we see if we move along the lines, 13 first of all there is a sending section, followed by 14 a receiving section, yes? 15 A. That's correct, yes. 16 Q. If we look at just the first line, we see that the line 17 number 1 is sent by someone who was unknown but sent to 18 Stephen Port? 19 A. That's correct. 20 Q. In between those two sections we can see, and in fact 21 all the way down, you mention Skype. This is an example 22 of a conversation that was happening over Skype and 23 which had been held on the computer? 24 A. That's correct, yes. 25 Q. Just in fact we will come on to this topic in a few</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 after line of communicating with hundreds, thousands of 2 different people online, just constant messaging, 3 messaging. The use of sort of sexual encounter/hookup 4 apps, along those lines, messaging talking about 5 pornography, about sex. As it leads on, as was 6 mentioned, he got into drugs and that became another 7 obsession. There were absolutely hundreds of thousands 8 of lines of messaging, because he was just obsessed with 9 messaging. 10 Q. Looking at paragraph 15, was there a sort of practice 11 that you identified on his part? 12 A. In meeting people? 13 Q. Yes. 14 A. Yes, Stephen used online messaging through apps to meet 15 men and through smartphone apps when they evolved and he 16 would meet these people but, generally, what we saw 17 through Operation Lilford is he would arrange to meet 18 them. He wouldn't provide his home address. He would 19 arrange to meet them outside Barking train station, 20 which is a five-minute walk from his home address. We 21 didn't find him providing his home address to any of 22 these people and it is clear that the way he would meet 23 them, he would talk to them online, he would get to know 24 them, he would arrange to meet at his house always and 25 he would meet them in the street and then walk back to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 minutes, but if we look at the actual conversation on 2 the right-hand side, the other person seems to be asking 3 Stephen Port, "Are you into drugs?" And his reply, in 4 2012, was, "Not really, but would try some if you have 5 any". 6 A. Yes, that's correct. 7 Q. As I say, we will come back to these schedules to look 8 at them but we will do our best to help the jury 9 navigate through and identify the particularly important 10 sections of them. 11 Thank you, we can take those down. 12 Finally on this section then, inspector, I wonder if 13 there were some general points that you took from all of 14 this analysis that you did on Stephen Port's computer 15 and other sources of information about his computer use. 16 I am really thinking about the details you give at 17 paragraphs -- first of all, about his use of social 18 media and dating apps. I am thinking about the details 19 you give at paragraphs 15 and 18 of your statement. 20 A. 15 and 18? 21 Q. Yes. 22 A. Stephen used online dating, either via his laptop or via 23 handsets as technology evolved. We often said we don't 24 know how he had as much time as he did. It was 25 absolutely incessant, it was all day, every day, line</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 his home address with them. 2 Q. Thank you. Then just looking at paragraph 18, was there 3 a pattern that emerged relating to the way in which he 4 used social media accounts and what he did after the 5 deaths of some of his victims? 6 A. Yes, the pattern emerged to us on Operation Lilford that 7 if he had met somebody and had conducted criminality 8 with drugging or the ultimate, obviously, the lives of 9 these young men, Stephen would delete that profile that 10 he held on that particular dating site very swiftly 11 after meeting these boys, almost in his mind possibly to 12 delete his footprint from that dating app with the 13 messaging with that particular victim. 14 Q. As you said of course, in fact it stayed on his 15 computer? 16 A. Yes, that's correct. 17 Q. Moving on and looking at paragraph 17 of your statement, 18 inspector, was there a pattern in relation to the type 19 of searches he conducted on the internet and also the 20 sort of timings when he was looking at certain sites? 21 A. Yes, Stephen viewed a considerable -- an extensive 22 amount of what is classed as drug rape pornography. 23 Obviously there is millions of different types of 24 pornography on the internet to view. Stephen's 25 penchant/genre was generally -- clearly he was a gay</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

7 (Pages 25 to 28)

<p>1 man, he would look at gay pornography, but he had a real 2 obsession with drug rape pornography. Some of the terms 3 he would use in the searches were literally for "drug 4 rape pornography" and different phrases around that. 5 Q. The timings of those searches? 6 A. Yes, Stephen would communicate with new people. He 7 would intersperse that whilst chatting online with 8 viewing pornography and drug rape pornography. He would 9 generally be viewing that up to almost the point of 10 meeting them or leaving his house to meet them. Then we 11 would find periods of when it went quiet for half 12 an hour or so, you can imagine that is the journey and 13 the meeting and greeting and then very swiftly with the 14 timings that match up, that that particular victim would 15 have been within Stephen's house, the viewing of drug 16 rape pornography began again and went on for hours at 17 a time. 18 Q. Thank you. Then lastly on this section, you have 19 mentioned Stephen Port's use of drugs and we looked at 20 that Skype message from 2012 just now, where at least he 21 was saying that he didn't use drugs in 2012. 22 I think it is right, isn't it, that this extensive 23 analysis that you conducted of the computer and other 24 sources showed a development in Stephen Port's use of 25 drugs?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 messages, which are not replied to, from a friend 2 talking about taking G, GHB, and trying a needle rather 3 than drinking it, but being unsure about this. 4 By January 2014 Port is telling someone he has taken 5 meph, short for mephedrone." 6 Q. Thank you, so the development in the use of drugs it 7 appears, at least from this analysis, starting to use 8 GHB towards the end of 2013? 9 A. Yes, that's correct, yes. 10 Q. Thank you, that is all I wanted to ask you then about 11 the electronic devices and what you found there. 12 Let me move on to a shorter subject, which is 13 physical searches, so old-fashioned searches of 14 properties and locations. 15 It is right, and you describe this in your 16 statement, that Operation Lilford conducted intensive 17 fingertip searches of a number of locations which we 18 will come to in a moment. What were you looking for? 19 A. It is an interesting -- what we are looking for, 20 sometimes you don't know what you are looking for until 21 you find it, but essentially we were looking for 22 anything that belonged to the victims, anything that 23 Stephen may have discarded in connection with these 24 crimes that he was committing at the time. You have 25 heard that each of the deceased victims were missing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. I mentioned DC Thomas, who conducted all this analysis, 3 just looking at paragraph 47 of your witness statement, 4 inspector, you quote there, and I wonder if you could 5 just read to the jury, what DC Thomas said about his 6 findings in this regard? 7 A. Do you want the whole paragraph or just starting at -- 8 Q. Just the italics, so DC Thomas's section. 9 A. So essentially, prior to reading that, when you look at 10 somebody's messages you can form a picture of their 11 life, their interests, what they are doing in every 12 message that they send. This is a summary from the 13 officer Craig Thomas, who was one of the detectives on 14 the team and Craig has written there: 15 "There are Skype messages from the laptop from 2011 16 onwards, consistent with Port contacting people and 17 arranging to meet up. There are in total almost 100,000 18 messages on this device, below are those messages deemed 19 relevant when drug use is mentioned. As can be seen, 20 the messaging suggests that Port was not taking drugs in 21 June 2012, although by October that year had taken 22 cannabis during a sexual encounter. However, by 23 November 2013 Port is telling someone he had taken 24 a drug during sex that had made him last a long time. 25 A few days later there are a large number of Skype</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 their mobile phones, mobile phones can be broken up, 2 they can be taken apart or they can be left complete. 3 Essentially that, we were looking for anything 4 evidential we could find that would help in our case 5 proving against Stephen. 6 Q. We all, I suppose, have a picture in our minds of really 7 quite large numbers of officers conducting these 8 fingertip searches, we see it on the news from time to 9 time. You mentioned when you were talking about the 10 resources available to Operation Lilford that you would 11 call in outside people to conduct those searches. Is 12 that right, you mentioned the sort of core group of your 13 murder team. Was it those people who would be 14 conducting these searches or other officers? 15 A. No, it would be other officers. The Metropolitan Police 16 have what they call -- it is Home Office search 17 officers, POLSA, another acronym, Home Office licensed 18 search advisers. They have teams of officers that have 19 normal jobs, it might be an officer in uniform on the 20 street, it might be a dog handler, varying departments, 21 but they come together with the search advisers, the 22 licensed search advisers, to form small POLSA search 23 teams. They are a Metropolitan-wide resource, anybody 24 can use them and call on them if it's a justified reason 25 to search an area and they are the people you would see</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 on the television searching tip to tip or with sticks in 2 undergrowth in lines. They are all highly trained to 3 search anywhere, really. 4 Q. Again, just to give us some perspective, these 5 searches -- we will talk about the places you searched 6 in a moment -- would that be a resource that normally 7 would be something that a borough investigation could 8 have called on or was it really something restricted to 9 a specialist investigation like the murder investigation 10 team? 11 A. No, absolutely not. Any department within the 12 Metropolitan Police can use them if they have 13 a justified reason to do so. 14 Q. All right, let's just run through, or at least give some 15 examples of the places that you searched. 16 First of all, Port's flat? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. That of course had already been searched, as we saw, 19 back in 2014, but Operation Lilford searched it again, 20 did they? 21 A. Yes, we searched it with a licensed search team and that 22 entailed literally dismantling the flat, any place that 23 could be taken apart, any concealed area, any kickboards 24 under kitchen units, any covers, literally anything that 25 could be moved to search the entirety of that building,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 a mobile phone down there, it will still be there and we 2 can suck them back up. All of the drains, all of the 3 routes to the Barking Abbey church ground and then the 4 church ground itself. 5 Q. Members of the jury, you might want to look in your jury 6 bundle A at tab 7. If we can have on screen IPC000132, 7 page 5, yes. If we could just expand the map on the 8 left-hand side -- that is perfect, thank you. 9 Again, members of the jury, these are maps and plans 10 that you will become very familiar with. 11 Inspector, we see there, do we not, the green space 12 in the middle, that is the Abbey grounds and within 13 that, it is not very clearly marked on that map, but 14 within that is the churchyard? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. We see just at the bottom right of that square on the 17 map, we see Cooke Street, that is where Stephen Port's 18 flat was? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. One can imagine -- and indeed when the jury conduct 21 their visit, they will see for themselves the type of 22 route that one can take from Cooke Street to the Abbey 23 grounds. 24 Was that the general area that you were describing 25 just a moment ago?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 that flat, was done so. 2 Q. Next, and without going into detail, were there other 3 residential addresses that you became aware were 4 associated with Stephen Port that you conducted searches 5 in? 6 A. Yes, anywhere we believed Stephen had been or had access 7 to during the relevant time periods, we searched those 8 premises as well. 9 Q. Because you thought he might have hidden something 10 there? 11 A. Absolutely, if he had access to somewhere or another 12 property, another premises, he may have discarded items 13 from the victims within those. 14 Q. Outside areas, were there areas, public areas that were 15 searched? 16 A. Yes, there were. As you will have seen from the maps, 17 Stephen's flat is very close to where three of the 18 deceased young men were found and the route to there, 19 there are not many differing routes you could take, due 20 to the geography, we searched all of those routes, we 21 searched all of the drains along the way with lifting 22 the drains and what we call a gully sucker, which is 23 essentially a huge Hoover that goes down into the drains 24 and sucks the contents out into a vessel, a container 25 that we can then search through. If you discard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, of course he could go hundreds of different ways, 2 but the normal ways that you would walk, there are very 3 few ways that you walk, it is a very short distance, so 4 they were all searched, the drains as I have described, 5 any bins along the way, whether they be public or 6 private. The route along there, if there was any 7 shrubby, any bushes, any gardens, any sort of outside 8 space, that would have been, it was all searched along 9 the route to the Abbey. 10 The area where the young men were found, with 11 a perimeter around it, was all fingertip searched. 12 Also, you will see on the map, it is possibly easier on 13 the yellower version of the map in the right-hand 14 corner, there is some water in the bottom left-hand 15 corner. When you visit there in the next couple of 16 days, when you stand at the Abbey now, it has 17 a distinctly different view looking that way, it was 18 a disused retail park when you had clear view of a river 19 that runs behind it, quite a big river, we searched 20 a distance of that river, bank to bank, to its full 21 depth. I think it was 40 metres wide. 22 Now, when you go there, there is huge modern flats. 23 It has completely changed from what we would have seen, 24 but that would have given Stephen access almost directly 25 over one road to that river, so we had to take that into</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 consideration as well.</p> <p>2 Q. You mentioned bank to bank, just to be clear you are</p> <p>3 talking about underwater searches in that river that we</p> <p>4 see?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, so effectively if you could section off the water,</p> <p>6 it would be from the natural bank to the far bank and</p> <p>7 sectioned all the way down to the bottom, including the</p> <p>8 basin and the bottom of the river.</p> <p>9 Q. Thank you, we can take that map down, thank you.</p> <p>10 Inspector, a wide range of really quite intensive</p> <p>11 searches. You said you were not quite sure what you</p> <p>12 were looking for. Did you find anything?</p> <p>13 A. Absolutely nothing of interest to this investigation.</p> <p>14 Q. In particular you mentioned the victim's phones, have</p> <p>15 they ever been located?</p> <p>16 A. They have never been relocated -- they have never been</p> <p>17 located, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>19 Moving on then, I said I was going to ask you about</p> <p>20 witnesses. When we were talking about the HOLMES system</p> <p>21 earlier, you mentioned that you had over 900 statements,</p> <p>22 although you made it clear that did not equate to 900</p> <p>23 witnesses.</p> <p>24 Is it right that some of these witnesses you took</p> <p>25 statements from had had statements taken from them</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 people in that second group, were other victims of</p> <p>2 Stephen Port who had not died. I am going to come back</p> <p>3 to talk about them separately in a moment. But you did</p> <p>4 have statements from them, is that right?</p> <p>5 A. Ultimately we took statements from them, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Presumably, what they told you may have led you to take</p> <p>7 other statements from other people --</p> <p>8 A. That's correct.</p> <p>9 Q. -- investigating their allegations?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Let me finish off these with a few more short sections,</p> <p>12 as I said.</p> <p>13 First of all, CCTV, another source of evidence which</p> <p>14 perhaps is familiar to all of us. We will hear, won't</p> <p>15 we, that the initial borough investigations in fact did</p> <p>16 look for CCTV footage at the time of the initial deaths</p> <p>17 but hadn't managed to obtain any, in particular they</p> <p>18 hadn't managed to obtain any at least useful footage</p> <p>19 around the Abbey grounds?</p> <p>20 A. That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you look for CCTV footage yourself?</p> <p>22 A. We did, again extensively for the entire area that may</p> <p>23 or may not have been covered. We did recover some</p> <p>24 footage but the Barking Abbey church ground at the time</p> <p>25 for us, for Jack Taylor's death, the camera that would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 previously in the borough investigations?</p> <p>2 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Why did you take further statements?</p> <p>4 A. Not all had further statements taken from them, but</p> <p>5 if -- as more information became available to us, there</p> <p>6 may have been things that were not known by the original</p> <p>7 investigation that we needed to clarify and cover in</p> <p>8 their statements. Some were revisited to take a further</p> <p>9 detailed, more detailed statement from them, to cover</p> <p>10 their connection with Stephen over a greater time</p> <p>11 period, or simply just to refresh the statement to make</p> <p>12 it more in depth for our need, rather than the original</p> <p>13 investigation.</p> <p>14 Q. The jury will understand then that when some of the</p> <p>15 witnesses who come to give evidence in the next few</p> <p>16 weeks, some of them we will find gave a statement to the</p> <p>17 borough investigators and then a year or so later</p> <p>18 another statement to your team?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>20 Q. There were of course some witnesses who had not given</p> <p>21 statements at the time of the initial investigations and</p> <p>22 you took statements from them as part of</p> <p>23 Operation Lilford?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, many.</p> <p>25 Q. One category in that second group, or one category of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 have covered that area was not functioning at that time.</p> <p>2 Q. You mentioned Jack Taylor's death. Perhaps we can all</p> <p>3 understand, but a bit like the phone enquiries, it is</p> <p>4 not easy for the police to look for CCTV footage a year</p> <p>5 after the event?</p> <p>6 A. No, generally, CCTV footage is on a rolling basis. As</p> <p>7 a rule of thumb, most places work on 30 days, they</p> <p>8 retain footage for 30/31 days, places like</p> <p>9 Heathrow Airport retain it for a lot longer for obvious</p> <p>10 reasons but in general local authority CCTV, local shop</p> <p>11 CCTV, things like that is around 30 days. Obviously as</p> <p>12 has been described with the phones, three of these</p> <p>13 deaths were over year before we were able to try and</p> <p>14 make those enquiries.</p> <p>15 Q. For the same timing reasons as with the phones, you</p> <p>16 wouldn't have been able to realistically to find CCTV</p> <p>17 evidence going to Anthony, Gabriel or Daniel's death,</p> <p>18 but you were able to look, because of the much shorter</p> <p>19 timeframe, around the time of Jack's death?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>21 Q. Is it right, is this when you are saying, that in fact</p> <p>22 just in the same way that the borough investigations</p> <p>23 earlier had not found any CCTV, for example looking down</p> <p>24 over that green space showing whoever it was who had</p> <p>25 brought the bodies there, you had the same problem?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 A. Yes, we had the same problem, we had no coverage of the 2 actual Barking church grounds that were in question 3 here. We did find footage of Jack Taylor and 4 Stephen Port walking down from Barking strain station. 5 The local borough had found some, but we found further 6 footage just to show the route that they had taken and 7 we also found footage of Stephen returning from Barking 8 Abbey churchyard after leaving Jack on his return route 9 to his home on his own. 10 Q. Yes, thank you. 11 Let me move on to DNA. DNA analysis is conducted on 12 something, isn't it, you need an exhibit or a piece of 13 clothing or an item in order to look and see whether it 14 holds DNA that is useful? 15 A. Yes, contrary to many television programmes 16 unfortunately, no, we cannot pluck DNA out of fresh air. 17 It has to be attached to something or on something. 18 Many parts of our body produce DNA, the classic one is 19 blood, saliva, bodily fluid, semen, things like that, 20 but we leave DNA everywhere we touch, sometimes 21 everywhere we are, from shedding hair, shedding skin 22 cells. DNA is an ever-evolving technology from 23 forensics but we always leave a trace nigh on everywhere 24 we go. 25 Q. Did Operation Lilford conduct DNA analysis?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, we did, yes. 2 Q. All of these exhibits, and obviously far more, were 3 analysed to see whether, amongst other things, 4 Stephen Port's DNA was there on them? 5 A. Yes, that's correct. 6 Q. I mentioned at the start that you will be coming back at 7 the end of each of the sections and that will obviously 8 be the time for me to ask you in detail about what those 9 DNA analyses found, but just in very broad detail, if 10 you can now, what did those checks show you? 11 A. For each of the -- 12 Q. Just in general terms. 13 A. In general, we could link Stephen Port forensically to 14 each of the deceased young men through DNA. So that 15 could have been Stephen Port's DNA on any of the things 16 that have been mentioned, an item found with them, 17 actually on their body or on their clothing. 18 Q. Yes, thank you. 19 We will of course come back to those subjects in 20 much more detail in due course. 21 The last of the areas of enquiry that I said I would 22 cover was pathology. We will hear over the coming weeks 23 that each of the four young men after their deaths, 24 there were post mortems conducted on their bodies. You 25 obviously had available to you in Operation Lilford the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, extensively. 2 Q. The items that it used to analyse for those purposes, 3 were they available to you from the original 4 investigations? 5 A. Yes, a number of items were available from the original 6 investigations but also we conducted it on the items 7 that we had seized as well in our investigations. 8 Q. Right. Just so the jury have an idea of the type of 9 materials, exhibits and items we have in mind, first of 10 all, were DNA checks conducted on the deceaseds' 11 clothing? 12 A. Yes, they were. 13 Q. And, in the case of Daniel Whitworth, the sheet that he 14 was found lying on? 15 A. That's correct. 16 Q. Objects such as the sunglasses that Gabriel was wearing 17 when his body was found? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Also the bottles, the jury will hear that not all but 20 some deceased were found with little bottles on their 21 person, were they also analysed? 22 A. Yes, they were. 23 Q. In respect of Anthony and Daniel, did you have available 24 to you actual samples taken from their bodies at the 25 time of the initial post mortems?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 reports of those pathologists. 2 A. That's correct, yes. 3 Q. The jury will hear that two of the young men, Anthony 4 and Daniel, had what is called special post mortems, 5 whereas the other two, Gabriel and Jack, had ordinary 6 post mortems, for want of a better word. 7 We will hear about this but if may be helpful if now 8 you can just in a few sentences explain what the 9 difference is between a special post mortem and 10 an ordinary post mortem is? 11 A. Yes, so when a member of the public dies, the cause of 12 death needs to be established. If you have seen your 13 doctor or a medical practitioner or hospital for 14 something say for instance unfortunately cancer and if 15 that doctor is happy that you have died as a result of 16 that cancer within a certain period of them seeing you, 17 they can determine your cause of death and issue your 18 cause of death. If the cause of someone's death is 19 unknown and is unexpected say, a post mortem examination 20 is conducted. An examination of the body once deceased 21 to determine how that person has died. 22 If you die in normal circumstances, for want of 23 a better term, that post mortem is conducted by 24 a mortician within a general hospital and they will 25 determine -- they will examine your body, they will open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

11 (Pages 41 to 44)

<p>1 up your body, look at your organs, whatever is needed to 2 determine your cause of death. Then a pathologist will 3 look at the findings, whilst the bodies are still there 4 in situ, and will either agree or disagree with their 5 findings, generally they would agree because the 6 mortician is trained to examine and establish cause of 7 death, but then there is a review with the pathologist 8 there to determine, "Yes, that person died of a road 9 traffic accident" or, "That is a heart attack" or 10 something like that.</p> <p>11 They are what we know as routine post mortems. 12 A special post mortem or a forensic post mortem is 13 when the cause of death is in question, whether it be 14 for instance negligence by a medical practitioner, 15 whether it be murder, or anything in between, where the 16 cause of death needs more detail, more investigation. 17 Those post mortems are conducted by a Home Office 18 registered pathologist, and there are a couple coming to 19 give evidence in front of you over the period of this 20 hearing. 21 What they are is highly trained people that are 22 licensed by the Home Office to conduct forensic post 23 mortems. They are conducted with police present, with 24 photographers present, every item is weighed, every part 25 of the body is examined and photographed. Every injury</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 the coroner to request that we could exhume 2 Jack Taylor's body from the ground so we could conduct 3 a special post mortem with Jack to obtain the further 4 evidence that we needed from the differing ways that 5 a post mortem is conducted.</p> <p>6 Q. Is that what in fact happened? 7 A. Yes. Jack's body was exhumed, a forensic post mortem 8 was conducted by Dr Chapman and then Jack was reburied. 9 Q. Did the conclusion that Dr Chapman reach, was that in 10 fact consistent with the conclusion that had earlier 11 been reached about how Jack died? 12 A. Yes, the cause of death was the same, it was GHB 13 overdose, GHB toxicity, but it also allowed us to look 14 at fingerprints, look at needle marks within Jack's body 15 and obtain evidence from Jack's body that had not been 16 looked for before, because that is not looked for in 17 a standard post mortem. 18 Q. That was why the special post mortem was important? 19 A. Very important, yes. 20 Q. Thank you, inspector. That brings us to the end of this 21 long section on the different types of enquiries, I have 22 a few more questions for. 23 First of all, I said I would come back, we mentioned 24 earlier the living victims of Stephen Port and I said 25 I would come back to ask you about them. Of course the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 is recorded. Essentially it is a very, very in depth 2 assessment of how you came to meet your death.</p> <p>3 Q. Thank you. 4 Of course the jury, as you have said, will hear from 5 the pathologists involved themselves and will also hear 6 plenty of evidence about why it was that special post 7 mortems were thought appropriate for two of the deaths 8 but not for the other two. 9 From your perspective, in Operation Lilford, you had 10 available to you different types of analysis for the two 11 that had had special post mortems, a lot of detail, but 12 not so much for the other two. Did that lead you to 13 take any steps in Operation Lilford? 14 A. Yes, as has been described, we had the forensic results 15 from the post mortem, the special post mortem of Anthony 16 and of Daniel, and we could work from those reports. 17 Gabriel had had a routine and we couldn't do 18 anything with Gabriel. His body had been repatriated 19 back to Slovakia where he had been cremated, due to the 20 passage of time. 21 Jack Taylor had had a standard post mortem in the 22 first to determine his cause of death. Obviously we 23 were now looking at it as a criminal matter and we 24 wanted to perform a special post mortem. Jack had been 25 buried and we approached the family and we approached</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 jury have heard an awful lot about Operation Lilford 2 investigating the murder, the suspected murder then, of 3 Anthony, Gabriel, Daniel and Jack, but it is right, 4 isn't it, that during the course of Operation Lilford 5 your investigation expanded to cover allegations made by 6 these living victims. Can you tell us more about how 7 that developed? 8 A. Yes, it generally came to us in two ways. 9 As soon as Stephen Port was charged with the four 10 murders, and obviously it's in the public domain, 11 members of the public were reading the numerous press 12 reports, the TV reports, Twitter feeds, everything in 13 the media, and previous victims of him that were still 14 living were approaching friends to say, "I think he has 15 done something to me", or, "I have met him" or they were 16 approaching us directly or through partner agencies or 17 charities. 18 The other ways that we have heard about the 19 extensive messaging that we found and contact with him 20 on social media with other potential victims, and we 21 could see the pattern of the deletion of accounts, and 22 also the conversation between him and some of the living 23 victims, so we were therefore also able to proactively 24 identify people to approach them. 25 Q. We will hear that, when it came to Stephen Port's trial,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

12 (Pages 45 to 48)

<p>1 as well as being tried for the murder of the four young 2 men whose inquests we are conducting, he was also tried 3 in relation to offences relating to some of these living 4 victims? 5 A. That's correct, yes. 6 Q. How many of the living victims featured in the trial? 7 A. There were eight living victims that featured in the 8 trial. 9 Q. You have described how you came to be aware of those 10 individuals. They all made allegations against 11 Stephen Port? 12 A. That's correct. 13 Q. Can we just have back on screen, please, or members of 14 the jury, let's have another look at the chronology. So 15 back on screen, INQ000038. 16 I wanted to ask you, inspector, about the date range 17 of the allegations made by the living victims. We don't 18 need the sort of fine detail but we know from looking at 19 our chronology that the first of the deaths we are 20 concerned with, Anthony's death, took place in June 2014 21 and Jack died in September 2015. 22 What was the date range of the allegations made by 23 the living victims? 24 A. Our first living victim made an allegation from 25 February 2012, and then these deaths were interspersed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 whether it be a shot of vodka or Jack Daniel's, and some 2 had said to them, "Let's get the party started, let's 3 have a shot to start", and then it was in them. Others 4 said it was more discreet, it was in a glass of wine or 5 something over a more slower period but others were 6 saying they had not taken a drink when they had been 7 with Stephen. 8 We had built up a picture with all of them, because 9 they were saying that those that had not taken a drink, 10 Stephen had under the guise of using sexual lubricant 11 with them, he had inserted into their back passage 12 an applicator, so like a plastic syringe that you would 13 give medicine to children with, not with the needle on 14 just a plastic applicator syringe, either through that 15 or an item that's called a lube shooter, which is 16 essentially a plastic syringe that is for applying 17 sexual lubricant. Stephen would mix GHB with sexual 18 lubricant, pre-made, suck it back up into the applicator 19 and then at the moment of sex, at the moment of 20 penetration, Stephen would tell the victims he was going 21 to apply sexual lubricant to make the sex easier but it 22 was laced with GHB. And our bodies can all absorb drugs 23 through our rectal canal, and it absorbs into your 24 system and into your blood through his back passage. 25 So Stephen was either drugging his victims via</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 with offences against living victims up until after 2 Jack's death, leading up till November -- sorry, 3 October 2015. 4 Q. The date I have written down is 10 October 2015? 5 A. Yes, I saw 11/10. Yes, October 2015. 6 Q. Just to, as you say, marry that up with our timescale, 7 we have some living victims making allegations about 8 matters before Anthony's death, then some allegations 9 during the time period of 2014/2015 that we are looking 10 at and then at least one who made an allegation about 11 events after Jack died. In fact looking at this 12 chronology, 10 October, only five days or so before 13 Stephen Port was arrested? 14 A. That's correct, yes. 15 Q. Thank you. We can take that down. 16 Without going into detail, inspector, can you just 17 give us an idea of the general types of offences that 18 Stephen Port was charged with in relation to these 19 living victims? 20 A. Yes. The way Stephen operated, as we have discussed, is 21 he would drug his victims with a drug called GHB or GBL, 22 which would render them unconscious, but he had to get 23 that drug into them in some way surreptitiously without 24 them knowing. Many of the victims said that they would 25 be offered a drink and they would take the drink,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 a drink, and that related to a number of charges of 2 administering a noxious subject for sexual intent 3 effectively, there were number of those, but there were 4 also the offences where he would assault by penetration, 5 he would penetrate their anus with an item for a sexual 6 purpose, which was the syringe. Then there were the 7 subsequent rapes as well. 8 Q. Thank you, and I want to ask you -- I have nearly 9 finished my questions -- just about three questions 10 which arise from some of the answers that you have 11 given, which may be in the jury's minds. 12 First of all, you have mentioned the living victims, 13 I think you said there were eight, who in the end 14 featured on the indictment in respect of the allegations 15 they made that Stephen Port was tried for. 16 Were you aware of whether there might be other 17 living victims beyond those number? 18 A. Yes, we were. We identified further victims who, for 19 varying reasons, either didn't want to engage with us 20 when we approached them because we had seen the 21 messaging, they felt that they were not in a position in 22 their life that they wished to engage with us to pursue 23 the prosecution. 24 Others were living in foreign countries and didn't 25 want to engage with us and elements of travel to give</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 evidence and things like that. Others, quite simply 2 just wanted privacy. So there were other living victims 3 that didn't appear in the charges that we laid against 4 Stephen for varying reasons really, but evidence was 5 there but it wasn't strong enough to prosecute. 6 Q. Just give us a general idea of the number of these 7 people? 8 A. Five, six, around five, six, seven, to be fair. 9 Q. That was the first question. 10 The second question is related. Did you investigate 11 the question of whether there might have been other 12 people who were killed by Stephen Port in the same way 13 as he killed the four young men who we are concerned 14 with? 15 A. Yes, absolutely. We had to be 100 per cent sure that 16 Stephen hadn't killed any other young men. It was 17 extensive the amount of enquiries we went to to prove 18 that no other person was no longer with us because of 19 his actions. We reviewed 58/59 other deaths in 20 relation -- in this area, to see if he was connected in 21 any way. We reviewed every single piece of evidence we 22 could get our hand on just to ensure that no other 23 deaths were -- he was not responsible for, and he 24 wasn't. 25 Q. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 categorically no. 2 We looked at did he own or no longer own or did he 3 own and still have any large suitcases. The answer to 4 that was no. We looked into things like shopping 5 trolleys in the local area, every possible way we could 6 think of that you could have conveyed a body. We found 7 no evidence to support anything. We have a hypothesis, 8 a theory as to how he did it and we believe, with 9 regards to the bedsheets that the bodies were generally 10 seated on, that Stephen has potentially wrapped them in 11 the bedsheet, he's a big guy, he's 6 foot 5 and quite 12 big, these young men were all smaller in stature. 13 Potentially wrap the blanket round them, had them over 14 his shoulder as if you were carrying a child to bed or 15 to sleep and conveyed them by literally physically 16 carrying in the cover of darkness, but that is only 17 a hypothesis, a theory, because we have no evidence to 18 support anything, but we can categorically prove the use 19 of vehicles, suitcases, shopping trolleys, things like 20 that. 21 Q. Categorically disprove those matters? 22 A. Disprove, yes. 23 Q. Inspector, finally and just for completeness really, 24 I wanted to ask you a few questions about Stephen Port's 25 trial, so the jury have that clear in their minds. You</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Then the last of these questions. Given the facts 2 as we now know them, and as the jury will see in the 3 evidence they hear in the next few weeks, it is clear 4 that Stephen Port must have moved the bodies of Gabriel, 5 Daniel and Jack from Cooke Street to the churchyard 6 where they were found. Did Operation Lilford consider 7 or obtain any evidence about how he did it and in 8 particular whether there was anyone else involved in 9 moving those bodies? 10 A. Yes, taking that question in two sections. 11 First, we had to establish if anybody else was 12 involved or if he was operating alone. Stephen was 13 operating alone. We looked into numerous associates, 14 very deeply, to establish where they were at the 15 relevant times, any involvement they could have had and 16 that was a huge piece of work, but categorically no 17 other person was involved in these deaths or 18 transporting the bodies, only Stephen. 19 And then the first part of the question of how 20 Stephen moved the bodies, we don't know, but what we did 21 do was ruled out a number of possibilities. He had no 22 access to vehicles at the time, which was again 23 extensive investigation to determine whether he could 24 have had access in all the ways that you can get a car, 25 ownership, hiring, borrowing, all of that, that is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 said when you started answering my questions that the 2 trial was a year or so after the start of your 3 investigation, November 2016, it ended in November 2016. 4 A. Yes, the trial began on 4 October 2016 at the 5 Old Bailey, with Judge Openshaw in court 16. It sat for 6 34 working days, which is obviously a number of weeks 7 and months when you take into account the weekends, and 8 the verdicts were returned by the jury on 9 23 November 2016. 10 Q. Thank you. 11 We have really covered in the questions I have 12 already asked you the question of what Stephen Port was 13 accused of at that trial, what the charges on the 14 indictment, the counts on the indictment, but, in 15 summary, there were the allegations relating to Anthony, 16 Gabriel, Daniel and Jack, murder allegations, and also 17 the allegations you have referred to regarding those 18 living victims, is that right? 19 A. That's correct, yes. 20 Q. How did Stephen Port plead? 21 A. Stephen Port pleaded not guilty to every single charge. 22 Q. You have given us an indication that the trial lasted 23 what, six weeks or so, maybe a bit more than that, 30 24 plus days? 25 A. Yes, more than that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

14 (Pages 53 to 56)

<p>1 Q. It must be right there was quite a lot of evidence 2 heard?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, it was two and a half months, give or take. We had 4 50-odd witnesses, of whom we heard live evidence, excuse 5 me, we heard live evidence from 25 witnesses in person 6 and 26 people, 26 witnesses were read by barristers 7 within the trial.</p> <p>8 Q. Some of those witnesses who gave evidence at the 9 Old Bailey will be witness who come back and give 10 evidence to us?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, they will, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Did Stephen Port give evidence?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, he did, for a number of days.</p> <p>14 Q. You said the jury returned their verdicts in 15 November 2016. Without going into fine detail, 16 obviously there were a number of counts on the 17 indictment, what was the result of the trial?</p> <p>18 A. Without detail, overwhelmingly guilty. He was found not 19 guilty with one of the victims of the sexual offences, 20 overwhelmingly the rest were guilty.</p> <p>21 Q. Of particular importance for our purposes and as the 22 coroner said yesterday, he was found guilty of murdering 23 the four young men with whom we are concerned?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, he was.</p> <p>25 Q. Again, something the coroner mentioned yesterday but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 of justice. They reviewed Stephen's case fully and 2 their response was there was no case to answer, he was 3 convicted securely.</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>5 Inspector, I am very grateful. Those are all the 6 questions that I wanted to ask you. As we said, you 7 will come back in the coming weeks when the questions we 8 ask you will be much more focused on the individual 9 cases and the results of Operation Lilford's 10 investigations into those cases.</p> <p>11 Madam, I see the time, I don't know whether any of 12 the interested persons have questions for Mr Richards?</p> <p>13 THE CORONER: Yes, I will find out the answer to that and 14 then decide whether we are going to have a break at this 15 stage or not.</p> <p>16 Ms Hill, will there be questions from you?</p> <p>17 MS HILL: Not from us at this stage, madam.</p> <p>18 THE CORONER: Dr van Dellen?</p> <p>19 DR VAN DELLEN: Two very short questions, if I may, madam.</p> <p>20 THE CORONER: All right, Mr Skelton?</p> <p>21 MR SKELTON: I may do, madam, depending on further answers.</p> <p>22 THE CORONER: Thank you.</p> <p>23 Ms Dobbin?</p> <p>24 MS DOBBIN: Madam, I just have one or two questions, if 25 I may.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 tell us again, what was the sentence that Stephen Port 2 received?</p> <p>3 A. Stephen was sentenced, due to the amount of offences, 4 four charges of murder and all the other offences, 5 Stephen was sentenced to a whole life tariff. When 6 someone is sentenced for murder the only sentence is 7 life, but there is usual a minimum tariff that you can 8 serve before you can apply for parole to come out of 9 prison. Stephen was given a whole life tariff which 10 means he will die in prison, he can never apply to come 11 out of prison.</p> <p>12 Q. Finally, simply because, well, we all know that there is 13 a right of appeal, the jury may have seen something 14 about this in the news, did Stephen Port try and appeal 15 against the result of the trial?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, Stephen was represented by two barristers during 17 the trial. He was convicted and sentenced. Some time 18 afterwards Stephen applied to the Court of Appeal 19 against his conviction. He had no legal representation 20 for that, he did it himself, and that was dismissed at 21 the first stage.</p> <p>22 Q. So that was the end of the matter?</p> <p>23 A. Yes. He then applied to the Criminal Case Review 24 Commission, which essentially is a charity that review 25 criminal cases to see if there has been any miscarriage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 THE CORONER: I think we will take a short break then at 2 this stage and resume at just after 11.30.</p> <p>3 All right, members of the jury, short break at this 4 stage, thank you.</p> <p>5 (In the absence of the jury)</p> <p>6 (11.19 am)</p> <p>7 (A short adjournment)</p> <p>8 (11.30 am)</p> <p>9 (In the presence of the jury)</p> <p>10 THE CORONER: Yes.</p> <p>11 MR O'CONNOR: Madam, I was just speaking to Mr Hughes, 12 I gather that the jury members on the back row were 13 struggling a little bit to hear the evidence before the 14 break. I think it is a problem which can be solved by 15 turning up the volume in some way or other and I am told 16 the technician is going to be trying to do that now.</p> <p>17 THE CORONER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 MR O'CONNOR: You may want to clarify. I don't think the 19 message was that they couldn't hear, just that they 20 couldn't hear as well as they would like to, so it is 21 more a question of improving.</p> <p>22 THE CORONER: We will make sure we do that.</p> <p>23 Mr Richards, I think it is quite obvious that you 24 can hear me now when I speak towards the microphone I am 25 amplified than when I turn my head away, so perhaps you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

<p>1 could be conscious of that too, please, and the 2 questioners. 3 Thank you. 4 Yes. 5 Questions from DR VAN DELLEN 6 DR VAN DELLEN: DI Richards, I ask questions on behalf of 7 Ricky Waumsley, Daniel's partner. May I firstly, 8 through the coroner, thank you for your efforts on 9 Operation Lilford which my client greatly appreciated. 10 Two very brief questions, if I may. 11 My learned friend Mr O'Connor was asking you 12 a number of questions about cell site, which you kindly 13 explained was the process by which a phone pings or 14 connects to a particular mast. You also referred to the 15 fact that that data is only retained for up to a year 16 and my learned friend kindly took you to the chronology 17 which showed that, in fact, that then only enabled you 18 to use that for your investigation into Jack's death. 19 Just to be absolutely clear, would it have assisted 20 you if that data had been retained for longer, such as 21 24 months, to enable you to collect more information 22 investigating the other three deaths, particularly 23 Daniel's death? 24 A. Would it have assisted, I can't answer that because 25 I haven't seen it, so I don't know. It would have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 Inspector, this is one of the policies that the jury 2 will be asked to look at in due course. I just wonder 3 if you could help with what the specialist crime and 4 operations branch is that is referred to, just at the 5 top of that policy? 6 A. Yes, as I said in evidence, the titles of departments 7 within the Metropolitan Police change fairly frequently 8 and as it was then, when that document was written, 9 specialist crime and operations 1, SC&O1, that was the 10 specialist crime department that held homicide. 11 Q. Where we see reference to homicide and major crime, is 12 that the specific department that you belonged to in 13 2014 to 2016? 14 A. Yes, it was. 15 Q. Does it follow from that that your remit extended beyond 16 homicide and into other types of major crime as well. 17 A. Yes, as I said there were other types of crime, 18 industrial accidents, manslaughters, infanticide, 19 incidents in prisons, a series of stranger sex attacks. 20 Predominantly homicide, but there were other areas that 21 we worked in as well. 22 Q. You also described yourself as belonging to a major 23 investigation team, is that just another way of 24 describing being part of a homicide and major crime 25 team?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 certainly -- we would have been able to apply for it to 2 be able to see what it may have held. Not trying to be 3 awkward, but I can't tell you whether it would have 4 assisted without actually seeing it, but the opportunity 5 to apply for it would have assisted, yes. 6 Q. My second question is, again my learned friend 7 Mr O'Connor kindly took you to a schedule showing 8 a Skype conversation between Mr Port and another 9 individual regarding drug taking. Just to be absolutely 10 clear, that other individual was not Daniel, was it? 11 A. No, absolutely not. No. 12 DR VAN DELLEN: Thank you. 13 No further questions, thank you. 14 THE CORONER: Thank you. 15 Yes. 16 Questions from MS DOBBIN 17 MS DOBBIN: Inspector, I am asking questions on behalf of 18 some of the Barking borough officers, I wonder if you 19 could help me a bit please with terminology. 20 THE CORONER: Is your microphone on? 21 MS DOBBIN: It is. 22 THE CORONER: You are quite difficult to hear. 23 MS DOBBIN: I will keep my voice up. 24 Madam, could I ask for a document to be brought up, 25 please, it is IPC, document 62.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, so the homicide and major crime department had 2 I think at that time 18 or 21 different murder teams. 3 They are all essentially the same, we are -- I was major 4 investigation team 1, and the next one would obviously 5 be major investigation team 2, just to give each team 6 within that department a label, but we all did the same 7 job. 8 Q. The correct label is major investigation team, rather 9 than murder investigation team, is that right? 10 A. Yes. So the department is homicide and major crime, and 11 each of the teams within it is major investigation team 12 1, or major investigation team 2 or 3. 13 Q. You said that one of the specialist resources available 14 to your team was the HOLMES system. I just wonder if 15 you could describe a bit more about what HOLMES actually 16 is to the uninitiated. 17 A. Yes. As I said within evidence, it is essentially 18 a large database. Data is put into HOLMES via human 19 element, by typing, scanning documents and it 20 cross-references -- with human assistance it 21 cross-references names, places, vehicles, times, dates, 22 everybody is given a reference number, so if you have 23 one John Paul Smith, it may not be the same as another 24 John Paul Smith, they may be different people, and each 25 one would have an individual number. So it is a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

<p>1 large -- it's essentially a large database.</p> <p>2 Q. I think it is also right that another potential crime</p> <p>3 that would fall within the remit of your team is the</p> <p>4 type of complex or serious crime that would be assisted</p> <p>5 by support from the HOLMES system as well. Is that</p> <p>6 correct?</p> <p>7 A. Sorry, could you say that --</p> <p>8 Q. It might help if maybe we go to page 2 of this document</p> <p>9 and you can see if that helps. This is setting out the</p> <p>10 different types of crime that your team would</p> <p>11 investigate. You can see that it refers there to high</p> <p>12 risk missing persons, linked rapes or other criminal</p> <p>13 incidents which due to their serious nature or</p> <p>14 complexity or organisational risk may require HOLMES 2</p> <p>15 support. Is that correct?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, absolutely. As I said, there are other types of</p> <p>17 crime that we did and do investigate, homicide is the</p> <p>18 predominant one, but, yes, you are absolutely right,</p> <p>19 there are other types as are listed on there.</p> <p>20 Q. Just to be clear, the reference to "HOLMES 2" is just</p> <p>21 a reference to the improved version of HOLMES 2 that was</p> <p>22 available in 2014?</p> <p>23 A. Absolutely, it is just HOLMES.</p> <p>24 MS DOBBIN: Thank you, inspector.</p> <p>25 Thank you, madam.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 relation to this witness, bearing in mind he is coming</p> <p>2 back on other cases I am not going to ask you if you</p> <p>3 have any questions at this stage. All right?</p> <p>4 Yes, thank you.</p> <p>5 MR O'CONNOR: I am grateful, madam.</p> <p>6 Mr Richards can leave the witness box but possibly</p> <p>7 not be released in the strict sense of the word.</p> <p>8 THE CORONER: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR O'CONNOR: Madam, we have had our break and there is one</p> <p>10 other matter of evidence for us to deal with today,</p> <p>11 which is reading some evidence.</p> <p>12 Ms Collier is going to deal with that now.</p> <p>13 THE CORONER: Thank you.</p> <p>14 Members of jury, Ms Collier, who is junior counsel</p> <p>15 to the inquest, is going to now read a statement to you</p> <p>16 of a detective superintendent. Whilst much of the</p> <p>17 evidence you are going to hear will be called live, with</p> <p>18 live witnesses appearing as Mr Richards just has,</p> <p>19 sometimes evidence will be read to you when the contents</p> <p>20 of it is not disputed. That is what is going to happen</p> <p>21 now.</p> <p>22 Over to Ms Collier, thank you.</p> <p>23 Statement of MR CHRISTOPHER SOOLE (read)</p> <p>24 MS COLLIER: Members of the jury, I am going to read to you</p> <p>25 from the witness statement of Detective Superintendent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 THE CORONER: Yes, Mr Skelton.</p> <p>2 MR SKELTON: Thank you, madam.</p> <p>3 Questions from MR SKELTON</p> <p>4 MR SKELTON: Inspector Richards, I ask questions on behalf</p> <p>5 of the Metropolitan Police.</p> <p>6 The first question is: by the time that Operation</p> <p>7 Lilford was launched were you investigating four</p> <p>8 suspected murders?</p> <p>9 A. Yes. Stephen had been arrested by the time we took it</p> <p>10 over and he had been arrested for administering a drug</p> <p>11 to these people. We took it over and immediately</p> <p>12 arrested him for the four murders.</p> <p>13 Q. By implication, it was suspected that Stephen Port was</p> <p>14 responsible for all four murders from the start?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>16 Q. Was it also the case that from the start of</p> <p>17 Operation Lilford it had all of the information and</p> <p>18 evidence that had been obtained by the previous</p> <p>19 investigations into the four deaths?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 MR SKELTON: Thank you. Those are all my questions.</p> <p>22 THE CORONER: Yes. I do not have any questions for</p> <p>23 Mr Richards at this stage.</p> <p>24 I did indicate yesterday, members of the jury, that</p> <p>25 you would have the opportunity to ask a question. In</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 Chris Soole, statement dated 11 December 2020.</p> <p>2 Detective Superintendent Soole is a senior officer</p> <p>3 in the MPS, the Metropolitan Police. He tells us in his</p> <p>4 statement that he joined the MPS in 1998 and became</p> <p>5 a detective. He states that he served in a number of</p> <p>6 roles over the years, including working on the borough</p> <p>7 in CID, working in the specialist crime directorate and</p> <p>8 also in the MPS homicide command, where he has led</p> <p>9 numerous homicide inquiries.</p> <p>10 He is currently serving as a detective</p> <p>11 superintendent with responsibility for the oversight of</p> <p>12 a number of homicide teams. I will be reading those</p> <p>13 parts of his witness statement which explain three</p> <p>14 things.</p> <p>15 Firstly, the allocation of investigations, what</p> <p>16 procedures would be followed by the police when they</p> <p>17 receive a report of a sudden death.</p> <p>18 Secondly, what policies there were in 2014 and 2015</p> <p>19 at the time of the deaths that we are concerned with,</p> <p>20 which covered the investigation of deaths, both</p> <p>21 suspicious and non-suspicious.</p> <p>22 Thirdly, what the Police National Database, or PND,</p> <p>23 is.</p> <p>24 I should let you know that Detective Superintendent</p> <p>25 Soole's witness statement does cover some other matters,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 but you don't need to hear about those today because 2 today the focus, as I have said, will be on the 3 procedures which would be followed when the police 4 became aware of a sudden death, the policies in place 5 regarding the police investigations of deaths and on the 6 PND, the Police National Database.</p> <p>7 You do have the relevant policies, either in part or 8 entirely in your jury bundle, and I will be referring 9 you to them at the appropriate point as I read the 10 statement. You are not expected to read the policies 11 now, this is so you know where to find them because you 12 may be referred to them in due course throughout the 13 course of the inquests.</p> <p>14 I should also tell you that whilst this witness 15 statement is Detective Superintendent Soole's, he does 16 explain in his statement that he has consulted with 17 colleagues in order to ensure that the information that 18 he has provided for you is correct.</p> <p>19 At paragraph 20, he explains about the allocation of 20 investigations. This is what he says:</p> <p>21 "When a sudden death occurred, a uniformed officer 22 from a response team would usually conduct the initial 23 investigation as the first attender. It was usual 24 practice for uniformed officers to be deployed to the 25 scene in response to a 999 or 101 call about a death, or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 to enable a decision to be made ultimately by the 2 homicide command detective superintendent as to whether 3 the investigation should be taken by homicide command or 4 whether it should continue to be investigated by the 5 borough CID.</p> <p>6 "In some cases a primacy decision could be made very 7 quickly, for example in the case of an obvious homicide 8 such as a shooting.</p> <p>9 "In other cases, where the evidence of homicide was 10 less clear, primacy would remain with the borough until 11 there was sufficient evidence for a decision to be made 12 by homicide command. Where the borough retained 13 primacy, the HAT could still provide advice on 14 investigative steps and resource support and/or ongoing 15 advice when requested by the borough CID.</p> <p>16 "Developments in a borough investigation might lead 17 to it being re-referred to HAT and primacy being taken 18 by homicide command. Regardless of the decision on 19 primacy, a crime related incident [another acronym, CRI] 20 should be created on the CRIS system [which is the 21 Metropolitan Police Service's crime reporting system]. 22 This is where the investigation process would be 23 recorded as well as the actions that needed to be 24 completed. The CRIS would act as a decision log for 25 unexplained and suspicious death investigations. In</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 they may be approached by a member of the public about 2 a death while on patrol and therefore arrive at the 3 scene first:</p> <p>4 "The first attender should then contact a uniformed 5 supervisor [that is to say a police sergeant] who would 6 attend the scene to assess the incident and decide if it 7 appeared suspicious or non-suspicious or unexplained. 8 The uniformed supervisor would then inform the uniformed 9 duty officer, an inspector, who would also attend in the 10 case of a suspicious or unexplained death and would 11 contact the CID, the criminal investigation department. 12 The CID would then attend the scene. This would 13 typically have been an officer of the rank of detective 14 sergeant. The detective sergeant would assess the 15 nature of the incident and inform a detective inspector. 16 The detective inspector would contact the on-duty 17 homicide assessment team, the HAT, in the specialist 18 crime and operations homicide command for further advice 19 if the death was deemed suspicious or if advice was 20 required.</p> <p>21 "In summary, the homicide assessment team, the HAT, 22 operated a car, the HAT car, which would often but not 23 always attend the scene when the borough detective 24 inspector contacted the homicide assessment team, the 25 HAT, for advice. The HAT would then assess the incident</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 addition to the CRI, the detective inspector should keep 2 a written or typed record of their decisions throughout 3 the investigation.</p> <p>4 "The borough CID would usually retain primacy of 5 an unexplained death until either the special post 6 mortem results identified further cause for suspicion or 7 other enquiries clarified the matter. Unless primacy 8 was taken over by homicide command, a decision would be 9 made at borough level as to whether the investigation 10 would remain with the CID, [the criminal investigation 11 department, the detectives] or uniformed officers, for 12 further investigation. In any event, a report would be 13 completed for the coroner."</p> <p>14 I come now to the part of Detective Superintendent 15 Soole's witness statement which deals with the policies 16 relevant to the investigations of deaths, whether 17 suspicious or non-suspicious.</p> <p>18 Detective Superintendent Soole refers in his 19 statement both to national guidance and also to policies 20 specific to the Metropolitan Police. I am going to 21 start with the national guidance.</p> <p>22 At paragraph 76 of his witness statement, Detective 23 Superintendent Soole explains that in 2014 and 2015, the 24 relevant national guidance in place was the Association 25 of Chief Police Officers' murder investigation manual</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 2006. This is what he says: 2 "The third edition of the murder investigation 3 manual was published in 2006 and remains the current 4 edition. It consists of 304 pages of guidance on how to 5 conduct investigations into the offences of murder, 6 manslaughter and infanticide. The murder investigation 7 manual is not intended to be a standalone document which 8 provides investigators with a complete step-by-step 9 guide on how to investigate homicide. It is more of 10 an overarching document that provides relevant areas as 11 an overview. The contents encompass a great deal of 12 information, including discussions on tactics for 13 homicide investigation, working with other agencies and 14 a chapter on coroners and inquests." 15 There is an extract in your jury bundle, jury bundle 16 A, from the Association of Chief Police Officers' murder 17 investigation manual, which I would ask you to turn up. 18 It is found at tab 23 of your bundle A and for the 19 screen, that is IPC12733. 20 If we look at, for the jury, internal page 33 and 21 for the screen that is IPC35. Members of the jury, I am 22 about to read out part of this policy which Detective 23 Superintendent Soole has quoted in his witness 24 statement. Before I do so, I would just ask you to note 25 at the bottom of the page you should see that it says</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Detective Superintendent Soole identifies in his witness 2 statement. 3 I am turning now to the Metropolitan Police Service 4 specific policies. What Detective Superintendent Soole 5 explains in his statement is that there are two 6 different relevant Metropolitan Police policies. They 7 are the homicide policy and the death investigation 8 policy. 9 Starting with the homicide policy he says this. He 10 explains in his witness statement how that policy, the 11 homicide policy, came into being, succeeding its 12 predecessor policy, called the London homicide manual. 13 This is what he says: 14 "The homicide policy and its predecessors deal with 15 deaths that have been assessed as unnatural, unexplained 16 or suspicious. Other deaths are covered by the death 17 investigation policy and its predecessors. The London 18 homicide manual was first published in January 2004, it 19 was republished in July 2008 and last revised in 20 October 2009. The London homicide manual contained 21 roles and responsibilities of investigating officers, 22 which included the roles of senior investigating officer 23 and deputy senior investigating officer. The aim of 24 this London homicide manual was to complement the 25 Association of Chief Police Officers' murder</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 "Murder investigation manual". You can see that this is 2 where this section comes from. Looking then at the 3 bottom of internal page 33, at 2.2.1, where it says 4 "Instigation", this is what the murder investigation 5 manual says: 6 "It is not always obvious from the initial report of 7 an incident that it involves homicide. Reports of 8 bodies found with injuries that may have been caused by 9 an assault, or reports made by those responsible for the 10 homicides, are relatively straightforward and will 11 prompt an appropriate initial response." 12 Turning over the page: 13 "Less obvious scenarios include ..." 14 Then there are a number of bullet points of less 15 obvious scenarios, which include suicides and 16 drugs-related deaths: 17 "If the potential for these reports to involve 18 homicide is overlooked, opportunities to gather 19 significant material may be lost. Where death or 20 serious injury is reported or the circumstances of 21 an incident appear suspicious, call handlers should 22 always think murder." 23 That is all that I need you to look at for the 24 moment, thank you, from that policy. 25 That, as I said, was the national policy which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 investigation manual 2006, which was and remains the 2 main national guidance to the police service for murder 3 investigations. 4 "On 12 November 2008 the Metropolitan Police 5 published a policy statement that introduced the 6 procedures for the investigation of all homicide and 7 unexplained deaths. This was the MPS policy for the 8 investigation of homicide and unexplained death. The 9 actual policy containing the details of the procedures 10 was contained in the London homicide manual. 11 "In January 2011 a project was commenced to review 12 the London homicide manual. This project was led by 13 DCI Wall and DCI Sandlin. Retired DCI Wall's 14 recollection is that all links to the London homicide 15 manual were removed from the MPS intranet and replaced 16 with a message that explained that the London homicide 17 manual was being reviewed and that whilst it was under 18 review, it was the murder investigation manual 2006 that 19 was in effect. Then an MPS-wide message was 20 disseminated containing the same information. 21 "Retired Detective Chief Inspector Wall's 22 recollection is that at some point before the summer of 23 2012 the project concluded with a recommendation that 24 the London homicide manual should be withdrawn 25 permanently, and this recommendation was accepted. The</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 London homicide manual was therefore never republished 2 after its removal from the Metropolitan Police's 3 intranet in early 2011. It is therefore the Association 4 of Chief Police Officers' murder investigation manual 5 2006 that was the applicable policy in the MPS with 6 respect to homicide from January 2011 and there was 7 a link to the ACPO murder investigation manual on the 8 MPS intranet." 9 Coming then to July 2014, the MPS published a policy 10 statement replacing the one that we have just been 11 concerned with, the 12 November policy statement. The 12 new policy statement was called "The homicide and 13 unexplained death policy". The aim of this short policy 14 statement was to introduce the procedures for the 15 investigation of all homicide and unexplained deaths, it 16 contained a hyperlink to the murder investigation 17 manual. 18 Members of the jury, this July 2014 policy 19 statement, the homicide and unexplained death policy, is 20 something that is contained in your jury bundle. It is 21 at tab 19 of bundle A. For the screen, that is IPC62. 22 If you look up at the top, it is a document that we have 23 seen, if you look up at the top, it says under "Title", 24 the third box down, "Homicide and unexplained death 25 policy".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 slightly revised version which you should find in your 2 jury bundles, behind tab 20. 3 The reference for the screen is IPC63. 4 Again, the same exercise, members of the jury, in 5 the boxes at the top you will see the title "Homicide and 6 unexplained death policy -- roles and responsibilities". 7 Then, as we have just heard from Detective 8 Superintendent Soole, the date of the policy, the 9 slightly revised one, is 19 November 2014, which we also 10 see in the boxes -- the box just before the last one, 11 the penultimate one. 12 In December 2014 the MPS homicide policy was 13 published. This is found at tab 21 of your jury bundle 14 A. The reference: MPS602. 15 Turning then to the second of the two MPS policies, 16 the death investigation policy, Detective Superintendent 17 Soole explains in his witness statement at paragraph 48 18 that the death investigation policy and its predecessors 19 deal with deaths that have not been assessed as 20 unnatural, unexplained or suspicious. Starting at 21 paragraph 49 of his statement he says: 22 "In 2011 there was a Metropolitan Police standard 23 operating procedure in place, named primary 24 investigation of crime, standard operating procedure. 25 This standard operating procedure detailed the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Then if you go down the boxes there, "Date created" 2 is July 2014. Again, there is nothing you need to read 3 in this policy for the moment, it is just so that you 4 know that it is there in your bundles should you need 5 it. 6 Before we leave, Detective Superintendent Soole 7 mentioned that there was a link in this policy to the 8 ACPO murder investigation manual 2006, that is to say 9 the national guidance. If you turn over the page, to 10 page 3 of the policy, you will see in the middle of the 11 page, under "Associated documents and policies", ACPO 12 murder investigation manual 2006. That is the link to 13 which Detective Superintendent Soole refers. 14 That document is July 2014. Detective 15 Superintendent Soole goes on to say: 16 "On 11 November 2014 a key roles and 17 responsibilities document was published to support the 18 homicide and unexplained death policy. The aim of this 19 document, the 11 November 2014 key roles and 20 responsibilities, was to set out in a digestible format 21 the roles and responsibilities of officers involved in 22 the initial response and investigation of all homicides 23 and unexplained deaths." 24 On 19 November 2014 a slightly revised version of 25 this November policy was published and it is this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 procedures that officers should follow to investigate 2 crime in the primary stages." 3 Sorry, you can take the document down from the 4 screen. Thank you: 5 "The standard operating procedure was divided into 6 parts. Part 3 detailed the primary investigation of 7 serious violence offences and other assaults. This 8 included the steps officers should take when 9 investigating a death, whether it occurred under 10 suspicious circumstances or otherwise. In 2012/2013 the 11 MPS reviewed the use of standard operating procedures 12 policy and instruction and decided to create instead 13 a product called toolkits to replace the standard 14 operating procedures. The primary investigation of 15 crime standard operating procedure was therefore 16 devolved into various toolkits to ensure that the 17 instruction in the standard operating procedure was 18 clearer and easier to follow. One of the toolkits 19 created from this standard operating procedure was 20 titled "Non-suspicious sudden death". This toolkit was 21 created in June 2013." 22 This is to be found in your jury bundle behind 23 tab 22, so if I could ask you to turn it up, behind 24 tab 22, that is MPS588. Again, there is no need to read 25 the policy, but rather just to register, you see its</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

20 (Pages 77 to 80)

<p>1 title there "Non-suspicious sudden death – primary 2 investigation front line – checklist". 3 At paragraph 77 of his witness statement, Detective 4 Superintendent Soole summarises in a table the homicide 5 and death investigation policies that applied at the 6 time of each of the four deaths being considered in 7 these inquests. That table has been reproduced for you 8 in your jury bundle at tab 24. It will not appear on 9 the screen. Can I ask you, please, to look at that 10 behind tab 24. Members of the jury, you will see, as 11 I have said, this is the table that is contained in 12 Detective Superintendent Soole's witness statement. He 13 has identified the date, the relevant dates, that you 14 will see in the left-hand column, the dates being the 15 dates when the bodies of Anthony, Gabriel, Daniel and 16 Jack, over the page, were discovered. Then you will see 17 in the third column, this is the homicide or unexplained 18 death policy column, and he has identified which is the 19 policy that was applicable at that time. Then, in the 20 far right-hand column, he has identified which of the 21 death investigation or non-suspicious deaths policies 22 was in force at the time. 23 I am going to move away from tables and policies now 24 and read a section of Superintendent Soole's witness 25 statement which provides some information about the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 being better able to understand the risk they are facing 2 and by more thorough vetting of people in positions of 3 responsibility and trust. 4 "(2) understanding the threat posed by terrorism of 5 whatever nature and helping to reduce the risk of 6 terrorist activity. 7 "(3) disrupting and preventing major, serious and 8 organised crime and helping to reduce the harm caused by 9 the most dangerous offenders. 10 "The content of all records within the PND is 11 directly searchable by all users. It allows policing 12 and wider law enforcement agencies to identify 13 intelligence held by other forces and automatically 14 identifies links and associations that were previously 15 unknown. During 2014 and 2015 there were three policy 16 documents explaining and governing how the PND should be 17 used. That is the PND Code of Practice, which sets out 18 the principles governing the effective use of the 19 system. The PND manual of guidance, which is a 63-page 20 document that includes details on how to search the 21 database and then the PND business rules catalogue, 22 a document that contains comprehensive details of the 23 structure and rules on how to use the PND. 24 "All of these documents provide general strategic 25 guidance on the management and usage for the use of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 Police National Database. Starting at paragraph 147 of 2 his statement, he says: 3 "The origins of the Police National Database, or 4 PND, were directly linked to the events of August 2002, 5 when two 11-year old girls, Holly Wells and 6 Jessica Chapman were murdered in Soham by Ian Huntley. 7 The subsequent Bichard Inquiry identified a number of 8 failings, and its first recommendation was for 9 a national police information sharing system, which 10 became the PND. The PND went live in 2011, linking 11 intelligence systems operated by different police forces 12 and law enforcement agencies across the country, to 13 ensure that they had access to each other's data. All 14 UK police forces and a number of law enforcement 15 agencies now upload data and have access to the PND. 16 All records within the PND relate to crime, custody, 17 including custody images, intelligence, child abuse or 18 domestic abuse and are categorised into person, object, 19 organisation, organised crime group, location or event 20 records. 21 "The PND should be viewed as a problem-solving 22 database. It enables better and more informed decision 23 making. The Police National Database or PND's strategic 24 objectives are. 25 "(1) protecting children and vulnerable people by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 PND nationally. The guidance is not MPS specific." 2 Madam, that brings me to the end of what is going to 3 be read from Detective Superintendent Soole's statement. 4 I now was proposing to read extracts from 5 William Couper's witness statement. 6 THE CORONER: Yes. 7 Statement of MR WILLIAM COUPER (read) 8 MS COLLIER: Members of the jury, William Couper is a member 9 of staff in the Metropolitan Police Service. He 10 explains in his statement his role. He says: 11 "I am a band C member of police staff in the MPS, 12 employed in the specialist inquiries unit of the MPS 13 Police National Computer, or PNC, bureau of referencing 14 and vetting directorate." 15 He says he is considered to be a subject matter 16 expert in the PNC and its associated processes, as well 17 as historical criminal record keeping. He has provided 18 a statement where he explains some information about the 19 PNC, the Police National Computer. 20 This is what he says about the PNC: 21 "PNC is a national database of information available 22 to all police forces and law enforcement agencies 23 throughout the United Kingdom. A PNC entry in respect 24 of an individual will contain personal details, any 25 criminal convictions, impending prosecutions, historical</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

21 (Pages 81 to 84)

<p>1 arrest and charge information and the outcome of any 2 criminal prosecutions. 3 "The PNC does not include all of the information 4 that the police force who put the information on to the 5 system holds for the individual in question. Other 6 information might be contained within the various 7 databases owned by the police force in question or other 8 national databases such as the PND [or the Police 9 National Database that we have just heard about]. 10 "Soft intelligence, that is to say intelligence 11 about an individual or an encounter that they have had 12 with the police that has not led to at least an arrest 13 is not contained on the PNC. A search can only be 14 undertaken on the PNC as long as it is for a legitimate 15 policing purpose and the guidelines for use are 16 followed. It is important that the correct transaction 17 code is used and the originator line is completed fully, 18 which provides adequate information as to why the search 19 was being conducted. With regards to using PNC, 20 a legitimate policing purpose is anything that you are 21 required or allowed to do as part of the specific role 22 that you have within the police. 23 "Within the Metropolitan Police Service there are 24 numerous ways of accessing the PNC and each will provide 25 the information as deemed relevant for that system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 any, if any other days, but that is as far as we can 2 take it today with you. 3 10.00 tomorrow morning, please. 4 Tomorrow, in fact, we will be going on the site 5 visit. The weather forecast when I last looked was not 6 bad, but please come appropriately dressed and have 7 appropriate footwear because you will be going on the 8 site visit tomorrow at some point. 9 Thank you very much. 10.00 tomorrow. 10 (12.18 pm) 11 (Proceedings continued in the absence of the jury) 12 (12.20 pm) 13 (The inquests adjourned until 10.00 am the following day) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 Full PNC access is available in desktop form and will 2 provide all information on the requested PNC record. 3 All other access types will be considered PNC light and 4 provide details as to whether any action is required or 5 any harm or warning signal that may be caused. The 6 light versions do not contain historic arrest or 7 disposal histories." 8 Statement of MR CHRISTOPHER SOOLE (read) 9 MS COLLIER: Before I finish, I am helpfully told that there 10 is one paragraph that I did not read out, that I should 11 read out, from Detective Superintendent Soole's 12 statement. I am going to read that now. 13 He says: 14 "It is my understanding that the MPS homicide 15 policy, that is the December 2014 policy, and the MPS 16 key roles and responsibilities document, that is to say 17 the November 2014 document, set out the procedure with 18 respect to HAT that was operated and understood within 19 the MPS throughout the relevant time period, that is to 20 say June 2014 through to September 2015." 21 Thank you. 22 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. 23 Members of the jury, and this will be very unusual, 24 that is in fact as far as we can go today. Please don't 25 think you are going to be finishing before lunchtime on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	

A				B
Abbey 35:3,12,22 36:9,16 39:19,24 41:8	41:2 42:24 76:9	and/or 18:1 71:14	apps 26:18 27:4,14 27:15	automatically 83:13
able 4:25 8:10 14:23 16:5,14,24 17:6 18:19 23:10 23:18 40:13,16 40:18 48:23 62:1 62:2 83:1	added 22:3	anomalies 14:3	area 32:25 33:23 35:24 36:10 39:22 40:1 53:20 55:5	available 7:22 8:25 9:9 10:1 15:20 32:10 38:5 42:3,5,23 43:25 46:10 64:13 65:22 84:21 86:1
absence 60:5 87:11	address 27:18,20 27:21 28:1	answer 5:17 6:24 55:3 59:2,13 61:24	areas 34:14,14,14 43:21 63:20 73:10	aware 34:3 49:9 52:16 69:4
absolutely 4:3 10:16 19:7 26:25 27:7 33:11 34:11 37:13 40:20 53:15 61:19 62:9 62:11 65:16,18 65:23 66:15	addresses 34:3	answering 56:1	arrange 27:17,19 27:24	awful 21:11 48:1
absorb 51:22	adequate 85:18	answers 52:10 59:21	arranged 21:22	awkward 62:3
absorbs 51:23	adjourned 87:13	Anthony 3:4 4:13 15:23 20:18 21:22 22:14 23:19 24:1 40:17 42:23 44:3 46:15 48:3 56:15 81:15	arranging 30:17	
abuse 82:17,18	adjournment 60:7	Anthony's 21:18 22:6 23:25 25:7 49:20 50:8	arrest 20:18 85:1 85:12 86:6	back 2:19 4:10,17 23:6,15 25:9 26:7 27:25 33:19 35:2 39:2 43:6 43:19 46:19 47:23,25 49:13 49:15 51:11,18 51:24 57:9 59:7 60:12 67:2
Academy 2:21	administering 52:2 66:10	anus 52:5	arrested 21:10,23 50:13 66:9,10,12	bad 87:6
accepted 76:25	advice 70:18,19,25 71:13,15	anybody 32:23 54:11	arrive 70:2	Bailey 56:5 57:9
access 34:6,11 36:24 54:22,24 82:13,15 86:1,3	advisers 32:18,21 32:22	anymore 18:13	asked 56:12 63:2	band 84:11
accessing 85:24	agencies 48:16 73:13 82:12,15 83:12 84:22	apart 9:24 32:2 33:23	asking 5:15 26:2 61:11 62:17	bank 36:20,20 37:2,2,6,6
accident 45:9	ago 5:17 35:25	app 28:12	assault 52:4 74:9	Barking 16:18 21:23 27:19 35:3 39:24 41:2,4,7 62:18
accidents 6:6 63:18	agree 45:4,5	appeal 58:13,14,18	assaults 80:7	barristers 57:6 58:16
account 10:6 56:7	aim 75:23 77:13 78:18	appear 9:18 22:18 53:3 74:21 81:8	assess 70:6,14,25	basin 37:8
accounts 28:4 48:21	air 41:16	appeared 70:7	assessed 75:15 79:19	basis 40:6
accused 56:13	Airport 40:9	appearing 67:18	assessment 46:2 70:17,21,24	bearing 67:1
ACPO 77:7 78:8 78:11	allegation 49:24 50:10	appears 31:7	assist 6:22,23	bed 55:14
acquaintances 23:13	allegations 39:9 48:5 49:10,17,22 50:7,8 52:14 56:15,16,17	applicable 77:5 81:19	assistance 64:20	bedsheet 55:11
acronym 7:13 32:17 71:19	allocated 3:14	applicator 51:12 51:14,18	assisted 16:19 61:19,24 62:4,5 65:4	bedsheets 55:9
acronyms 7:6	allocation 68:15 69:19	applied 58:18,23 81:5	associated 8:19 34:4 78:11 84:16	began 29:16 56:4
act 71:24	allowed 47:13 85:21	apply 51:21 58:8 58:10 62:1,5	associates 54:13	begun 7:15 14:19
action 86:4	allows 83:11	applying 51:16	Association 72:24 73:16 75:25 77:3	behalf 61:6 62:17 66:4
actions 53:19 71:23	amount 28:22 53:17 58:3	appreciated 61:9	associations 83:14	behaviour 17:16
activity 22:20,21 83:6	amounts 24:11	approach 48:24	attached 41:17	believe 55:8
actual 12:18 26:1	amplified 60:25	approached 46:25 46:25 52:20 70:1	attack 45:9	believed 34:6
	analysed 19:12 42:21 43:3	approaching 48:14,16	attacks 63:19	belonged 8:5 31:22 63:12
	analyses 43:9	appropriate 46:7 69:9 74:11 87:7	attempted 22:23	belonging 63:22
	analysis 19:16 22:10,13 23:2 24:11 26:14 29:23 30:2 31:7 41:11,25 46:10	appropriately 87:6	attend 70:6,9,12 70:23	
			attender 69:23 70:4	
			August 15:24 82:4	
			authority 40:10	

best 26:8	break 59:14 60:1,3 60:14 67:9	18:15	checks 42:10 43:10	collegiate 6:21
better 44:6,23 82:22 83:1	brief 16:9 61:10	carrying 6:16 55:14,16	chief 3:17 8:6 72:25 73:16	Collier 67:12,14 67:22,24 84:8 86:9
beyond 52:17 63:15	brings 47:20 84:2	case 3:20,21 4:1 17:14 32:4 42:13	75:25 76:21 77:4	column 81:14,17 81:18,20
Bichard 82:7	broad 43:9	58:23 59:1,2	child 55:14 82:17	come 2:18 3:9 4:10 4:17 6:10 11:10 18:17 21:7,22 23:15 25:25 26:7 31:18 32:21 38:15 39:2 43:19 47:23,25 57:9 58:8,10 59:7 72:14 87:6
big 20:5 36:19 55:11,12	broadly 7:8	66:16 70:10 71:7	children 51:13 82:25	comes 6:20 8:12 12:12 74:2
bill 13:8,13	broken 32:1	cases 58:25 59:9 59:10 67:2 71:6 71:9	Chris 68:1	coming 24:15 43:6 43:22 45:18 59:7 67:1 77:9
bins 36:5	brought 40:25 62:24	catalogue 83:21	CHRISTOPHER 1:7,10 67:23 86:8	command 5:24 6:2 6:3,17 7:6,18 68:8 70:18 71:2 71:3,12,18 72:8
bit 3:9 5:19 7:21 11:17,23 13:23 25:1 40:3 56:23 60:13 62:19 64:15	BSG/9 20:22 21:1 22:2	categorically 54:16 55:1,18,21	chronology 15:14 16:22 21:13 49:14,19 50:12 61:16	commenced 3:14 15:9 76:11
blanket 55:13	building 33:25	categories 13:1	61:16	Commission 58:24
blood 41:19 51:24	built 51:8	categorised 82:18	chunks 22:20	committing 31:24
BOCU 17:2	bullet 74:14	category 38:25,25	church 35:3,4 39:24 41:2	communicate 29:6
BOCUs 5:25	bundle 15:11 21:15 24:20 35:6 69:8 73:15,15,18 77:20,21 79:13 80:22 81:8	cause 44:11,17,18 44:18 45:2,6,13 45:16 46:22 47:12 72:6	churchyard 35:14 41:8 54:5	communicating 17:8 27:1
bodies 40:25 42:24 43:24 45:3 51:22 54:4,9,18,20 55:9 74:8 81:15	bundles 24:18 78:4 79:2	caused 74:8 83:8 86:5	CID 68:7 70:11,12 71:5,15 72:4,10	communication 23:1
bodily 41:19	bureau 84:13	CCTV 11:25 39:13 39:16,21 40:4,6 40:10,11,16,23	circumstances 4:20 44:22 74:20 80:10	communications 16:17 22:25 23:4 25:3,10
body 7:9,9 21:18 25:7 41:18 42:17 43:17 44:20,25 45:1,25 46:18 47:2,7,14,15 55:6	buried 46:25	cell 13:20 61:12	civilian 8:8	companies 13:3 15:25
borough 5:21,24 6:16,19 7:3 9:1,4 10:11,24 33:7 38:1,17 39:15 40:22 41:5 62:18 68:6 70:23 71:5 71:10,12,15,16 72:4,9	bushes 36:7	cells 41:22	clarified 72:7	compiling 3:24
boroughs 10:2	business 83:21	cent 53:15	clarify 38:7 60:18	complement 75:24
borrowing 54:25	<hr/> C <hr/>	central 4:2	classed 28:22	complete 17:22 22:23 32:2 73:8
bottles 42:19,20	C 84:11	certain 6:1 16:12 28:20 44:16	classic 41:18	completed 71:24 72:13 85:17
bottom 35:16 36:14 37:7,8 73:25 74:3	call 5:25 12:15,16 13:7,14,20 14:7,9 14:12 22:22 32:11,16,24 34:22 69:25 74:21	certainly 62:1	clear 7:2 10:13 17:25 24:5 27:22 36:18 37:2,22 54:3 55:25 61:19 62:10 65:20 71:10	completeness 55:23
box 67:6 77:24 79:10	called 7:7 9:8 13:15 22:11 33:8 44:4 50:21 51:15 67:17 75:12 77:12 80:13	change 7:13 17:19 18:3 63:7	clearer 80:18	complex 65:4
boxes 78:1 79:5,10	calls 13:10,14,14 13:17,24 14:14 16:13	changed 18:22 36:23	clearly 17:18 25:1 28:25 35:13	complexity 65:14
boys 28:11	camera 39:25	changes 18:4	client 61:9	
branch 63:4	canal 51:23	Chapman 47:8,9 82:6	close 34:17	
brand 12:19	cancer 44:14,16	chapter 73:14	closer 14:10 16:7	
	cannabis 30:22	charge 56:21 85:1	clothing 41:13 42:11 43:17	
	car 9:17 54:24 70:22,22	charged 11:7 48:9 50:18	code 83:17 85:17	
	card 17:22 18:2,7	charges 52:1 53:3 56:13 58:4	coincided 18:24	
		charities 48:17	colleagues 69:17	
		charity 58:24	collect 61:21	
		chatting 29:7		
		checklist 81:2		

<p>comprehensive 23:13 83:22</p> <p>computer 8:23 9:6 9:7,22 10:1 20:5 20:22 21:3 22:10 22:12 23:2,8,10 25:23 26:14,15 28:15 29:23 84:13,19</p> <p>computers 8:23 9:7 18:14 19:6 19:10,18 20:3</p> <p>concealed 33:23</p> <p>concerned 16:23 49:20 53:13 57:23 68:19 77:11</p> <p>concluded 76:23</p> <p>conclusion 47:9,10</p> <p>conduct 32:11 35:20 41:25 45:22 47:2 69:22 73:5</p> <p>conducted 5:21 11:14 17:2 22:10 28:7,19 29:23 30:2 31:16 34:4 41:11 42:6,10 43:24 44:20,23 45:17,23 47:5,8 85:19</p> <p>conducting 32:7 32:14 49:2</p> <p>connect 14:2,5</p> <p>connected 53:20</p> <p>connection 10:24 31:23 38:10</p> <p>connects 61:14</p> <p>conscious 61:1</p> <p>consecutive 21:5</p> <p>consider 54:6</p> <p>considerable 28:21</p> <p>consideration 37:1</p> <p>considered 81:6 84:15 86:3</p> <p>consistent 30:16 47:10</p> <p>consists 73:4</p>	<p>constables 8:7</p> <p>constant 27:2</p> <p>consulted 69:16</p> <p>contact 23:25 48:19 70:4,11,16</p> <p>contacted 70:24</p> <p>contacting 30:16</p> <p>contain 19:19 84:24 86:6</p> <p>contained 75:20 76:10 77:16,20 81:11 85:6,13</p> <p>container 34:24</p> <p>containing 76:9,20</p> <p>contains 5:8 83:22</p> <p>content 13:17 19:20 83:10</p> <p>contents 19:12 34:24 67:19 73:11</p> <p>context 12:7 14:5</p> <p>continue 11:8 71:4</p> <p>continued 87:11</p> <p>contrary 41:15</p> <p>conversation 19:24,25 25:22 26:1 48:22 62:8</p> <p>conversations 17:13</p> <p>conveyed 55:6,15</p> <p>convicted 58:17 59:3</p> <p>conviction 58:19</p> <p>convictions 84:25</p> <p>Cooke 35:17,22 54:5</p> <p>copy 5:7</p> <p>core 8:13 32:12</p> <p>corner 36:14,15</p> <p>coroner 2:3 5:23 6:9 7:12 10:23 47:1 57:22,25 59:13,18,20,22 60:1,10,17,22 61:8 62:14,20,22 66:1,22 67:8,13 72:13 84:6 86:22</p> <p>coroner's 3:3</p> <p>coroners 73:14</p>	<p>corporate 6:7</p> <p>correct 3:8 4:21 7:11 8:18 9:3 13:4,22 15:18 16:3,8,21 18:25 20:24 22:8 23:6 24:4 25:5,15,19 25:24 26:6 28:16 31:9 38:2,19 39:8,20 42:15 43:5 44:2 49:5 49:12 50:14 56:19 64:8 65:6 65:15 69:18 85:16</p> <p>counsel 67:14</p> <p>countries 52:24</p> <p>country 14:1 82:12</p> <p>counts 56:14 57:16</p> <p>Couper 1:9 84:7,8</p> <p>Couper's 84:5</p> <p>couple 9:3 18:21 36:15 45:18</p> <p>course 8:15 18:3 18:17 21:24 22:9 23:15 24:13 25:7 28:14 33:18 36:1 38:20 43:19,20 46:4 47:25 48:4 63:2 69:12,13</p> <p>court 3:25 56:5 58:18</p> <p>cover 38:7,9 43:22 48:5 55:16 68:25</p> <p>coverage 41:1</p> <p>covered 39:23 40:1 56:11 68:20 75:16</p> <p>covers 33:24</p> <p>Craig 22:11 30:13 30:14</p> <p>create 80:12</p> <p>created 20:8 71:20 78:1 80:19,21</p> <p>cremated 46:19</p> <p>CRI 71:19 72:1</p> <p>crime 2:21 6:3 63:3,9,10,11,16</p>	<p>63:17,24 64:1,10 65:2,4,10,17 68:7 70:18 71:19,21 79:24 80:2,15 82:16,19 83:8</p> <p>crimes 6:1 10:2 31:24</p> <p>criminal 3:23 46:23 58:23,25 65:12 70:11 72:10 84:17,25 85:2</p> <p>criminality 28:7</p> <p>CRIS 71:20,24</p> <p>cross-referenced 9:22</p> <p>cross-references 64:20,21</p> <p>current 2:20,21 73:3</p> <p>currently 68:10</p> <p>custody 82:16,17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>dangerous 83:9</p> <p>Daniel 3:5 15:24 23:20 42:13,23 44:4 46:16 48:3 54:5 56:16 62:10 81:15</p> <p>Daniel's 4:14 40:17 51:1 61:7 61:23</p> <p>darkness 55:16</p> <p>data 12:13,23 13:7 14:15,17,18,20 15:2,3,4,6,19,25 16:15 17:9 18:12 18:14 61:15,20 64:18 82:13,15</p> <p>database 9:15,19 9:21 64:18 65:1 68:22 69:6 82:1 82:3,22,23 83:21 84:21 85:9</p> <p>databases 85:7,8</p> <p>date 15:16 20:7 21:9,17 22:1 25:6 49:16,22 50:4 78:1 79:8</p>	<p>81:13</p> <p>dated 68:1</p> <p>dates 15:8,22 21:12 64:21 81:13,14,15</p> <p>dating 23:8 26:18 26:22 28:10,12</p> <p>day 3:23,23 26:25 26:25 87:13</p> <p>days 16:1 19:18 30:25 36:16 40:7 40:8,11 50:12 56:6,24 57:13 87:1</p> <p>DC 22:11 30:2,5,8</p> <p>DCI 76:13,13,13</p> <p>dead 15:23</p> <p>deal 5:8,25 6:5 19:17 20:14 67:10,12 73:11 75:14 79:19</p> <p>deals 72:15</p> <p>dealt 19:17</p> <p>death 4:13,15 15:1 16:6 17:19,19,25 22:6 39:25 40:2 40:17,19 44:12 44:17,18,18 45:2 45:7,13,16 46:2 46:22 47:12 49:20 50:2,8 61:18,23 68:17 69:4,21,25 70:2 70:10,19 71:25 72:5 74:19 75:7 75:16 76:8 77:13 77:19,24 78:18 79:6,16,18 80:9 80:20 81:1,5,18 81:21</p> <p>deaths 3:4,6 4:15 4:20 5:22 10:25 14:24 16:1 17:17 18:24 28:5 39:16 40:13 43:23 46:7 49:19,25 53:19 53:23 54:17 61:22 66:19 68:19,20 69:5</p>
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72:16 74:16 75:15,16 76:7 77:15 78:23 79:19 81:6,21 deceased 31:25 34:18 42:20 43:14 44:20 deceaseds' 42:10 December 68:1 79:12 86:15 decide 59:14 70:6 decided 80:12 decision 71:1,6,11 71:18,24 72:8 82:22 decisions 72:2 deemed 30:18 70:19 85:25 deeply 54:14 Definitely 13:18 definitive 6:24 degree 6:1,18 9:23 delete 28:9,12 deleted 19:21,22 22:19,20,23 deletion 48:21 Dellen 1:4 59:18 59:19 61:5,6 62:12 department 6:4,5 7:17 33:11 63:10 63:12 64:1,6,10 70:11 72:11 departments 6:3 9:3 32:20 63:6 depending 59:21 deployed 69:24 depth 36:21 38:12 46:1 deputy 75:23 describe 5:18 7:7 31:15 64:15 described 8:14 36:4 40:12 46:14 49:9 63:22 describing 24:24 35:24 63:24 desktop 86:1 detail 3:10 4:22	5:8 6:14 7:23 23:15 24:13,14 34:2 43:8,9,20 45:16 46:11 49:18 50:16 57:15,18 detailed 22:13 24:11 38:9,9 79:25 80:6 details 26:16,18 76:9 83:20,22 84:24 86:4 detective 2:7,8,13 3:17,19,21 8:6,6 8:7,7 9:9 67:16 67:25 68:2,5,10 68:24 69:15 70:13,14,15,16 70:23 71:2 72:1 72:14,18,22 73:22 75:1,4 76:21 78:6,13,14 79:7,16 81:3,12 84:3 86:11 detectives 2:22 6:20 30:13 72:11 determine 44:17 44:21,25 45:2,8 46:22 54:23 developed 48:7 development 29:24 31:6 Developments 71:16 device 12:22 20:13 30:18 devices 11:20 19:3 19:9,13 23:1,23 31:11 devolved 80:16 DI 61:6 die 44:22 58:10 died 39:2 44:15,21 45:8 47:11 49:21 50:11 dies 44:11 difference 44:9 different 7:2 10:13 11:10,13 13:5	21:25 24:20 27:2 28:23 29:4 36:1 36:17 46:10 47:21 64:2,24 65:10 75:6 82:11 differing 34:19 47:4 difficult 62:22 difficulty 5:11 digestible 78:20 direct 23:16,19,25 24:6 directly 36:24 48:16 82:4 83:11 director 68:7 84:14 disagree 45:4 discard 34:25 discarded 31:23 34:12 discerned 17:16 discover 4:19 5:1 discovered 21:18 81:16 discreet 51:4 discussed 50:20 discussions 73:12 dismantling 33:22 dismissed 58:20 disposal 18:1 86:7 dispose 17:23,24 disposing 17:21 18:10,11 disprove 55:21,22 disputed 67:20 disrupting 83:7 disseminated 76:20 distance 17:22 36:3,20 distinct 5:20 distinctly 12:13,22 36:17 disused 36:18 divided 80:5 DNA 12:1 41:11 41:11,14,16,18 41:20,22,25 42:10 43:4,9,14	43:15 Dobbin 1:5 59:23 59:24 62:16,17 62:21,23 65:24 doctor 44:13,15 document 62:24 62:25 63:8 65:8 73:7,10 77:22 78:14,17,19 80:3 83:20,22 86:16 86:17 documents 20:8 64:19 78:11 83:16,24 dog 32:20 doing 18:6,9 30:11 domain 48:10 domestic 82:18 doubt 19:12 21:12 downloaded 20:1 20:10 Dr 1:4 47:8,9 59:18,19 61:5,6 62:12 drains 34:21,22,23 35:2 36:4 draw 8:10 dressed 87:6 drink 50:25,25 51:6,9 52:1 drinking 31:3 driving 14:8 drug 28:22 29:2,3 29:8,15 30:19,24 50:21,21,23 62:9 66:10 drugging 28:8 51:25 drugs 26:3 27:6 29:19,21,25 30:20 31:6 51:22 drugs-related 74:16 due 8:15 14:25 18:17 22:9 24:13 34:19 43:20 46:19 58:3 63:2 65:13 69:12 Duffield 3:18	duty 70:9 <hr/> E <hr/> earlier 16:23 18:24 21:9 22:25 37:21 40:23 47:10,24 early 77:3 easier 36:12 51:21 80:18 easy 40:4 edition 73:2,4 EE 12:14 effect 76:19 effective 15:1 83:18 effectively 11:4 20:5 37:5 52:3 efforts 61:8 eight 49:7 52:13 either 17:19 18:1 26:22 45:4 51:14 51:25 52:19 69:7 72:5 electronic 11:19 19:3,9 20:13 31:11 electronically 24:9 element 64:19 elements 52:25 eliminate 9:24 emerged 28:3,6 emerging 18:1 employed 84:12 enable 9:13 22:13 23:3 61:21 71:1 enabled 61:17 enables 82:22 encompass 73:11 encounter 30:22 85:11 encounter/hookup 27:3 ended 56:3 enforcement 82:12 82:14 83:12 84:22 engage 52:19,22 52:25 enquiries 6:22,24
---	--	--	--	--

11:18 12:4,6 13:2 14:21,23 17:3 19:2 24:2 40:3,14 47:21 53:17 72:7 enquiry 17:5 43:21 ensure 53:22 69:17 80:16 82:13 ensuring 3:24 entailed 33:22 entire 39:22 entirely 69:8 entirety 14:12 33:25 entry 84:23 equate 37:22 essentially 7:15 9:15,20 10:21 11:11 13:9 18:8 18:15 30:9 31:21 32:3 34:23 46:1 51:16 58:24 64:3 64:17 65:1 establish 45:6 54:11,14 established 44:12 event 40:5 72:12 82:19 events 50:11 82:4 ever-evolving 41:22 everybody 9:24 12:10 64:22 evidence 3:24 4:8 4:10 5:13 6:10 6:11 8:12 12:12 12:13,18 16:16 16:24 17:6,14 18:17 21:19 23:18 38:15 39:13 40:17 45:19 46:6 47:4 47:15 53:1,4,21 54:3,7 55:7,17 57:1,4,5,8,10,12 60:13 63:6 64:17 66:18 67:10,11	67:17,19 71:9,11 evidential 3:25 32:4 evolved 12:8 26:23 27:15 exact 8:1 exactly 16:11 examination 44:19 44:20 examine 44:25 45:6 examined 45:25 example 19:9 25:12,21 40:23 71:7 examples 33:15 excuse 57:4 exercise 79:4 exhibit 20:22 21:7 21:7 41:12 exhibits 42:9 43:2 exhume 47:1 exhumed 47:7 expand 35:7 expanded 48:5 expect 5:25 11:16 expected 69:10 expert 84:16 explain 44:8 68:13 69:16 explained 10:23 15:8,19 24:16 61:13 76:16 explaining 83:16 explains 69:19 72:23 75:5,10 79:17 84:10,18 extended 63:15 extensive 28:21 29:22 48:19 53:17 54:23 extensively 39:22 42:1 extract 73:15 extracts 84:4	21:20,20 23:18 24:6 25:2,20,25 28:14 39:15 40:21 47:6,10 50:11 61:15,17 86:24 87:4 facts 54:1 factual 4:11 failings 82:8 fair 53:8 fairly 63:7 fall 65:3 familiar 35:10 39:14 family 17:9 46:25 far 16:23 37:6 43:2 81:20 86:24 87:1 featured 49:6,7 52:14 February 49:25 feeds 48:12 felt 52:21 finally 26:12 55:23 58:12 find 19:23 20:6 27:21 29:11 31:21 32:4 37:12 38:16 40:16 41:3 59:13 69:11 79:1 findings 30:6 45:3 45:5 fine 49:18 57:15 fingerprints 47:14 fingertip 31:17 32:8 36:11 finish 39:11 86:9 finished 11:3 52:9 finishing 86:25 first 2:6 4:7,12 7:25 10:19 11:17 12:4 13:1,7 15:1 20:16,17 21:4,10 25:8,13,16 26:17 33:16 39:13 42:9 46:22 47:23 49:19,24 52:12 53:9 54:11,19 58:21 66:6 69:23 70:3,4 75:18	82:8 firstly 61:7 68:15 five 50:12 53:8,8 five-minute 27:20 flag 9:19 flat 21:23 22:3 33:16,22 34:1,17 35:18 flats 36:22 fluid 41:19 focus 12:25 69:2 focused 59:8 Focusing 20:12 folder 5:3 follow 63:15 80:1 80:18 followed 24:3 25:13 68:16 69:3 85:16 following 12:5 87:13 foot 55:11 footage 39:16,18 39:21,24 40:4,6,8 41:3,6,7 footprint 28:12 footwear 87:7 force 81:22 85:4,7 forces 82:11,14 83:13 84:22 forecast 87:5 foreign 52:24 forensic 20:10 45:12,22 46:14 47:7 forensically 43:13 forensics 8:12 41:23 form 21:4 30:10 32:22 86:1 format 78:20 found 15:23 24:8 25:8 31:11 34:18 36:10 40:23 41:5 41:5,7 42:14,17 42:20 43:9,16 48:19 54:6 55:6 57:18,22 73:18 74:8 79:13 80:22	four 3:4,6 4:7,20 10:19 14:24 17:17 43:23 48:9 49:1 53:13 57:23 58:4 66:7,12,14 66:19 81:6 frequently 63:7 fresh 41:16 friend 17:8 18:20 31:1 61:11,16 62:6 friends 23:12 48:14 front 5:4,12 20:9 20:11 45:19 81:2 fulfilling 2:19 full 2:12 22:10 23:13 36:20 86:1 fully 22:17 59:1 85:17 functionality 9:12 functioning 40:1 further 38:3,4,8 41:5 47:3 52:18 59:21 62:13 70:18 72:6,12
G				
G 31:2 Gabriel 3:5 4:14 15:23 24:7,9 40:17 42:16 44:5 46:17,18 48:3 54:4 56:16 81:15 gain 22:13 gardens 36:7 gather 60:12 74:18 gay 28:25 29:1 GBL 50:21 general 4:24 7:25 9:12 19:15 26:13 35:24 40:10 43:12,13 44:24 50:17 53:6 83:24 generally 14:1,5 15:19 18:4,5,12 27:16 28:25 29:9 40:6 45:5 48:8 55:9 geography 34:20				

<p>GHB 31:2,8 47:12 47:13 50:21 51:17,22 girls 82:5 give 2:12 3:11 4:8 4:10 5:13 7:23 7:25 10:6 13:6 14:7,17,19 19:15 26:16,19 33:4,14 38:15 45:19 50:17 51:13 52:25 53:6 57:3 57:9,12 64:5 given 10:15 20:22 36:24 38:20 52:11 54:1 56:22 58:9 64:22 glass 51:4 go 4:22 5:3 14:9 24:14,19 25:9 36:1,22 41:24 65:8 78:1 86:24 goes 34:23 78:15 going 4:5,8,9,22,23 5:9 11:17,23 13:14 18:20 23:6 24:11,13,19 34:2 37:19 39:2 40:17 50:16 51:20 57:15 59:14 60:16 67:2,12,15 67:17,20,24 72:20 81:23 84:2 86:12,25 87:4,7 good 2:3,5 governing 83:16 83:18 grateful 59:5 67:5 great 5:8 20:14 73:11 greater 38:10 greatly 61:9 green 35:11 40:24 greeting 29:13 ground 6:18,21 11:22 35:3,4 39:24 47:2 grounds 35:12,23 39:19 41:2</p>	<p>group 32:12 38:25 39:1 82:19 guidance 72:19,21 72:24 73:4 76:2 78:9 83:19,25 84:1 guide 73:9 guidelines 85:15 guilty 56:21 57:18 57:19,20,22 guise 51:10 gully 34:22 guy 55:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>hair 41:21 half 19:17 21:16 24:25 29:11 57:3 hand 23:17 53:22 handler 32:20 handlers 74:21 handset 12:18 17:10,21,21,23 17:24 18:2,8,9 19:23 20:2,5 handsets 18:13 26:23 happen 67:20 happened 47:6 happening 25:22 happens 25:8 happy 44:15 hard 11:2,6 harm 83:8 86:5 HAT 70:17,21,22 70:25,25 71:13 71:17 86:18 head 60:25 hear 6:10,11 7:1,6 7:8 8:12,15 16:16 18:18 20:25 21:10,19 22:9 39:14 42:19 43:22 44:3,7 46:4,5 48:25 54:3 60:13,19,20 60:24 62:22 67:17 69:1 heard 3:2 5:21 21:11,18 31:25</p>	<p>48:1,18 57:2,4,5 79:7 85:9 hearing 45:20 heart 45:9 Heathrow 40:9 held 12:20,22 15:25 17:9,11,12 20:21 25:23 28:10 62:2 63:10 83:13 help 4:5 26:8 32:4 62:19 63:3 65:8 helped 16:9 helpful 5:5 12:25 14:22 44:7 helpfully 86:9 helping 83:5,8 helps 65:9 hidden 34:9 high 65:11 high-level 3:11 highly 33:2 45:21 hill 14:4 59:16,17 hiring 54:25 historic 86:6 historical 84:17,25 histories 86:7 history 12:21 19:19,19 20:6,7 22:14,17,24 holds 41:14 85:5 Holly 82:5 HOLMES 9:8 10:1,6 37:20 64:14,15,18 65:5 65:14,20,21,23 home 27:18,20,21 28:1 32:16,17 41:9 45:17,22 homicide 2:22 6:2 6:4,4,8,17,20 7:6 7:18 63:10,11,16 63:20,24 64:1,10 65:17 68:8,9,12 70:17,18,21,24 71:2,3,7,9,12,18 72:8 73:9,13 74:7,18 75:7,9,11 75:12,14,18,20</p>	<p>75:24 76:6,8,10 76:12,14,16,24 77:1,6,12,15,19 77:24 78:18 79:12 81:4,17 86:14 homicides 74:10 78:22 hoover 34:23 hospital 44:13,24 hour 4:24 29:12 hours 29:16 house 27:24 29:10 29:15 huge 34:23 36:22 54:16 Hughes 60:11 human 9:22 64:18 64:20 hundreds 23:11 27:1,7 36:1 Huntley 82:6 hyperlink 77:16 hypothesis 55:7,17 hypothetically 9:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>Ian 82:6 idea 7:25 10:6 18:20 19:15 24:15 42:8 50:17 53:6 identified 21:21 27:11 52:18 72:6 81:13,18,20 82:7 identifies 75:1 83:14 identify 26:9 48:24 83:12 images 20:7 82:17 imagine 29:12 35:20 iMessages 14:16 immediately 66:11 impending 84:25 implication 66:13 importance 57:21 important 26:9 47:18,19 85:16</p>	<p>improved 65:21 improving 60:21 incessant 26:25 incident 8:16,22 8:24 17:18 70:6 70:15,25 71:19 74:7,21 incidents 15:5 63:19 65:13 include 74:13,15 85:3 included 75:22 80:8 includes 83:20 including 19:9 37:7 68:6 73:12 82:17 Incoming 13:14 indexed 9:21 indicate 14:11 66:24 indicates 15:16 indication 14:7,18 56:22 indictment 52:14 56:14,14 57:17 individual 10:21 59:8 62:9,10 64:25 84:24 85:5 85:11 individuals 49:10 industrial 6:6 63:18 infanticide 63:18 73:6 inform 70:8,15 information 13:5 13:11 19:16 20:15 23:3 26:15 38:5 61:21 66:17 69:17 73:12 76:20 81:25 82:9 84:18,21 85:1,3,4 85:6,18,25 86:2 informed 82:22 initial 5:22 6:10 38:21 39:15,16 42:25 69:22 74:6 74:11 78:22</p>
---	---	---	--	--

initially 3:20 21:25	14:15 19:19 20:6	40:22 42:4,6,7	joined 68:4	54:20 58:12
initials 21:4	22:14,24 28:19	59:10 66:19	journey 14:19	59:11 61:25
injuries 74:8	28:24	68:15 69:5,20	29:12	68:24 69:11 78:4
injury 45:25 74:20	intersperse 29:7	71:25 72:16 73:5	Judge 56:5	knowing 50:24
input 9:22	interspersed 49:25	76:3	July 75:19 77:9,18	known 3:20 8:15
INQ00038 15:12	interviewed 22:1	investigative 71:14	78:2,14	13:20 14:17 38:6
21:15 49:15	intranet 76:15	investigators	June 15:23 21:18	knows 11:16
inquest 5:6 67:15	77:3,8	38:17 73:8	22:1 30:21 49:20	Kovari 3:5 24:7,9
inquests 4:6 49:2	introduce 77:14	involve 74:17	80:21 86:20	
69:13 73:14 81:7	introduced 9:15	involved 7:3 8:3	junior 67:14	L
87:13	10:16 76:5	46:5 54:8,12,17	jury 2:2,3 3:2,11	label 64:6,8
inquiries 68:9	introduction 4:4	78:21	4:4,6 15:11,11	laboratory 20:10
84:12	investigate 7:16	involvement 3:1	18:18 21:10,15	laced 51:22
inquiry 10:17	53:10 65:11,17	54:15	21:15 24:5,14,18	laid 53:3
20:20 82:7	73:9 80:1	involves 74:7	24:18,20 26:8	laptop 19:9 20:9
inserted 51:11	investigated 8:13	IPC 62:25	30:5 35:5,5,9,20	20:17,18 21:8
inspector 2:7,8,13	71:4	IPC000132 35:6	38:14 42:8,19	22:2,7,17,22 23:2
2:25 3:18 4:6 8:6	investigates 15:17	IPC000741 24:22	44:3 46:4 48:1	23:21,24 26:22
11:13 15:14 21:8	investigating 2:22	IPC12733 73:19	49:14 54:2 55:25	30:15
21:17 24:10,23	9:1 10:2 39:9	IPC35 73:21	56:8 57:14 58:13	laptops 20:3,4
25:1 26:12 28:18	48:2 61:22 66:7	IPC62 77:21	60:3,5,9,12 63:1	large 9:15,20
30:4 35:11 37:10	75:21,22,23 80:9	IPC63 79:3	66:24 67:14,24	30:25 32:7 55:3
47:20 49:16	investigation 3:1,4	iPhone 12:19	69:8 73:15,15,20	64:18 65:1,1
50:16 55:23 59:5	3:12,15,23 4:13	issue 6:12 44:17	73:21 77:18,20	lasted 11:2 13:11
62:17 63:1 65:24	4:25 5:19 7:5,19	issues 6:1 11:10	79:2,4,13 80:22	56:22
66:4 70:9,15,16	8:4,5,20,21 9:13	italics 30:8	81:8,10 84:8	lastly 12:2 17:15
70:24 72:1 76:21	9:18,20 10:7	item 21:2 41:13	86:23 87:11	29:18
inspectors 8:6	11:3,5,8,13 12:7	43:16 45:24	jury's 7:2 52:11	launched 66:7
instance 9:18 14:8	12:24 14:22 20:4	51:15 52:5	justice 21:24 59:1	law 82:12,14 83:12
14:15 17:8 44:14	20:16 22:5,19	items 34:12 42:2,5	justified 32:24	84:22
45:14	23:25 33:7,9,9	42:6,9	33:13	lead 46:12 71:16
Instigation 74:4	37:13 38:7,13			leading 50:2
instruction 80:12	45:16 48:5 54:23	J	K	leads 27:5
80:17	56:3 61:18 63:23	Jack 3:5 10:25	keep 62:23 72:1	learned 61:11,16
intelligence 82:11	64:4,5,8,9,11,12	16:11,17,18	keeping 18:9	62:6
82:17 83:13	68:20 69:23	23:20 39:25 40:2	84:17	leave 41:20,23
85:10,10	70:11 71:3,16,22	41:3,8 44:5	kept 16:2	67:6 78:6
intended 73:7	72:3,9,10,12,25	46:21,24 47:2,3,8	key 78:16,19 86:16	leaving 29:10 41:8
intensive 31:16	73:2,6,13,17 74:1	47:11 48:3 49:21	kickboards 33:23	led 3:17 39:6 68:8
37:10	74:4 75:7,17	50:11 51:1 54:5	killed 53:12,13,16	76:12 85:12
intent 52:2	76:1,6,8,18 77:4	56:16 81:16	kindly 61:12,16	left 32:2
intention 4:9	77:7,15,16 78:8	Jack's 4:15 16:6	62:7	left-hand 25:6
interest 37:13	78:12,22 79:16	40:19 47:7,14,15	Kingdom 84:23	35:8 36:14 81:14
interested 59:12	79:18,24 80:6,14	50:2 61:18	kitchen 33:24	legal 58:19
interesting 31:19	81:2,5,21	January 31:4	knew 17:7	legitimate 85:14
interests 30:11	investigations 4:14	75:18 76:11 77:6	know 2:25 4:6 7:3	85:20
internal 73:20	5:22 6:11,16,17	Jessica 82:6	8:1 10:22 12:8	length 12:15
74:3	11:19 17:3 38:1	job 64:7	13:24 25:7 26:24	lengthy 22:12
internet 12:21	38:21 39:15	jobs 32:19	27:23 31:20	let's 9:1 12:3,25
		John 64:23,24	45:11 49:18 54:2	19:3 21:13 33:14

49:14 51:2,2 letters 21:4 level 4:22 72:9 licensed 32:17,22 33:21 45:22 life 30:11 52:22 58:5,7,9 lifting 34:21 light 86:3,6 Lilford 3:2,9,13 4:19,25 5:16 7:18,22 8:3,4,13 8:17 9:10 10:5 10:10,22 11:1,14 12:9 14:24 15:1 15:9,15 19:8,12 22:9 27:17 28:6 31:16 32:10 33:19 38:23 41:25 43:25 46:9 46:13 48:1,4 54:6 61:9 66:7 66:17 Lilford's 59:9 line 14:4 25:16,16 26:25 27:1 81:2 85:17 line-by-line 25:2 lines 22:21 23:11 25:12 27:4,8 33:2 link 24:8 43:13 77:7 78:7,12 linked 3:7 65:12 82:4 linking 82:10 links 9:16 76:14 83:14 listed 65:19 literally 29:3 33:22,24 55:15 little 5:19 7:21 11:17,23 13:23 19:6 42:20 60:13 live 57:4,5 67:17 67:18 82:10 lives 28:8 living 47:24 48:6 48:14,22 49:3,6,7	49:17,23,24 50:1 50:7,19 52:12,17 52:24 53:2 56:18 local 5:23 6:1,19 17:2 20:16 40:10 40:10 41:5 55:5 located 37:15,17 location 82:19 locations 31:14,17 log 71:24 London 75:12,17 75:20,24 76:10 76:12,14,16,24 77:1 long 2:15 5:7 11:1 11:2 13:11 30:24 47:21 85:14 longer 40:9 53:18 55:2 61:20 look 15:6,11 21:13 24:16,20,22 25:16 26:1,7 29:1 30:9 35:5 39:16,21 40:4,18 41:13 45:1,3 47:13,14 49:14 63:2 73:20 74:23 77:22,23 81:9 looked 20:7,20 29:19 47:16,16 54:13 55:2,4 87:5 looking 9:25 25:11 27:10 28:2,17,20 30:3 31:18,19,20 31:21 32:3 36:17 37:12 40:23 46:23 49:18 50:9 50:11 74:2 lost 15:6 74:19 lot 18:14 21:11 23:7 40:9 46:11 48:1 57:1 love 7:13 lube 51:15 lubricant 51:10,17 51:18,21 lunchtime 86:25 lying 42:14	M	50:8 55:21 68:25 mean 12:6 means 18:3 58:10 media 26:18 28:4 48:13,20 medical 44:13 45:14 medicine 51:13 meet 27:14,16,17 27:19,22,24,25 29:10 30:17 46:2 meeting 27:12 28:11 29:10,13 member 2:15 5:18 17:9 44:11 70:1 84:8,11 members 2:3 8:8 15:10 21:14 24:18 35:5,9 48:11 49:13 60:3 60:12 66:24 67:14,24 73:21 77:18 79:4 81:10 84:8 86:23 memory 5:11 men 27:15 28:9 34:18 36:10 43:14,23 44:3 49:2 53:13,16 55:12 57:23 mention 25:21 mentioned 6:9 9:7 13:5,19 19:5 21:8 22:25 24:10 27:6 29:19 30:2 30:19 32:9,12 37:2,14,21 40:2 43:6,16 47:23 52:12 57:25 78:7 meph 31:5 mephedrone 31:5 message 14:13 19:21 29:20 30:12 60:19 76:16,19 messages 30:10,15 30:18,18 31:1 messaging 19:20 23:7,11,16,17,19	24:6 27:2,3,4,8,9 27:14 28:13 30:20 48:19 52:21 met 16:18 28:7 48:15 metres 36:21 Metropolitan 2:14 2:16 3:16 7:13 9:4 32:15 33:12 63:7 66:5 68:3 71:21 72:20 75:3 75:6 76:4 77:2 79:22 84:9 85:23 Metropolitan-wi... 32:23 microphone 60:24 62:20 middle 6:18,21 21:6 35:12 78:10 millions 28:23 mind 7:2 15:8 24:5 28:11 42:9 67:1 minds 32:6 52:11 55:25 mine 17:11 minimum 58:7 minute 2:18 minutes 26:1 mirror-image 17:10 miscarriage 58:25 missing 31:25 65:12 mix 51:17 mobile 12:10,11 12:12 13:3 14:2 14:2,6 17:12 19:5,10,17 32:1,1 35:1 modern 36:22 moment 3:10 5:17 31:18 33:6 35:25 39:3 51:19,19 74:24 78:3 months 56:7 57:3 61:21 morning 2:3,6 87:3
--	--	----------	--	---

<p>mortem 44:9,10 44:19,23 45:12 45:12 46:15,15 46:21,24 47:3,5,7 47:17,18 72:6</p> <p>mortems 42:25 43:24 44:4,6 45:11,17,23 46:7 46:11</p> <p>mortician 44:24 45:6</p> <p>move 11:12 14:9 19:3 25:12 31:12 41:11 81:23</p> <p>moved 2:4 33:25 54:4,20</p> <p>moving 10:22 28:17 37:19 54:9</p> <p>MPS 3:1 68:3,4,8 76:7,15 77:5,8,9 79:12,15 80:11 84:1,11,12 86:14 86:15,19</p> <p>MPS-wide 76:19</p> <p>MPS588 80:24</p> <p>MPS602 79:14</p> <p>murder 5:18 6:5 7:4,16 8:4,21 9:18,20 11:2,5 32:13 33:9 45:15 48:2,2 49:1 56:16 58:4,6 64:2,9 72:25 73:2,5,6,16 74:1 74:4,22 75:25 76:2,18 77:4,7,16 78:8,12</p> <p>murdered 82:6</p> <p>murdering 57:22</p> <p>murders 9:17 48:10 66:8,12,14</p> <p>music 12:21</p> <p>mystery 5:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name 2:12,13 7:13 9:8 21:6</p> <p>named 3:1 79:23</p> <p>names 7:14 64:21</p> <p>national 68:22</p>	<p>69:6 72:19,21,24 74:25 76:2 78:9 82:1,3,9,23 84:13 84:19,21 85:8,9</p> <p>nationally 84:1</p> <p>natural 37:6</p> <p>nature 65:13 70:15 83:5</p> <p>navigate 26:9</p> <p>nearest 14:1,6</p> <p>nearly 52:8</p> <p>need 38:12 41:12 49:18 69:1 74:23 78:2,4 80:24</p> <p>needed 15:6 16:14 38:7 45:1 47:4 71:23</p> <p>needle 31:2 47:14 51:13</p> <p>needs 44:12 45:16</p> <p>negligence 45:14</p> <p>never 37:16,16 58:10 77:1</p> <p>new 2:22 29:6 77:12</p> <p>news 32:8 58:14</p> <p>nigh 12:10 41:23</p> <p>non-suspicious 68:21 70:7 72:17 80:20 81:1,21</p> <p>normal 32:19 36:2 44:22</p> <p>normally 33:6</p> <p>note 73:24</p> <p>November 30:23 50:2 56:3,3,9 57:15 76:4 77:11 78:16,19,24,25 79:9 86:17</p> <p>noxious 52:2</p> <p>nth 9:23</p> <p>number 8:1,2 10:4 10:18,20 13:10 13:16 17:20 18:4 18:8,10,16,22 19:8 20:22 21:5 25:17 30:25 31:17 42:5 52:1 52:3,17 53:6</p>	<p>54:21 56:6 57:13 57:16 61:12 64:22,25 68:5,12 74:14 82:7,14</p> <p>numbers 8:14 13:12,13,15 21:7 32:7</p> <p>numerous 8:10 48:11 54:13 68:9 85:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O'Connor 1:3 2:6 2:8,11,12 60:11 60:18 61:11 62:7 67:5,9</p> <p>O2 12:14</p> <p>object 82:18</p> <p>objectives 82:24</p> <p>Objects 42:16</p> <p>obliged 15:4</p> <p>oblique 21:5</p> <p>obsessed 27:8</p> <p>obsession 27:7 29:2</p> <p>obtain 15:7 16:5 16:14,24 17:6 23:10,18 39:17 39:18 47:3,15 54:7</p> <p>obtained 66:18</p> <p>obvious 40:9 60:23 71:7 74:6,13,15</p> <p>obviously 6:5 12:8 16:6 18:14 28:8 28:23 40:11 43:2 43:7,25 46:22 48:10 56:6 57:16 64:4</p> <p>occasion 22:2</p> <p>occasions 4:7,17 18:21</p> <p>occurred 69:21 80:9</p> <p>October 1:1 3:6 10:23 11:5 15:9 15:15,16 30:21 50:3,4,5,12 56:4 75:20</p> <p>offence 9:2 11:7</p>	<p>offences 6:6 9:17 49:3 50:1,17 52:4 57:19 58:3 58:4 73:5 80:7</p> <p>offender 9:24</p> <p>offenders 9:24 83:9</p> <p>offered 50:25</p> <p>Office 32:16,17 45:17,22</p> <p>officer 2:17 3:21 3:21 21:3 30:13 32:19 68:2 69:21 70:9,13 75:22,23</p> <p>officers 2:23 8:2,9 8:11 10:11 17:2 20:17 21:5 32:7 32:14,15,17,18 62:18 69:24 72:11 75:21 78:21 80:1,8</p> <p>Officers' 72:25 73:16 75:25 77:4</p> <p>Okay 12:25</p> <p>old 56:5 57:9 82:5</p> <p>old-fashioned 11:21 31:13</p> <p>on-duty 70:16</p> <p>once 20:9 44:20</p> <p>ongoing 71:14</p> <p>online 23:7,9,12 26:22 27:2,14,23 29:7</p> <p>onwards 30:16</p> <p>open 5:4,12 21:14 44:25</p> <p>opening 3:3 6:9</p> <p>Openshaw 56:5</p> <p>operated 50:20 70:22 82:11 86:18</p> <p>operating 54:12 54:13 79:23,24 79:25 80:5,11,14 80:15,17,19</p> <p>Operation 3:2,9 3:13 4:19 5:16 7:18,22 8:3,4,13 8:17 9:10 10:5</p>	<p>10:10,22 11:1,14 12:9 14:24 15:1 15:9,15 19:8,12 22:9 27:17 28:6 31:16 32:10 33:19 38:23 41:25 43:25 46:9 46:13 48:1,4 54:6 59:9 61:9 66:6,17</p> <p>Operational 5:24</p> <p>operations 63:4,9 70:18</p> <p>opportunities 74:18</p> <p>opportunity 62:4 66:25</p> <p>opposite 13:12</p> <p>options 6:15</p> <p>order 41:13 69:17</p> <p>ordinary 44:5,10</p> <p>organisation 82:19</p> <p>organisational 65:14</p> <p>organisations 7:3</p> <p>organised 82:19 83:8</p> <p>organs 45:1</p> <p>original 4:13 20:20 22:5 38:6 38:12 42:3,5</p> <p>originator 85:17</p> <p>origins 82:3</p> <p>other's 82:13</p> <p>outcome 85:1</p> <p>outlined 5:23 7:12 22:18</p> <p>outset 3:13</p> <p>outside 27:19 32:11 34:14 36:7</p> <p>outwards 13:14</p> <p>overarching 73:10</p> <p>overdose 47:13</p> <p>overlooked 74:18</p> <p>oversight 68:11</p> <p>overview 73:11</p> <p>overwhelmingly 57:18,20</p> <p>owned 12:19 85:7</p>
--	---	---	--	---

ownership 10:11 54:25	peak 14:4 pen 21:2 penchant/genre 28:25 penetrate 52:5 penetration 51:20 52:4 penultimate 79:11 people 7:16 10:21 11:6 12:14 27:2 27:12,16,22 29:6 30:16 32:11,13 32:25 39:1,7 45:21 48:24 53:7 53:12 57:6 64:24 66:11 82:25 83:2 perfect 35:8 perform 46:24 performing 8:9 perimeter 36:11 period 14:25 15:5 16:13,23 17:1 18:22 38:11 44:16 45:19 50:9 51:5 86:19 periods 22:20 29:11 34:7 permanently 76:25 person 10:16,18 21:22 26:2 42:21 44:21 45:8 53:18 54:17 57:5 82:18 personal 84:24 persons 59:12 65:12 perspective 33:4 46:9 perverting 21:24 phone 12:10,12,19 12:20 13:3,13 14:2,2,6 17:9,12 17:21,22 18:1,7,8 18:11,16,22 35:1 40:3 61:13 phones 12:11 17:7 19:5,10,18 32:1,1 37:14 40:12,15 photographed	45:25 photographers 45:24 photographs 12:21 photos 17:13 19:20 phrases 29:4 physical 11:21 31:13 physically 55:15 picture 23:14 30:10 32:6 51:8 piece 41:12 53:21 54:16 piecing 16:20 pings 61:13 place 6:25 11:4 14:25 33:22 49:20 69:4 72:24 79:23 places 33:5,15 40:7,8 64:21 plans 35:9 plastic 51:12,14,16 plead 56:20 pleaded 56:21 please 2:9,12 21:14 24:22 49:13 61:1 62:19 62:25 81:9 86:24 87:3,6 plenty 21:19 46:6 pluck 41:16 plus 23:2 56:24 pm 87:10,12 PNC 84:13,16,19 84:20,21,23 85:3 85:13,14,19,24 86:1,2,3 PND 68:22 69:6 82:4,10,10,15,16 82:21 83:10,16 83:17,19,21,23 84:1 85:8 PND's 82:23 pockets 18:15 point 11:9 15:14 23:24 29:9 69:9	76:22 87:8 points 26:13 74:14 police 2:14,16,17 2:20 3:16 7:13 8:2,2,8 9:1,4 10:24 12:7,23 13:2 14:22 20:19 21:25 32:15 33:12 40:4 45:23 63:7 66:5 68:3 68:16,22 69:3,5,6 70:5 71:21 72:20 72:25 73:16 75:3 75:6,25 76:2,4 77:4 79:22 82:1 82:3,9,11,14,23 84:9,11,13,19,22 85:4,7,8,12,22,23 Police's 77:2 policies 63:1 68:18 69:4,7,10 72:15 72:19 75:4,6 78:11 79:15 81:5 81:21,23 policing 5:21,24 6:1 7:4 9:5 83:11 85:15,20 policy 63:5 73:22 74:24,25 75:7,8,9 75:10,11,12,14 75:17 76:5,7,9 77:5,9,11,12,13 77:13,18,19,25 78:3,7,10,18,25 79:6,8,12,16,18 80:12,25 81:18 81:19 83:15 86:15,15 POLSA 32:17,22 pornography 27:5 28:22,24 29:1,2,4 29:8,8,16 Port 5:1 10:25 11:4 16:17,18 17:18 18:20,21 20:12 21:9,21 22:16 23:4,17,19 24:1,6,8 25:4,18 26:3 30:16,20,23	31:4 34:4 39:2 41:4 43:13 47:24 48:9 49:11 50:13 50:18 52:15 53:12 54:4 56:12 56:20,21 57:12 58:1,14 62:8 66:13 Port's 16:25 17:7 17:16 22:14,15 22:17 26:14 29:19,24 33:16 35:17 43:4,15 48:25 55:24 posed 83:4 position 52:21 positions 83:2 possession 20:19 possibilities 54:21 possible 55:5 possibly 28:11 36:12 67:6 post 42:25 43:24 44:4,6,9,10,19,23 45:11,12,12,17 45:22 46:6,11,15 46:15,21,24 47:3 47:5,7,17,18 72:5 potential 48:20 65:2 74:17 potentially 55:10 55:13 practice 27:10 69:24 83:17 practitioner 44:13 45:14 pre-made 51:18 predecessor 75:12 predecessors 75:14,17 79:18 predominant 65:18 Predominantly 63:20 premises 34:8,12 prepared 3:25 5:5 22:12 presence 2:2 60:9 present 45:23,24
---------------------------------	--	--	---	---

press 48:11	proposing 84:4	56:11 59:6,7,12	recollection 76:14	released 67:7
Presumably 39:6	prosecute 53:5	59:16,19,24 61:5	76:22	relevant 30:19
preventing 83:7	prosecution 52:23	61:6,10,12 62:13	recommendation	34:7 54:15 69:7
previous 48:13	prosecutions	62:16,17 66:3,4	76:23,25 82:8	72:16,24 73:10
66:18	84:25 85:2	66:21,22 67:3	reconstruct 23:3	75:6 81:13 85:25
previously 38:1	protecting 82:25	quickly 71:7	record 72:2 84:17	86:19
83:14	prove 11:8 53:17	quiet 29:11	86:2	relocated 37:16
primacy 6:12,19	55:18	quite 12:12 24:21	recorded 46:1	remain 71:10
6:20,23 71:6,10	provide 12:14,23	32:7 36:19 37:10	71:23	72:10
71:13,17,19 72:4	27:18 71:13	37:11 53:1 55:11	records 82:16,20	remains 6:19 73:3
72:7	83:24 85:24 86:2	57:1 60:23 62:22	83:10	76:1
primary 79:23	86:4	quote 30:4	recover 22:22	reminding 15:22
80:2,6,14 81:1	provided 12:13	quoted 73:23	39:23	remit 63:15 65:3
principles 83:18	13:15 16:11	<hr/> R <hr/>	rectal 51:23	removal 77:2
prior 10:11 30:9	19:16 20:14	range 37:10 49:16	reduce 83:5,8	removed 76:15
prison 58:9,10,11	69:18 84:17	49:22	refer 5:13 10:4	render 50:22
prisons 63:19	providers 12:14	rank 3:21 70:13	reference 63:11	repatriated 46:18
privacy 53:2	12:23 14:11 15:3	rape 28:22 29:2,4	64:22 65:20,21	replace 80:13
private 36:6	16:15	29:8,16	79:3,14	replaced 76:15
proactively 48:23	provides 17:20	rapes 52:7 65:12	references 21:7	replacing 77:10
probably 8:1	73:8,10 81:25	re-referred 71:17	referencing 84:13	replied 31:1
problem 40:25	85:18	reach 47:9	referred 5:16 7:5	reply 26:3
41:1 60:14	providing 27:21	reached 47:11	20:25 56:17	report 68:17 72:12
problem-solving	proving 32:5	read 1:8,9,11 20:1	61:14 63:4 69:12	74:6
82:21	public 34:14 36:5	30:5 57:6 67:15	referring 69:8	reported 74:20
procedure 79:23	44:11 48:10,11	67:19,23,24 69:9	refers 65:11 72:18	reporting 71:21
79:24,25 80:5,15	70:1	69:10 73:22 78:2	78:13	reports 22:12 44:1
80:17,19 86:17	published 73:3	80:24 81:24 84:3	reflective 17:10	46:16 48:12,12
procedures 68:16	75:18 76:5 77:9	84:4,7 86:8,10,11	refresh 38:11	74:7,9,17
69:3 76:6,9	78:17,25 79:13	86:12	regard 30:6	representation
77:14 80:1,11,14	purpose 52:6	reading 20:2 30:9	regarding 56:17	58:19
proceedings 4:8	85:15,20	48:11 67:11	62:9 69:5	represented 58:16
87:11	purposes 5:6,6	68:12	Regardless 71:18	reproduced 81:7
process 24:16	12:25 24:21 42:2	ready 3:25	regards 8:11 55:9	republished 75:19
61:13 71:22	57:21	real 29:1	85:19	77:1
processes 84:16	pursue 52:22	realistically 40:16	register 80:25	request 47:1
produce 41:18	put 18:7 64:18	really 13:1,7 23:13	registered 45:18	requested 71:15
product 24:10	85:4	26:4,16 32:6	relate 82:16	86:2
80:13	<hr/> Q <hr/>	33:3,8 37:10	related 52:1 53:10	require 15:4 65:14
profile 28:9	question 41:2	53:4 55:23 56:11	71:19	required 70:20
programmes	45:13 53:9,10,11	reason 32:24	relating 11:19	85:21 86:4
41:15	54:10,19 56:12	33:13	14:24 16:1 17:16	residential 34:3
progression 3:23	60:21 62:6 66:6	reasons 40:10,15	22:12 28:3 49:3	resource 32:23
project 76:11,12	66:25 85:5,7	52:19 53:4	56:15	33:6 71:14
76:23	questioners 61:2	reburied 47:8	relation 16:6	resources 7:21
prompt 74:11	questions 1:3,4,5,6	receive 68:17	17:17 20:18	32:10 64:13
properties 11:22	2:11 5:16 11:12	received 13:20	28:18 49:3 50:18	respect 42:23
31:14	47:22 52:9,9	14:13 58:2	53:20 67:1	52:14 77:6 84:23
property 34:12	54:1 55:24 56:1	receiving 25:14	relatively 74:10	86:18

<p>response 59:2 69:22,25 74:11 78:22</p> <p>responsibilities 75:21 78:17,20 78:21 79:6 86:16</p> <p>responsibility 68:11 83:3</p> <p>responsible 3:22 53:23 66:14 74:9</p> <p>rest 57:20</p> <p>restricted 33:8</p> <p>result 44:15 57:17 58:15</p> <p>results 46:14 59:9 72:6</p> <p>resume 60:2</p> <p>retail 36:18</p> <p>retain 15:3,4 18:12 18:13 40:8,9 72:4</p> <p>retained 19:23 61:15,20 71:12</p> <p>retired 3:18 76:13 76:21</p> <p>retrieved 17:13</p> <p>retrospectively 15:20</p> <p>return 41:8</p> <p>returned 56:8 57:14</p> <p>returning 41:7</p> <p>review 45:7 58:23 58:24 76:11,18</p> <p>reviewed 53:19,21 59:1 76:17 80:11</p> <p>revised 75:19 78:24 79:1,9</p> <p>revisited 38:8</p> <p>Richards 1:2 2:7,8 2:10,13 59:12 60:23 61:6 66:4 66:23 67:6,18</p> <p>Ricky 61:7</p> <p>right 2:8 4:16 6:15 7:1 19:8 21:17 29:22 31:15 32:12 33:14 35:16 37:24 39:4</p>	<p>40:21 42:8 48:3 56:18 57:1 58:13 59:20 60:3 64:9 65:2,18 67:3</p> <p>right-hand 26:2 36:13 81:20</p> <p>Ripper 9:16</p> <p>risk 65:12,14 83:1 83:5</p> <p>river 36:18,19,20 36:25 37:3,8</p> <p>road 36:25 45:8</p> <p>role 2:18,20,21 3:12,20 4:2 8:9 84:10 85:21</p> <p>roles 68:6 75:21,22 78:16,19,21 79:6 86:16</p> <p>rolling 40:6</p> <p>room 8:16,22,22 8:24</p> <p>round 13:12 55:13</p> <p>route 34:18 35:22 36:6,9 41:6,8</p> <p>routes 34:19,20 35:3</p> <p>routine 45:11 46:17</p> <p>row 60:12</p> <p>rule 40:7</p> <p>ruled 54:21</p> <p>rules 83:21,23</p> <p>run 8:17 33:14</p> <p>running 10:17</p> <p>runs 36:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>saliva 41:19</p> <p>samples 42:24</p> <p>Samsung 12:19</p> <p>Sandlin 76:13</p> <p>sat 56:5</p> <p>saw 27:16 33:18 50:5</p> <p>saying 29:21 40:21 51:6,9</p> <p>says 69:20 73:1,25 74:3,5 75:9,13 77:23 79:21 82:2 84:10,15,20</p>	<p>86:13</p> <p>SC&O1 7:8 63:9</p> <p>scale 10:6</p> <p>scanning 64:19</p> <p>scenarios 74:13,15</p> <p>scene 69:25 70:3,6 70:12,23</p> <p>schedule 25:3,9 62:7</p> <p>schedules 24:11,17 24:24 26:7</p> <p>screen 15:10,12 24:21 35:6 49:13 49:15 73:19,21 77:21 79:3 80:4 81:9</p> <p>screens 2:4</p> <p>search 19:19 20:6 22:14,17,24 32:16,18,21,22 32:22,25 33:3,21 33:25 34:25 83:20 85:13,18</p> <p>searchable 83:11</p> <p>searched 22:3 33:5 33:15,18,19,21 34:7,15,20,21 36:4,8,11,19</p> <p>searches 8:11 11:21,22 28:19 29:3,5 31:13,13 31:17 32:8,11,14 33:5 34:4 37:3 37:11</p> <p>searching 33:1</p> <p>seated 55:10</p> <p>second 4:14 38:25 39:1 53:10 62:6 79:15</p> <p>Secondly 68:18</p> <p>section 25:13,14 26:12 29:18 30:8 37:5 47:21 74:2 81:24</p> <p>sectioned 37:7</p> <p>sections 4:11 12:12 25:20 26:10 39:11 43:7 54:10</p>	<p>securely 59:3</p> <p>see 2:5 5:3 13:8,13 14:21 15:14,16 15:22 20:25 21:16,17 22:1,19 23:16 24:25 25:1 25:6,12,16,20 32:8,25 35:11,16 35:17,21 36:12 37:4 41:13 43:3 48:21 53:20 54:2 58:25 59:11 62:2 63:11 65:9,11 73:25 74:1 78:10 79:5,10 80:25 81:10,14,16</p> <p>seeing 44:16 62:4</p> <p>seen 30:19 34:16 36:23 44:12 52:20 58:13 61:25 77:23</p> <p>seized 19:8 20:4,10 20:13,14,17 21:2 21:9 22:3,5,7 23:24 42:7</p> <p>seizing 21:3</p> <p>semen 41:19</p> <p>send 30:12</p> <p>sending 14:16 25:13</p> <p>senior 2:22 68:2 75:22,23</p> <p>sense 4:5 67:7</p> <p>sent 14:13 25:17 25:17</p> <p>sentence 58:1,6</p> <p>sentenced 58:3,5,6 58:17</p> <p>sentences 44:8</p> <p>separate 12:22</p> <p>separately 12:20 39:3</p> <p>September 15:24 49:21 86:20</p> <p>sergeant 3:19,22 70:5,14,14</p> <p>sergeants 8:7</p> <p>series 11:12 63:19</p> <p>serious 6:2 65:4,13</p>	<p>74:20 80:7 83:7</p> <p>serve 58:8</p> <p>served 68:5</p> <p>service 2:20 75:3 76:2 84:9 85:23</p> <p>Service's 71:21</p> <p>serving 68:10</p> <p>session 14:17,18 14:20</p> <p>set 78:20 86:17</p> <p>sets 83:17</p> <p>setting 65:9</p> <p>settling 21:12</p> <p>seven 11:14 53:8</p> <p>severity 6:2</p> <p>sex 27:5 30:24 51:19,21 63:19</p> <p>sexual 27:3 30:22 51:10,17,17,21 52:2,5 57:19</p> <p>sharing 82:9</p> <p>shedding 41:21,21</p> <p>sheet 42:13</p> <p>shooter 51:15</p> <p>shooting 71:8</p> <p>shop 40:10</p> <p>shopping 55:4,19</p> <p>short 31:5 36:3 39:11 59:19 60:1 60:3,7 77:13</p> <p>shorter 31:12 40:18</p> <p>shot 51:1,3</p> <p>shoulder 55:14</p> <p>show 9:16 25:10 41:6 43:10</p> <p>showed 29:24 61:17</p> <p>showing 25:3 40:24 62:7</p> <p>shrubbery 36:7</p> <p>side 12:17 25:6 26:2 35:8</p> <p>sight 14:4</p> <p>signal 86:5</p> <p>significant 74:19</p> <p>SIM 17:20,22,23 17:24 18:2,3,7,10 18:15</p>
--	--	---	--	---

similar 25:10	65:7 80:3	10:4,15,17 12:5	34:17 59:1	supervisor 70:5,8
simply 38:11 53:1 58:12	sort 4:11 13:11	19:4 26:19 28:17	steps 46:13 71:14 80:8	suppliers 15:7
SIMs 18:12	21:12 27:3,10	30:3 31:16 38:9	sticks 33:1	support 8:8 55:7 55:18 65:5,15
single 53:21 56:21	28:20 32:12 36:7 49:18	38:11,16,18	stored 10:5	71:14 78:17
site 28:10 61:12 87:4,8	source 39:13	67:15,23,25 68:1	story 21:25	suppose 32:6
sites 23:9 28:20	sources 26:15 29:24	68:4,13,25 69:10	straightforward 74:10	sure 7:25 37:11 53:15 60:22
siting 13:21	space 35:11 36:8 40:24	69:15,16 72:15	strain 41:4	surreptitiously 50:23
situ 45:4	speak 60:24	72:19,22 73:24	stranger 63:19	suspected 48:2 66:8,13
six 53:8,8 56:23	speaking 7:8 18:4 18:5 60:11	75:2,5,10 76:5	strategic 82:23 83:24	suspicion 72:6
Skelton 1:6 59:20 59:21 66:1,2,3,4 66:21	special 44:4,9 45:12 46:6,11,15	77:10,11,12,14	street 27:25 32:20 35:17,22 54:5	suspicious 68:21 70:7,10,19 71:25
skin 41:21	46:24 47:3,18	77:19 79:17,21	strict 67:7	72:17 74:21
Skype 23:8 25:21 25:22 29:20	72:5	81:3,12,25 82:2	strong 53:5	75:16 79:20
30:15,25 62:8	specialist 7:9,16 8:10,20 33:9	84:3,5,7,10,18	strongest 14:6	80:10
sleep 55:15	63:3,9,10 64:13	86:8,12	structure 83:23	swiftly 28:10 29:13
slightly 78:24 79:1 79:9	68:7 70:17 84:12	statements 10:5,7 10:9,19,21 37:21	struggling 60:13	sworn 1:2 2:9,10
Slovakia 46:19	specific 63:12 72:20 75:4 84:1	37:25,25 38:3,4,8	subject 17:15 31:12 52:2 84:15	syringe 51:12,14 51:16 52:6
slower 51:5	85:21	38:21,22 39:4,5,7	subjects 43:19	system 8:23 9:6,7 10:1 37:20 51:24
small 18:14 19:18 22:21 32:22	spelt 9:8	states 68:5	subsequent 52:7 82:7	64:14 65:5 71:20
smaller 55:12	square 35:16	station 27:19 41:4	succeeding 75:11	71:21 82:9 83:19
smartphone 27:15	staff 8:3,8,8,23 84:9,11	stature 55:12	suck 35:2 51:18	85:5,25
Smith 64:23,24	stage 16:16 58:21 59:15,17 60:2,4 66:23 67:3	stay 6:23	sucker 34:22	systems 23:7 82:11
social 26:17 28:4 48:20	stages 80:2	stayed 28:14	sucks 34:24	
Soft 85:10	stand 36:16	step-by-step 73:8	sudden 68:17 69:4 69:21 80:20 81:1	T
Soham 82:6	standalone 73:7	Stephen 5:1 10:25 11:4 16:17,18,25	sufficient 24:21 71:11	tab 15:11 21:15 35:6 73:18 77:21
solved 60:14	standard 46:21 47:17 79:22,24	17:7,16,18 18:6,9	suggests 30:20	79:2,13 80:23,24
somebody 11:7 22:20 28:7	79:25 80:5,11,13	18:20,21 20:12	suicides 74:15	81:8,10
somebody's 30:10	80:15,17,19	21:9,21 22:15,16	suitcases 55:3,19	table 81:4,7,11
someone's 18:7 44:18	start 5:15 15:16 43:6 51:3 56:2	22:17 23:4,12,17	summarises 81:4	tables 81:23
Soole 1:7,10 67:23 68:1,2 72:18,23	66:14,16 72:21	24:1,6,8 25:4,18	summary 3:11 16:9 30:12 56:15 70:21	tactics 73:12
73:23 75:1,4	started 10:22 14:8 15:15 51:2 56:1	26:3,14,22 27:14	summer 76:22	take 6:25 10:8 12:3 16:22 18:6
78:6,13,15 79:8	starting 3:6 4:11 12:16 30:7 31:7	28:9,21 29:6,19	sunglasses 42:16	26:11 34:19
79:17 81:4 86:8	75:9 79:20 82:1	29:24 31:23 32:5	superintendent 67:16,25 68:2,11	35:22 36:25 37:9
Soole's 68:25 69:15 72:15	starts 11:6	34:4,6 35:17	68:24 69:15 71:2	38:3,8 39:6
81:12,24 84:3 86:11	statement 1:7,9,10 5:5,8,12 7:24	36:24 38:10 39:2	72:14,18,23	46:13 50:15,25
soon 48:9		41:4,7 43:4,13,15	73:23 75:1,4	56:7 57:3 60:1
sorry 22:16 50:2		47:24 48:9,25	78:6,13,15 79:8	80:3,8 87:2
		49:11 50:13,18	79:16 81:4,12,24	taken 6:17 10:10 14:25 17:13
		50:20 51:7,10,17	84:3 86:11	19:20 30:21,23
		51:20,25 52:15		31:4 32:2 33:23
		53:4,12,16 54:4		
		54:12,18,20		
		55:10,24 56:12		
		56:20,21 57:12		
		58:1,3,5,9,14,16		
		58:18 66:9,13		
		Stephen's 22:22 28:24 29:15		

37:25 38:4 41:6 42:24 51:6,9 71:3,17 72:8 talk 2:18 3:9 27:23 33:5 39:3 talking 27:4 31:2 32:9 37:3,20 tariff 58:5,7,9 Taylor 3:5 10:25 16:11 23:20 41:3 46:21 Taylor's 39:25 40:2 47:2 teach 2:22 team 3:14,15,17 3:19 5:19 6:20 7:5 8:4,5,9,13,21 30:14 32:13 33:10,21 38:18 63:23,25 64:4,5,5 64:8,9,11,12,14 65:3,10 69:22 70:17,21,24 teams 3:15 5:21 8:11 32:18,23 64:2,11 68:12 technician 60:16 technology 23:7 26:23 41:22 telephone 11:18 12:4,6,17 13:24 14:10,21,23 15:25 17:3,17,20 19:2 telephones 12:8 16:25 television 33:1 41:15 tell 5:19 11:15 13:23 16:9 48:6 51:20 58:1 62:3 69:14 telling 4:18 30:23 31:4 tells 68:3 term 44:23 terminology 62:19 terms 9:12 19:15 22:25 23:16 29:2	43:12 terrorism 83:4 terrorist 83:6 test 5:11 text 14:13 17:12 thank 2:24 5:14 15:13 16:4,22 19:1 26:11 28:2 29:18 31:6,10 35:8 37:9,9,18 41:10 43:18 46:3 47:20 50:15 52:8 53:25 56:10 59:4 59:22 60:4,17 61:3,8 62:12,13 62:14 65:24,25 66:2,21 67:4,13 67:22 74:24 80:4 86:21,22 87:9 theory 55:8,17 thing 7:7 things 21:23 22:11 38:6 40:11 41:19 43:3,15 53:1 55:4,19 68:14 think 2:4,6 29:22 36:21 48:14 52:13 55:6 60:1 60:14,18,23 64:2 65:2 74:22 86:25 thinking 26:16,18 third 73:2 77:24 81:17 Thirdly 68:22 Thomas 22:11 30:2,5,13 Thomas's 30:8 thorough 83:2 thought 34:9 46:7 thousand 13:25 thousands 13:25 23:11 27:1,7 threat 83:4 three 4:11 10:18 16:1 21:4 34:17 40:12 52:9 61:22 68:13 83:15 thumb 40:7 till 50:2	Tim 3:18 time 3:17,19 5:7 6:24 7:10 10:16 12:9,15 14:25 15:3,24 16:7 17:18 18:6 20:7 22:4,7,20 23:6,10 26:24 29:17 30:24 31:24 32:8 32:9 34:7 38:10 38:21 39:16,24 40:1,19 42:25 43:8 46:20 50:9 54:22 58:17 59:11 64:2 66:6 66:9 68:19 81:6 81:19,22 86:19 timeframe 40:19 times 12:15 16:12 18:11 22:19 54:15 64:21 timescale 50:6 timing 40:15 timings 28:20 29:5 29:14 tip 33:1,1 title 77:23 81:1 title" Homicide 79:5 titled 80:20 titles 63:6 today 4:7,9,23 67:10 69:1,2 86:24 87:2 told 7:4 18:21 21:24 39:6 60:15 86:9 tomorrow 87:3,4,8 87:9 toolkit 80:20 toolkits 80:13,16 80:18 top 14:4 21:16 24:25 63:5 77:22 77:23 79:5 topic 25:25 topics 12:3 total 10:8,12 30:17 touch 41:20	toxicity 47:13 trace 41:23 traditional 13:13 13:24 14:14 traffic 45:9 train 27:19 trained 33:2 45:6 45:21 transaction 85:16 transporting 54:18 travel 52:25 trial 11:4,9,9 48:25 49:6,8 55:25 56:2,4,13 56:22 57:7,17 58:15,17 tried 49:1,2 52:15 trolleys 55:5,19 trust 83:3 try 26:4 40:13 58:14 trying 31:2 60:16 62:2 turn 12:3 60:25 73:17 78:9 80:23 turning 60:15 74:12 75:3 79:15 TV 48:12 Twitter 48:12 two 10:18,19 12:11 12:12 13:1,5 21:6,20 22:12 24:2 25:20 44:3 44:5 46:7,8,10,12 48:8 54:10 57:3 58:16 59:19,24 61:10 75:5 79:15 82:5 type 19:16 28:18 35:21 42:8 65:4 typed 72:2 types 11:13 13:5 28:23 46:10 47:21 50:17 63:16,17 65:10 65:16,19 86:3 typically 70:13 typing 64:19	U UK 82:14 ultimate 28:8 ultimately 23:23 39:5 71:1 unconscious 50:22 undergrowth 33:2 understand 5:1 38:14 40:3 83:1 understanding 22:14 83:4 86:14 understood 86:18 undertaken 85:14 underwater 37:3 unexpected 44:19 unexplained 70:7 70:10 71:25 72:5 75:15 76:7,8 77:13,15,19,24 78:18,23 79:6,20 81:17 unfortunately 41:16 44:14 unglamorously 8:22 uniform 32:19 uninformed 69:21 69:24 70:4,8,8 72:11 uninitiated 64:16 unit 84:12 United 84:23 units 5:24 33:24 unknown 25:17 44:19 83:15 unnatural 75:15 79:20 unsure 31:3 unusual 86:23 upload 82:15 urban 14:5 usage 83:25 use 8:24 9:4,13 14:15 16:25 17:7 17:17 21:6 23:8 25:11 26:15,17 27:3 29:3,19,21 29:24 30:19 31:6 31:7 32:24 33:12
--	---	--	---	---

55:18 61:18 80:11 83:18,23 83:25 85:15 useful 39:18 41:14 users 83:11 uses 21:3 usual 58:7 69:23 usually 69:22 72:4	volume 60:15 vulnerable 82:25	whilst 29:7 45:3 67:16 69:14 76:17 Whitworth 3:5 23:20 42:13 wide 36:21 37:10 wider 83:12 William 1:9 84:5,7 84:8 wine 51:4 wished 52:22 withdrawn 76:24 witness 2:6,9 5:5 5:12 7:24 10:4,7 10:9 17:11 18:18 18:19 30:3 57:9 67:1,6,25 68:13 68:25 69:14 72:15,22 73:23 75:1,10 79:17 81:3,12,24 84:5 witnesses 10:14,14 11:24 17:7 18:18 37:20,23,24 38:15,20 57:4,5,6 57:8 67:18 wonder 24:16 26:12 30:4 62:18 63:2 64:14 word 44:6 67:7 words 4:2 work 6:7 11:6 40:7 46:16 54:16 worked 6:3 63:21 working 6:21 56:6 68:6,7 73:13 wouldn't 10:3,13 27:18 40:16 wrap 55:13 wrapped 55:10 written 30:14 50:4 63:8 72:2	years 2:17 7:14 12:9 68:6 yellow 36:13 yesterday 3:3 5:23 6:9 10:23 21:10 21:11,19 57:22 57:25 66:24 Yorkshire 9:16 young 28:9 34:18 36:10 43:14,23 44:3 49:1 53:13 53:16 55:12 57:23	2 1:2,3 8:6 10:20 64:5,12 65:8,14 65:20,21 83:4 2.2.1 74:3 20 69:19 79:2 2002 82:4 2004 75:18 2006 73:1,3 76:1 76:18 77:5 78:8 78:12 2008 75:19 76:4 2009 75:20 2011 30:15 76:11 77:3,6 79:22 82:10 2012 25:7 26:4 29:20,21 30:21 49:25 76:23 2012/2013 80:10 2013 30:23 31:8 80:21 2014 2:19 7:15 15:23 16:24 22:1 25:8,11 31:4 33:19 49:20 63:13 65:22 68:18 72:23 77:9 77:18 78:2,14,16 78:19,24 79:9,12 83:15 86:15,17 86:20 2014/2015 50:9 2015 2:19 3:6 10:23 15:9,15 49:21 50:3,4,5 68:18 72:23 83:15 86:20 2016 2:19 11:5 56:3,3,4,9 57:15 63:13 2020 68:1 2021 1:1 21 3:15 64:2 79:13 22 12:5 80:23,24 23 56:9 73:18 24 61:21 81:8,10 25 57:5 26 22:1 57:6,6 29 2:17	
<hr/> V <hr/> van 1:4 59:18,19 61:5,6 62:12 varied 8:2 various 80:16 85:6 varying 6:3 7:14 8:11 23:12 32:20 52:19 53:4 vehicles 54:22 55:19 64:21 verdicts 56:8 57:14 versa 17:24 version 36:13 65:21 78:24 79:1 versions 20:5 86:6 vessel 34:24 vetting 83:2 84:14 vice 17:23 victim 28:13 29:14 49:24 victim's 37:14 victims 23:5 28:5 31:22,25 34:13 39:1 47:24 48:6 48:13,20,23 49:4 49:6,7,17,23 50:1 50:7,19,21,24 51:20,25 52:12 52:17,18 53:2 56:18 57:19 view 20:11 28:24 36:17,18 viewed 28:21 82:21 viewing 29:8,9,15 violence 80:7 visit 35:21 36:15 87:5,8 vodka 51:1 voice 62:23	<hr/> W <hr/> Walgate 3:4 23:19 Walgate's 4:13 walk 27:20,25 36:2 36:3 walking 41:4 Wall 76:13 Wall's 76:13,21 want 6:14 7:21 11:12 15:11 30:7 35:5 44:6,22 52:8,19,25 60:18 wanted 7:1 19:1 31:10 46:24 49:16 53:2 55:24 59:6 warning 86:5 wasn't 53:5,24 water 36:14 37:5 Waumsley 61:7 way 4:4 13:12 25:21 27:22 28:3 34:21 36:5,17 37:7 40:22 50:20 50:23 53:12,21 55:5 60:15 63:23 ways 17:10 36:1,2 36:3 47:4 48:8 48:18 54:24 85:24 wearing 42:16 weather 87:5 Wednesday 1:1 week 4:12 21:20 21:21 weekends 56:7 weeks 38:16 43:22 54:3 56:6,23 59:7 weighed 45:24 Wells 82:5 went 16:18 17:11 29:11,16 53:17 82:10 WhatsApp 14:16 23:1 whichever 12:19	<hr/> X <hr/> <hr/> Y <hr/> year 11:5,11 15:2 15:20 30:21 38:17 40:4,13 56:2 61:15	<hr/> Z <hr/> zoom 21:16 24:25	<hr/> 0 <hr/> <hr/> 1 <hr/> 1 3:15 8:4,6 15:11 21:15 25:17 63:9 64:4,12 82:25 10 50:4,12 10.00 2:1 87:3,9,13 100 53:15 100,000 30:17 101 69:25 11 68:1 78:16,19 11-year 82:5 11.19 60:6 11.30 60:2,8 11/10 50:5 12 7:23 76:4 77:11 12-month 15:5 16:13 12.18 87:10 12.20 87:12 147 82:1 15 15:16 26:19,20 27:10 16 8:7 56:5 17 28:17 18 26:19,20 28:2 64:2 19 21:18 77:21 78:24 79:9 1998 68:4	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

2A 10:20**2B** 10:20**2C** 10:20

3**3** 8:6 64:12 78:10

80:6 83:7

30 40:7,11 56:23**30/31** 40:8**304** 73:4**33** 73:20 74:3**34** 56:6

4**4** 56:4**40** 36:21**43** 19:4**47** 30:3**48** 79:17**49** 79:21

5**5** 35:7 55:11**50-odd** 57:4**58/59** 53:19

6**6** 1:1 55:11**61** 1:4**62** 1:5 62:25**63-page** 83:19**66** 1:6**67** 1:7

7**7** 35:6**76** 72:22**77** 81:3

8**8** 8:7**84** 1:9**86** 1:10

9**900** 37:21,22**929** 10:9,9,12,13

10:20,21,21

999 69:25