

<p>1 Thursday, 18 November 2021</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 I N D E X</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 Statements of MS LINDSEY MCDONALD2 (read)</p> <p>6 MR TONY KIRK (continued)6</p> <p>7 Questions from MR O'CONNOR6</p> <p>8 Questions from MS HILL51</p> <p>9 Questions from DR VAN DELLEN78</p> <p>10 Questions from MR DAVIES82</p> <p>11 Questions from MR SKELTON90</p> <p>12 Questions from MR ATCHLEY101</p> <p>13 Questions from THE JURY106</p> <p>14 MR MARK RICHARDS (continued)111</p> <p>15 Questions from MR O'CONNOR111</p> <p>16 Questions from MS HILL142</p> <p>17 Questions from MR DAVIES151</p> <p>18 Questions from DR VAN DELLEN157</p> <p>19 Questions from MR SKELTON158</p> <p>20 Further questions from MR O'CONNOR159</p> <p>21 Questions from THE CORONER160</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 provided me with clothing that had been returned to them</p> <p>2 from the coroner. This clothing was in a white hospital</p> <p>3 bag in a black bag. The clothing was wet and so it was</p> <p>4 placed in drying rooms at Fresh Wharf police station.</p> <p>5 The jacket and the bags were placed in the drying room</p> <p>6 in the forensic officers' area. The remainder of</p> <p>7 clothing was placed in the drying room in custody. The</p> <p>8 reason for separating the items was due to the coat</p> <p>9 appearing to be black in colour and the family informing</p> <p>10 officers that Jack did not own a black coat, his coat</p> <p>11 was khaki green in colour.</p> <p>12 "Today, Wednesday, 7 October 2015, I retrieved the</p> <p>13 items from the drying rooms. When dealing with the</p> <p>14 jacket I discovered that on drying it had lightened in</p> <p>15 colour to a dark green. The items have been exhibited</p> <p>16 as follows ..."</p> <p>17 Then she sets out a list of the exhibits, the</p> <p>18 clothing, together with the bags and paper from the</p> <p>19 drying room.</p> <p>20 Second statement, also dated 7 October 2015:</p> <p>21 "This statement refers to exhibits in relation to</p> <p>22 the investigation into the sudden death of</p> <p>23 Mr Jack Taylor [then gives his date of birth and</p> <p>24 address]. On Tuesday, 6 October 2015 at approximately</p> <p>25 1220 hours I was on duty in plain clothes tasked with</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 Yes, Ms Collier.</p> <p>5 MS COLLIER: Good morning, madam. We start the evidence</p> <p>6 this morning by reading four witness statements made by</p> <p>7 PC Lindsey McDonald in October 2015.</p> <p>8 THE CORONER: Thank you.</p> <p>9 Statements of MS LINDSEY MCDONALD (read)</p> <p>10 MS COLLIER: Members of the jury, these four statements,</p> <p>11 made by PC Lindsey McDonald were made during the course</p> <p>12 of the investigation into Jack's death and concern</p> <p>13 various of the enquiries which she made at the time.</p> <p>14 Each of the statements I am about to read is signed,</p> <p>15 dated and supported by a statement of truth.</p> <p>16 Her first statement, dated 7 October 2015, reads as</p> <p>17 follows:</p> <p>18 "This statement refers to exhibits in relation to</p> <p>19 the sudden death of Mr Jack Taylor [then gives his date</p> <p>20 of birth]. On Monday, 5 October 2015, at approximately</p> <p>21 1700 hours I was on duty in full uniform investigating</p> <p>22 the movements of Mr Taylor prior to his body being</p> <p>23 discovered on 14 September 2015. I was in the company</p> <p>24 of PS Laffan and we attended Mr Taylor's home address to</p> <p>25 speak with his family. Whilst at the address the family</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 investigating the movements of Mr Taylor prior to his</p> <p>2 death. I took his wallet from property store 66/3394</p> <p>3 and separated the items within into separate bags to</p> <p>4 assist with my investigation. I have exhibited the</p> <p>5 wallet and contents on 66/3652 at Fresh Wharf patrol</p> <p>6 base as follows."</p> <p>7 There then follows a list of exhibits, which</p> <p>8 includes the wallet itself, the items that she found</p> <p>9 inside the wallet, which includes the NHS blood donor</p> <p>10 card in the name of Jack Taylor, as well as a driving</p> <p>11 licence and various other items. Then, finally, she</p> <p>12 also lists the original packaging and the gloves used to</p> <p>13 exchange the items.</p> <p>14 Third witness statement, dated 8 October 2015:</p> <p>15 "This statement relates to items taken from the</p> <p>16 bedroom of Jack Taylor [date of birth and address</p> <p>17 given]. On Monday, 5 October 2015 at approximately</p> <p>18 1700 hours I was on duty in full uniform investigating</p> <p>19 the movements of Mr Taylor prior to his body being</p> <p>20 discovered on 14 September 2015. I was in the company</p> <p>21 of PS Laffan and we attended Mr Taylor's home address to</p> <p>22 speak with his family. Whilst at the address the family</p> <p>23 provided me with items from Jack's bedroom, namely an HP</p> <p>24 laptop computer, various medications and a box for</p> <p>25 an iPhone 6. These items were packaged up by me soon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 after leaving the address at the police station in the 2 rear briefing room. I booked these items into the 66 on 3 reference 66/3680 on Thursday, 8 October 2015 and I have 4 exhibited these items as follows ..."</p> <p>5 Then she lists those items, that is to say the 6 laptop, the medication and the iPhone box.</p> <p>7 Final statement, dated 8 October 2015: 8 "This statement refers to when I viewed CCTV in 9 relation to the sudden death of Jack Taylor [date of 10 birth and address given]. On Thursday, 8 October 2015, 11 at approximately 1300 hours I was on duty in 12 plainclothes tasked with CCTV enquiries in relation to 13 Op Merckx, which is the investigation into the 14 whereabouts of Mr Taylor prior to being discovered 15 deceased in Abbey Park, Barking. I attended The Gym, 16 Clockhouse, East Street, Barking and spoke with [then 17 the name is given], who is the assistant gym manager at 18 the establishment. He downloaded footage from 19 0230 hours to 0330 hours on 13 September 2015 onto 20 an USB stick, that I booked out from the VIIDO unit from 21 the Fresh Wharf patrol base. I then viewed this 22 footage. 32.34 into the footage I saw Mr Taylor and 23 an unidentified male walk south from the Station Parade 24 along East Street. The unidentified male appeared to be 25 a white male in a dark jacket, dark trousers and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 other evidence concerning his case.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Let me just ask you this before we get to that. Of 4 course your previous evidence was given very much in the 5 context of events in 2014?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. The summer and autumn of that time. We are now going 8 forward by a year, or even a little bit more than 9 a year, to September/October 2015. The evidence that 10 you gave the jury previously about your job, your role, 11 your various responsibilities, without going back into 12 all of the detail, was the position broadly similar in 13 autumn 2015 to the position as it had been the year 14 before?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>16 Q. Secondly, again without perhaps going into all of the 17 detail again, we have heard both from you and indeed 18 from other witnesses about the pressures on the system, 19 if I can put it that way, in 2014. The lack of staff, 20 the difficulties with shift patterns and so on. In 21 broad terms, were you facing the same challenges a year 22 later or not?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, very similar. I had by that time had one 24 substantive detective inspector posted on promotion, 25 DI McSheffrey. And other than that it was very similar,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 a lighter top under his jacket. He appeared to be 2 approximately 6 foot to 6 foot 4 in height with fair 3 hair. They walked across the camera going out of view 4 at 32.38. The USB stick was placed in a tamper-proof 5 bag and then exhibited by [again the name of the 6 assistant gym manager] as exhibit [then the exhibit 7 number]. This has been booked into the custody at Fresh 8 Wharf on 66/3673."</p> <p>9 That concludes the statements.</p> <p>10 MR O'CONNOR: Madam, may we now please call DI Kirk. 11 THE CORONER: Yes.</p> <p>12 MR TONY KIRK (continued) 13 Questions from MR O'CONNOR</p> <p>14 MR O'CONNOR: Mr Kirk, thank you for coming back. This is 15 the third and last time you are going to be giving 16 evidence to the jury. The jury of course will recall 17 that previously you have given evidence about your 18 involvement in the circumstances surrounding first of 19 all the investigation Anthony Walgate's death and then 20 on the last occasion the investigation into Gabriel and 21 Daniel's deaths.</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. We are glad you have been able to come back, it is much 24 easier to ask you the questions we have about the 25 investigation into Jack's death in the context of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 I think actually our detective numbers might have 2 dropped a little bit due to vacancies, rather than the 3 actual numbers that we were allowed.</p> <p>4 Q. As I say, we don't perhaps need to worry about the fine 5 detail but in broad terms then, a similar position?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Turning to that time in 2015, we are focusing, as you 8 know on a period, in fact pretty much exactly a month 9 from 14 September 2015, when Jack Taylor's body was 10 discovered, and 14 October when, as we will come to see, 11 the realisation was made that Stephen Port was involved 12 in his case.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. So really it is that period of a month and the 15 investigation, the borough investigation, over that 16 time. The first thing perhaps to ask you and you can 17 help us with is really how much you were on duty during 18 that period of time. In a line, I think the answer is 19 you were in fact not on duty much during that period?</p> <p>20 A. No, this is my --</p> <p>21 Q. Let me help you, because I have something perhaps 22 similar to you. We have heard, for example, from 23 Inspector O'Donohue that he also just happened to have 24 some time on leave, some rest days and so on during that 25 period?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Help us, is it actually not unusual for police officers</p> <p>3 to find themselves away from their day-to-day job,</p> <p>4 perhaps through a combination of rest days or training</p> <p>5 and so on?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, it is exactly that. It is a combination of rest</p> <p>7 days, when you work weekends you have the days off in</p> <p>8 your shift pattern during the week, but quite often</p> <p>9 because of the workload you end up working those.</p> <p>10 Inspectors and above don't get paid overtime, so we try</p> <p>11 to reclaim our hours, which is not always possible, but</p> <p>12 that works out in time off. So you have to work out</p> <p>13 around the job that you do as to what days you can take</p> <p>14 off.</p> <p>15 Q. Just so we have some sense of it, just look at your</p> <p>16 multi-coloured chart. I will go through my rather less</p> <p>17 multi-coloured list and just see if you agree.</p> <p>18 I think it is right to say you were not on duty on</p> <p>19 the 14th when Jack's body was found, in fact you were</p> <p>20 not on duty much of that week.</p> <p>21 You were I think on duty on the Thursday and Friday,</p> <p>22 the 17 and 18 September, at the end of that week?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. You were then off for the weekend and on duty for the</p> <p>25 first part of the next week, the Monday to Wednesday,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 see the Taylor family and, as the jury have heard, that</p> <p>2 followed a time when no one had been to see them at all?</p> <p>3 A. Right.</p> <p>4 Q. The first email is the one at the bottom, perhaps we can</p> <p>5 just zoom in on that. It is an email from someone</p> <p>6 called Yasmin Lalani, I think she was a DL, is that</p> <p>7 right?</p> <p>8 A. She was, yes. She was --</p> <p>9 Q. Go on.</p> <p>10 A. She was temporarily attached to the borough, she wasn't</p> <p>11 one of our members of staff but she was temporarily</p> <p>12 posted to the borough because of issues at where she</p> <p>13 worked, so she was working from Dagenham as part of the</p> <p>14 neighbourhoods portfolio.</p> <p>15 Q. Just looking at it, I was looking at the wrong page.</p> <p>16 Could we go to page 3 of this document, please. That</p> <p>17 page has both of the emails in the chain on it and it is</p> <p>18 the bottom one of those we need to be looking at. So</p> <p>19 this is the first email, DI Kirk, from DI Lalani, who</p> <p>20 you tell us was on attachment. It is addressed to you.</p> <p>21 On that Friday, 2.00 in the afternoon. The subject</p> <p>22 simply says "Sudden death non-suspicious."</p> <p>23 Did you have any previous involvement in the Taylor</p> <p>24 case before receiving this email?</p> <p>25 A. No, I didn't remember this email until it was disclosed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 I think off on the Thursday.</p> <p>2 Back on the Friday, 25 September?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Which is a day the jury have heard something about.</p> <p>5 Then off again for the weekend, the early part of</p> <p>6 the next week.</p> <p>7 In on Wednesday, 30 September.</p> <p>8 Then off for a long period for the first 10 or 11</p> <p>9 days of October.</p> <p>10 But back just starting back -- on 12 October, you</p> <p>11 were back and we will hear something about the events of</p> <p>12 14 October in which you were involved.</p> <p>13 In terms of the documents then, that we have been</p> <p>14 looking at, during that period of a month, I think it is</p> <p>15 right to say that your name only features once or at</p> <p>16 least in one chain of emails. Those were some emails</p> <p>17 which the jury have already looked at. Let's look at</p> <p>18 them again, please, it is tab 11 in the jury bundle.</p> <p>19 For the screen, it is IPC109. This is an email chain</p> <p>20 which is dated 25 September, so that is the Friday,</p> <p>21 nearly two weeks after Jack's body was discovered. Yes?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. A bit less than that. Just so we orientate ourselves,</p> <p>24 the jury will recall that it was the day before that,</p> <p>25 the Thursday, that PC Taylor and Holder first went to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 as part of this process. And reading it and my</p> <p>2 response, it is the first time I have been told about</p> <p>3 it.</p> <p>4 Q. It follows therefore it must have come out of the blue,</p> <p>5 as far as you are concerned?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Just looking at the contents of it, the jury have looked</p> <p>8 at it before, so we don't need to read all the way</p> <p>9 through. But she describes having been approached by</p> <p>10 the parks team, we know that was PC Taylor or PC Holder,</p> <p>11 about their concerns. She talks about there having been</p> <p>12 a lack of ownership and the family not being happy. She</p> <p>13 asks, does she not, for a strategy and suggests that</p> <p>14 a family liaison officer ought to be appointed. Towards</p> <p>15 the end there, she refers to the fact:</p> <p>16 "We [that's, no doubt, the police in Barking] have</p> <p>17 let the family down, from what I am told."</p> <p>18 She is concerned that there might be a complaint</p> <p>19 against the borough.</p> <p>20 No doubt the content of this email was something</p> <p>21 that concerned you?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What did you do about it?</p> <p>24 A. I am not sure how I -- because I know in my response</p> <p>25 I talk about speaking to Ben Tanner. I am not sure how</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

3 (Pages 9 to 12)

<p>1 that conversation came about, whether it was as a result 2 of this email, whether he contacted me. Unfortunately 3 I have no recollection. But it was -- ultimately it was 4 a request for a family liaison officer to do a role that 5 they wouldn't normally be expected to do, which I would 6 consider, once I knew the exact reasons we needed it. 7 A family liaison officer is a -- is not a separate role, 8 it is one of my detectives that has undertaken the 9 course voluntarily and does the family liaison work over 10 and above their existing workload. 11 So I wish it was different but I can't just allocate 12 a FLO where we wouldn't normally allocate one. With the 13 facts that I had been told in this investigation, it 14 would be for the officer reporting and dealing with it 15 to obtain the basic facts required from the family and 16 to provide any further information that they would and 17 it wouldn't necessarily take the trained skills of 18 a family liaison officer to do that.</p> <p>19 Q. We have also heard that the role of a family liaison 20 officer is, in part, let's not worry about which is more 21 important, but in part, an important part is 22 investigative.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Did the fact that this death at that stage was 25 classified as a non-suspicious death, was that a factor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 family were not happy or felt let down." 2 Knowing what we know now, it might be thought it 3 would have been a bit difficult for Sergeant Tanner to 4 express a view on that subject because he had never 5 spoken to them? 6 A. Okay, I wasn't aware of that. 7 Q. It is obviously many years later but do you think he 8 would have told you whether or not he had spoken to 9 them, do you think you would have asked him that? 10 A. I don't know, and I don't know Ben Tanner, so ... 11 Q. On any view, it is clear that you were not given 12 accurate information about that, were you? 13 A. I don't know the -- I don't know what went on between, 14 so I can't say. 15 Q. One thing we do know is that, as at that Friday, the 16 family did feel unhappy and let down? 17 A. Okay. 18 Q. That is the evidence we have heard. 19 A. Okay. 20 Q. As you say, reading on in the email, you say that on the 21 basis it was not suspicious, and there were no issues 22 that you were aware of, you didn't feel the need for 23 a trained FLO. 24 Does that come back to the conversation we were just 25 having that, at least in part, it was because it was not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 in your thinking that this didn't, as it were, warrant 2 CID involvement? 3 A. It would have been one of them, yes. As I understood 4 from this, that there wasn't a full-scale investigation 5 taking place and again if there would have been, it 6 would have been hopefully for a MIT team to deal with. 7 That is not to say I ruled it out and I think that 8 is in my response, I didn't rule it out. But I think it 9 would have been appropriate, as I said, to try and 10 remedy the issues and try and resolve any issues that 11 had been caused with the family, because I think that is 12 important. If we were beyond repair, then a family 13 liaison officer would be deployed.</p> <p>14 Q. Let's just look at your response. If we could zoom out 15 from this, or zoom back in from this one and look at the 16 top email. 17 The first thing we can see is that you dealt with 18 the matter promptly, because, having received the email 19 at 2.20 in the afternoon, you are replying at 5.30, so 20 obviously -- however you managed to speak to 21 Sergeant Tanner, you had spoken to him within that 22 three-hour period. Would that be right? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. What you say is: 25 "I spoke to Ben today, there was no mention the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 a suspicious death at that stage and therefore it didn't 2 warrant CID involvement? 3 A. Not suspicious that I was aware of, yes. 4 Q. And also, as you say, as far as you were aware of, no 5 issues with the family. 6 Reading on, you say: 7 "Ben [that's Ben Tanner] said he felt it should be 8 the original investigating officer, a round about way to 9 give it to parks I feel although he didn't say that." 10 Can you just explain a little bit more about that 11 sentence, please? 12 A. I can't remember the conversation with him, but piecing 13 together bits of this, the fact that I have copied in 14 Acting Chief Inspector Kirby and Acting Chief Inspector 15 Learmonth. Chief Inspector Kirby, as we know, owned the 16 parks team and the neighbourhood policing portfolio. 17 Chief Inspector Learmonth, or Acting Chief inspector 18 Learmonth as he was at this time, was responsible for 19 the RP team, the response teams, so two different 20 portfolios. And then Ken Baker was an inspector for the 21 parks team under Martin Kirby and Jason was one of the 22 duty officers under Gary Learmonth, so I have copied 23 those in because, from reading between the lines, it 24 appears there is an issue between parks and response 25 team and I am not entirely sure why, I am not sure who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 went out to report what and – but that is why I have</p> <p>2 copied in my two peers from those two portfolios to</p> <p>3 address any issues around ownership of that.</p> <p>4 Q. Well, let's not beat about the bush, because if we look</p> <p>5 at the next paragraph, we will come back to the first</p> <p>6 sentence of the next paragraph, but the second sentence</p> <p>7 you say:</p> <p>8 "At this stage I suggest we stop trying to offload</p> <p>9 it and make contact with the family and get it dealt</p> <p>10 with, please.</p> <p>11 Essentially, the impression you seem to have formed</p> <p>12 was that Sergeant Tanner was trying to offload the case?</p> <p>13 A. It would appear that way. As I say, I don't remember</p> <p>14 the conversation but that is certainly how it reads and</p> <p>15 it is not something I appreciated in my role there.</p> <p>16 I still don't. You know, everybody is busy and we all</p> <p>17 have our existing roles in addition to investigations</p> <p>18 like this to do.</p> <p>19 Q. Well, of course we understand that it is many years</p> <p>20 later. But it is still an email you wrote.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. It is your choice of language.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. As you say, we have heard something about the pressure</p> <p>25 on resources at the time. Was it a regular feature of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 thought was going on here?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you think you would have asked Sergeant Tanner</p> <p>4 whether he had actually done anything on this</p> <p>5 investigation so far?</p> <p>6 A. I can't recall what the discussion was. I don't</p> <p>7 remember having the discussion. It is only that the</p> <p>8 email refers to it.</p> <p>9 Q. What were you expecting to happen as a result of this</p> <p>10 email?</p> <p>11 A. Exactly that, that it would be dealt with, that either</p> <p>12 the inspectors, Ken Baker or Jason O'Donohue, or via the</p> <p>13 chief inspectors, would grab hold of it and get it dealt</p> <p>14 with.</p> <p>15 Q. We have seen that you copied in Jason O'Donohue, who was</p> <p>16 PS Tanner's line manager, boss, yes? You end by saying,</p> <p>17 as you said in the last paragraph, you are keen to know</p> <p>18 why the family feel let down and what has gone wrong as</p> <p>19 this needs to be fixed.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You say that, again, as you indicated, that you would</p> <p>22 reconsider a FLO in due course if that seemed</p> <p>23 appropriate --</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. -- but once you knew what the position was.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 life in Barking and Dagenham borough that one unit would</p> <p>2 try and offload a case onto another, that one part of</p> <p>3 the police force would try and somehow get another part</p> <p>4 of it to investigate a case that they should be dealing</p> <p>5 with?</p> <p>6 A. I think, as you have probably seen throughout this, it</p> <p>7 is policing in general, we have so many different areas</p> <p>8 in business, some of it crosses over, everybody is busy</p> <p>9 and there are always discussions around primacy --</p> <p>10 whatever that may be. You know, whether something is</p> <p>11 a domestic assault or not a domestic assault, you know,</p> <p>12 from that level to investigations like this, where</p> <p>13 primacy would be from a completely different command</p> <p>14 unit.</p> <p>15 Q. That is, if you don't mind me saying so, a very tactful</p> <p>16 way of putting it, DI Kirk, but it doesn't really</p> <p>17 reflect the language you have used in this email. The</p> <p>18 sense one gets from this email is a much more basic</p> <p>19 problem, which is that one part of organisation just is</p> <p>20 not doing what they are supposed to be doing and is</p> <p>21 trying to get another part of the organisation to do it</p> <p>22 instead. It is not a primacy discussion, it is</p> <p>23 an attempt to offload an investigation?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Is that, as far as you can tell from the email, what you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Did in fact you ever hear anymore about this case in the</p> <p>3 next few days or as a result of this email chain?</p> <p>4 A. No, not that I can recall. As we have said, I was off</p> <p>5 for several of those days and I have not seen anything</p> <p>6 that refreshes my memory of any other contact.</p> <p>7 Q. We have heard, for example, about a series of meetings</p> <p>8 that took place a week or so later involving not just</p> <p>9 Inspector O'Donohue but also DS Sweetman from your part</p> <p>10 of the organisation.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Various actions that were undertaken. Again, having</p> <p>13 said we have already established that you were not in</p> <p>14 the office much over that time, but doing the best you</p> <p>15 can, do you think in fact you were aware of anything</p> <p>16 more on this investigation?</p> <p>17 A. No. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>18 Q. Until 14 October?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 THE CORONER: Did you say you didn't know Ben Tanner?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 THE CORONER: Right.</p> <p>23 MR O'CONNOR: Help us with that, he was a sergeant on the</p> <p>24 emergency response team. Just give us a sense of the</p> <p>25 organisation --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

<p>1 A. I would know his face from being in the building, and 2 I may have recognised -- now I can't think of him and it 3 wasn't uncommon to not put names to faces. 4 Q. Thank you, we can take that document down. 5 I want to ask you about something different, which 6 is a question of linking Jack's death with the earlier 7 deaths. Of course, when you came on the previous two 8 occasions you have been asked questions, or certainly 9 the last occasion, all around the question of whether 10 back in September 2014 the deaths of Gabriel and Daniel 11 should have been linked with the death of Anthony. I am 12 not going to go back to all of that. You will recall 13 the evidence about your own email, about GHB, about the 14 press conference and all of that. 15 The jury heard evidence yesterday from the Taylor 16 family, in particular Donna Taylor, about how they had 17 themselves looked on the internet and made links 18 themselves between Jack's death on the one hand and the 19 deaths of Anthony, Daniel and Gabriel, by looking at the 20 Barking and Dagenham Post reports, including reports of 21 the inquests that by that stage had taken place into 22 Gabriel and Daniel's deaths. Common features, 23 involvement of GHB and so on. That is the evidence that 24 they have given. Let me just then ask you some 25 questions about two more documents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 ruins and discovered it is a gay cottaging site. She 2 also raised questions regarding the previous deaths at 3 the site and was already asking whether they could be 4 connected to Jack. I [that is PC McDonald] have told 5 her that I have no reason to believe they are 6 connected." 7 There is a record of the family, Donna Taylor, 8 raising concerns with the police? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Just so we are clear. Her evidence is that she raised 11 rather more general concerns with other police officers 12 at an earlier stage, but let's just focus on this 13 because there is absolutely clear evidence that this did 14 take place. She is raising concerns with a police 15 officer, a police officer who had had not, as far as we 16 know, any involvement in the earlier cases. 17 The position seems to be that, first of all, 18 PC McDonald simply says, "Well, there is no reason to 19 think they are connected" and, secondly, she doesn't 20 even mention what Donna had told her to her sergeant, to 21 Sergeant Laffan -- who apparently was upstairs at the 22 time, didn't hear the conversation -- and nothing more 23 seems to have been done about it. 24 Just help us though, where a family member in a case 25 like this raises concerns, and certainly on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 First of all, if we can go on the screen, please, to 2 IPC640, and in the jury bundle to tab 17. This is in 3 fact an email from PC Lindsey McDonald. It is dated 4 16 October, so it is after the connection has been made 5 with Stephen Port. The significance of it is that the 6 contents list -- as it were, it is a contemporaneous 7 account from PC McDonald, about the communication she 8 has had in the week or two before that with the Taylor 9 family. Do you understand? 10 To be clear, there is no suggestion you were 11 involved in this email, you didn't get it at the time, 12 maybe you have never seen it. I just want to direct 13 your attention to one paragraph in it. You see there is 14 a heading there "5 October", do you see that? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. What PC McDonald is recording there is a visit that she 17 made to the Taylor family house on that date, with 18 sergeant Laffan. If you look at the second sort of 19 paragraph underneath that heading, perhaps we can 20 enlarge it on the screen, please, so it is the 21 5 October-section, just to make it easier for you to 22 read. 23 If you can pick it up from the second sentence of 24 that second paragraph: 25 "She [that is Donna Taylor] has googled the Abbey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Donna Taylor's evidence, it is not just an abstract 2 concern, it is a concern based on information that she 3 has obtained, looked at, it must be right that more 4 should be done about something like that than simply 5 effectively being brushed away. Do you agree? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. What do you think PC McDonald should have done about 8 this? 9 A. The first stage would be to raise it with her 10 supervisor. 11 Q. Certainly Sergeant Laffan's evidence was that if he had 12 heard about it, he would have regarded it as extremely 13 important. 14 The matter should have been looked at, shouldn't it? 15 A. Yes. 16 MR O'CONNOR: I am sorry, I am told the alarm is 17 distracting. 18 THE CORONER: Yes, we are competing with a car alarm and 19 I don't know if we can do anything about it, I am 20 afraid. 21 MR O'CONNOR: For the moment, if I try and speak up more, 22 rather than we try and do anything about the car alarm. 23 THE CORONER: Yes. 24 MR O'CONNOR: Yes. 25 Sorry, and perhaps you can speak up as well,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 DI Kirk. Certainly Sergeant Laffan's evidence was that 2 if he had been told about it, he would have regarded it 3 as extremely important.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. What do you say he should have done about it?</p> <p>6 A. With that information, initiated some research and 7 contacted the CID.</p> <p>8 Q. In fact, if we can look at another document, and this is 9 in the jury bundle, tab 8, please. For the screen, it 10 is IPC772. Again, this is, to be clear, DI Kirk, 11 another document and no one is suggesting you saw this 12 at the time, but you will see, if we can enlarge the 13 sort of middle portion of it, it is the lower email that 14 we are interested in.</p> <p>15 This is an earlier email, so going back to 16 18 September, so only a few days after Jack's body was 17 found.</p> <p>18 This is an email from CID, from DS Sweetman, so 19 someone in your part of the borough, and he is recording 20 a conversation he has had with the coroner's officer 21 about this case. If we look about four paragraphs down, 22 you see he says:</p> <p>23 "The coroner and Teresa ..." 24 That's the coroner and her officer, Teresa Steadman: 25 "... are a little concerned that the circumstances</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 A. The other one?</p> <p>2 Q. -- the other email recorded a conversation which took 3 place on 5 October?</p> <p>4 A. Okay.</p> <p>5 Q. So it is about two or three weeks earlier.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you see the point?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Your own part of the police organisation, CID, are 10 simply brushing away the possibility of a link without 11 considering it, is that fair?</p> <p>12 A. I think the additional information -- I would like to 13 think the additional information from Mr Taylor's family 14 in addition to this would have made a difference. But 15 it is -- yes, it is not --</p> <p>16 Q. Is that realistic, DI Kirk? Of course one would always 17 like to think that if you keep pressing against the 18 point something is going to change, but if the coroner 19 expresses a concern, and is told, "Don't worry, it is 20 all in hand, there is no link", is it really going to 21 make a difference if the family raise the same concern?</p> <p>22 A. I would like to think so, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. I said I am not going to go back over old ground and 24 I am not going to, DI Kirk, but the questions I asked 25 you when you came last included just asking the question</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 are very similar to two other bodies found in similar 2 circumstances in almost the same location last year. 3 I have explained that we could see no link (other than 4 location) however it is likely to be asked about at some 5 stage."</p> <p>6 DI Kirk, I hear what you say that Sergeant Laffan 7 should have referred that to CID, but in fact what we 8 see is that CID had already had raised with them the 9 question of a link, raised not by the family but by the 10 coroner. DS Sweetman, someone who had had really no 11 involvement in the earlier cases, other than going to 12 the scene of Gabriel's death, he made it clear that 13 until perhaps he had received this email he hadn't even 14 been aware of anything about the discovery of Daniel's 15 death and certainly not involved in the investigation 16 that then followed.</p> <p>17 What we seem to see is that he, just as PC McDonald, 18 doesn't do anything about it, doesn't review the cases, 19 but simply, again, on the basis of very little 20 information, assures, this time the coroner, that there 21 is no link.</p> <p>22 A. Can I just clarify, was this sent after -- sorry, before 23 PC McDonald's entry of visiting the Taylor family?</p> <p>24 Q. Yes, so to be clear about the dates. This is an email 25 dated 18 September --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 why, back in autumn 2014, no one actually sat down and 2 thought we have got three deaths here, let's just put 3 them next to each other, see if there are connections, 4 see if there is more work that could have been done.</p> <p>5 Now, a year later, there are four deaths and no one 6 seems to have been prepared to try and do that exercise 7 of trying to, as it were, think outside the box, try and 8 see if there are any links, and even when, as we have 9 seen, the coroner, the families, are raising the point, 10 that still doesn't prompt that sort of review?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, it was unfortunate I was not made aware of these 12 sort of concerns. I have explained my position in 13 relation to the previous three incidents. And there 14 have been a lot of officers that were aware of all or 15 most of those incidents, and at the time nobody had made 16 the link.</p> <p>17 I think if one or two had not made the link, it 18 would obviously be conceivable that it would have been 19 obvious, with hindsight, but with that many officers 20 from various units and positions within the borough and 21 externally, that it wasn't as obvious as it is to us 22 sitting here with hindsight and all the documents that 23 have been retrieved and seen.</p> <p>24 Q. That is a fair point, DI Kirk, but the difficulty is 25 that they were not trying to make a link. You are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 obviously right, no one is suggesting that police 2 officers had sort of secretly made the link but just 3 decided not to do anything about it.</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. But isn't it fair that what we are seeing on these 6 documents is people suggesting that there might be 7 a link and police officers just having a very closed 8 approach to that and not actually taking that step 9 forward and thinking maybe there is something in this, 10 maybe we can just think again about it. Is that fair?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. What do you think you would have done if, let's say, 13 DS Sweetman had forwarded this email to you or let's say 14 PC McDonald a few weeks later had mentioned it to 15 Sergeant Laffan and he said we need to speak to CID 16 about this, what would you like to think might have 17 happened?</p> <p>18 A. I have thought about this a lot over the years and I -- 19 my way of working was to try and see people or speak to 20 people face to face where possible. I think my action 21 would have been pretty much as we did when the HAT team 22 did come over on the 15th, I think it was, would be to 23 get everybody who had involvement in one room and say, 24 "We have got concerns raised by these people that there 25 could be links. What do we think?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 evidence tomorrow about something called the specialist 2 crime review group.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Is that a resource that was available to you, you could 5 have tasked them to have another look at these cases?</p> <p>6 A. I now know that. I wouldn't have known it at the time 7 and even now I have never known them -- no, I have known 8 them once to review a borough job in the five and a half 9 years that I have been there and that was a health and 10 safety death, not a murder.</p> <p>11 So they generally work with the homicide teams, when 12 a job gets to a certain number of days old, I think it 13 is 28 days without being solved, the review team offer 14 the SIO the opportunity to review and they are 15 experienced generally ex MIT team officers that conduct 16 the review and come up with any suggestions. I don't -- 17 obviously I can't say if I had approached them directly, 18 if I had have known they existed, that ... what the 19 response would have been. Because, as I said, they 20 rarely work with borough. I had never worked with them 21 before I joined the MIT teams.</p> <p>22 Q. We may hear tomorrow that in fact quite a large 23 proportion of their work involves working with borough 24 policing rather than the specialist teams. You clearly 25 don't know that --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Because I didn't know enough detail of each one, but 2 by getting everybody together I think would have been my 3 first course of action.</p> <p>4 Q. We have heard I think it was Sergeant Laffan yesterday 5 talking about going into that room on 14 October with 6 people sitting around the table and actually the four 7 scene photographs that the jury have seen on the table. 8 I am going to ask you a little bit more about the events 9 of that day in a moment and we will see that really very 10 quickly it was possible to work out the obvious 11 similarities between the cases.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. If you had taken a view or someone else had taken a view 14 that it would be a good idea just to have a second look 15 at possible links between these cases. Let's be clear, 16 it is easy for us to link these four cases but there was 17 at least one other, wasn't there, we have heard about 18 the case of Mr Ahmed that was mentioned in the press 19 reporting. So it might have been a review looking at 20 more than four cases and seeing if they were linked?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, there would have been many other deaths.</p> <p>22 Q. If one had wanted to do that sort of review, no doubt it 23 could have been done by one of your team, but there were 24 also resources at the Metropolitan Police for 25 an external review to take place. We may hear some</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 A. It is not my experience.</p> <p>2 Q. Well, quite. The more important point is that, sitting 3 where you were in 2014 or 2015, from what you say, is it 4 the case you simply were not aware of that resource?</p> <p>5 A. No, I had been on borough for -- three busy boroughs for 6 16/17 years and never worked with them, never known them 7 to undertake any investigations on borough.</p> <p>8 Q. Because one can see why it makes a lot of sense to have, 9 as it were, an external reviewing group, and why this 10 sort of situation in principle would have been well 11 suited to them having another look and seeing if they 12 could see something that you and the borough had missed 13 but there is no point having a group like that if people 14 like you either don't know about it or know about it but 15 think that you can't use it.</p> <p>16 A. No, I am not sure what you will hear tomorrow but, as 17 I said, I have worked with them on many occasions in my 18 current role, but I didn't work with them in 16 years as 19 a detective on borough. I have never known them to 20 investigate any of our work. They review homicides. 21 I am sure if they were approached they, you know, 22 I would like to think they would have entertained us, 23 but I don't -- without knowing they existed ...</p> <p>24 Q. Quite, if you were not even aware that they existed at 25 the time, that is probably as far as your perspective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 back in 2015/2015, that is as far as we can take it?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Let me move on, DI Kirk, and ask you about another</p> <p>4 matter. That is about the events of 14 October 2015.</p> <p>5 The jury have heard just a little -- it has been</p> <p>6 referred to a few times, they have heard just a little</p> <p>7 bit of evidence about it from I think probably DC Parish</p> <p>8 way back, several weeks ago, but more recently from</p> <p>9 Inspector O'Donohue, who was there in the Grip and PACE</p> <p>10 room and talked about the moment when the photograph was</p> <p>11 seen and the connection was made.</p> <p>12 Before we go to the events of that day, let me just</p> <p>13 ask you this about the primacy question. Of course we</p> <p>14 will all remember your involvement in the primacy</p> <p>15 discussions in the Anthony Walgate case, the email you</p> <p>16 wrote and so on.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. We also heard -- last time you were here you gave some</p> <p>19 evidence about the primacy issue in the</p> <p>20 Daniel Whitworth-Gabriel Kovari investigation,</p> <p>21 discussions with Superintendent Wilson and so on?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. It is right, isn't it, that then on that 14 October,</p> <p>24 once again there were some discussions about primacy?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 had been done, but the first thing I asked to be done if</p> <p>2 it hadn't.</p> <p>3 Q. I think it is right that officers from homicide command</p> <p>4 came to Fresh Wharf police station?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. And they were briefed?</p> <p>7 A. So we gathered in the time, sort of three or so hours</p> <p>8 they took to arrive, we had convened all of the -- as</p> <p>9 many officers that had knowledge of the four murders and</p> <p>10 all of the paperwork that they had ready, because we</p> <p>11 anticipated a handover immediately.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes.</p> <p>13 A. So we had literally convened four piles on the</p> <p>14 conference room table, ready for when they arrived.</p> <p>15 Q. We will see that there was a briefing round that table,</p> <p>16 we will see, for something over two hours?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. At the end of that discussion, there was a request</p> <p>19 presumably for MIT to take over.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. What was the answer they gave?</p> <p>22 A. Now, I don't remember the exact conversations and I have</p> <p>23 read some statements that were disclosed to me yesterday</p> <p>24 which refreshed my memory a little bit, but it was</p> <p>25 I think DI McKeeve who was actually -- I am not sure if</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 Q. I think we have established that you were on duty that</p> <p>2 day, were you actually in the Grip and PACE room or in</p> <p>3 your office when this event took place?</p> <p>4 A. Vague recollections of being told -- I seem to remember</p> <p>5 I was in a meeting probably in one of the conference</p> <p>6 rooms, because I seem to remember I was with our chief</p> <p>7 superintendent at the time, Mr Taylor, and Mr Wilson and</p> <p>8 I am not sure who else was present when DI McSheffrey</p> <p>9 came in and said that DC Parish had seen the photo and</p> <p>10 explained the circumstances of the investigation and the</p> <p>11 fact that Port had been identified as being the last</p> <p>12 person with Mr Taylor. It was a truly goosebumps moment</p> <p>13 for I think everybody concerned.</p> <p>14 Q. To use your word, goosebumps, lightbulb?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, it was, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. I am going to take you to some documents in a moment</p> <p>17 just to see more precisely what happened, but in summary</p> <p>18 there was an immediate reconsideration of all four</p> <p>19 deaths?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. As I say, we heard from PS Laffan yesterday about</p> <p>22 walking into that room and seeing it all in progress?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. The HAT car was called?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, that was the first thing -- I can't remember if it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 he was officially acting DCI, but he was running the MIT</p> <p>2 team as far as I was aware. He phoned his</p> <p>3 superintendent, which if they cannot instantly take it,</p> <p>4 would be, now I know, obviously working there would</p> <p>5 happen. And I don't remember exact discussions, but it</p> <p>6 was basically you have got to deal with it tonight.</p> <p>7 And then we discussed the warrant that was going to</p> <p>8 be executed and an arrest strategy while they were</p> <p>9 there, before they went off to then complete the HAT</p> <p>10 return.</p> <p>11 Q. We will see the documents and we will be able to put it</p> <p>12 in some context, but in short they declined to take</p> <p>13 over, didn't they?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Before we look at these documents, I just want to</p> <p>16 clarify that we will see that in fact it was</p> <p>17 DI McSheffrey who, as it were, took the lead in all of</p> <p>18 this, but you said you were there and we will see your</p> <p>19 name on some of the documents. On that day, what was</p> <p>20 your role? Were you sort of taking --</p> <p>21 A. I was a member of the SLT with responsibility for the</p> <p>22 CID.</p> <p>23 Q. Let's just look, there are three documents which I would</p> <p>24 like to look at some parts of just so we get a sense of</p> <p>25 what happened on that day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 First of all, these are all going to come up on the 2 screen, they are not in the jury bundles, can we look at 3 a witness statement that DI McSheffrey prepared. It is 4 IPC425, please.</p> <p>5 We will see from the front page this is a statement 6 that DI McSheffrey prepared in October 2017. If we can 7 go forward to page 4, please, I am just going to read 8 a few paragraphs and ask you about them as I go, if that 9 is all right, DI Kirk.</p> <p>10 Picking it up just underneath that second bullet 11 point, perhaps if we can enlarge the lower half of the 12 page, DI McSheffrey is talking about the events on 13 14 October. He says:</p> <p>14 "I then became aware on the morning of 14 October 15 that DC Parish had made a positive identification of the 16 previously unidentified male. I was informed that it 17 was Mr Port, who had been charged and convicted in 2015 18 [that's the conviction] of perverting the course of 19 justice in relation to a male body that had been found 20 at his home address in 2014."</p> <p>21 Obviously Anthony's body, DI Kirk, yes?</p> <p>22 A. Sorry, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. "It was at this stage that the deaths of Mr Walgate and 24 Mr Taylor were linked to Mr Port. I tasked DC Parish to 25 obtain a section 8 warrant for the missing phone of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 Mr Whitworth was found and we compared the picture of 2 Mr Walgate, Mr Taylor and Mr Whitworth, immediately 3 identifying a number of similarities, this included age, 4 position of body, items on body, cause of death, 5 et cetera. I was then informed that Mr Whitworth's 6 death was indeed linked to Mr Kovari by way of location 7 and a note found on the deceased. We were all now 8 convinced that Mr Port had had some involvement in all 9 four deaths and therefore my main first action was to 10 relieve Temporary Inspector O'Donohue from the 11 investigation into the death of Jack Taylor. I then 12 requested that a code D identification of Mr Port be 13 completed by DS O'Donnell, who was in another police 14 station, to corroborate DC Parish's identification."</p> <p>15 "At this stage I had a genuine honest-held belief 16 rather that Mr Port was fully or partly responsible for 17 the deaths of these four males.</p> <p>18 "From this moment on there was a flurry of activity, 19 as we assumed that the HAT car would attend immediately 20 and would require all the paperwork relating to the 21 three previous deaths, as well as what we had obtained 22 in the investigation into Mr Taylor."</p> <p>23 DI Kirk, one assumes that you became involved within 24 that sort of flurry of activity?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 Mr Taylor from Mr Port's address. This would have been 2 provided police with a lawful power of entry to search 3 the premises, especially if Mr Port was not at the 4 address. I spoke to DI Petty regarding the similarities 5 of both of these deaths, that is no doubt Jack's death 6 and Anthony's death, and I advised him that it was my 7 intention to call out the homicide advice team 8 immediately, as I deemed both incidents suspicious and 9 being very similar in nature. This conversation was 10 overheard by DS Turrell, who had carried out tasks for 11 the coroner in 2014 in relation to deaths for Mr Kovari 12 and Mr Whitworth and she alerted us to those deaths."</p> <p>13 Just pausing there, it may be you don't have 14 a memory of this but it would appear that it wasn't 15 actually quite right that all four deaths were 16 immediately linked?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Initially just Anthony and Jack and then DS Turrell 19 happened to be passing and the extra link was made with 20 the other two?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. If we can just carry on scrolling down on the screen, 23 please:</p> <p>24 "... she alerted to us those deaths. She still 25 retained a copy of photographs of the scene of where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 Q. "The HAT car, however, did not arrive until 3.15, having 2 been called at 12.40. DI McKeeve and Acting 3 DI Prendergast attended. I am unsure whether DI McKeeve 4 was a temporary DCI or DI at this time. A full and 5 comprehensive briefing took place to the HAT car, which 6 lasted between 1515 and 1730 hours ..."</p> <p>7 So something over two hours?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Were you at that briefing?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. "My expectation upon calling HAT was to hand over the 12 primacy to SC&O1, as the deaths appeared linked and were 13 riddled with suspicious similar circumstances and had 14 similar fact evidence. I believed it would be a serious 15 and complex investigation, which required multiple 16 resources and would fall within the remit of SC&O1."</p> <p>17 I am just scrolling down to the next page, please:</p> <p>18 "At the end of the briefing DI McKeeve left the 19 briefing room to brief up to an unknown supervisor from 20 SC&O1. Despite all of the evidence presented, the 21 conclusion was that Barking and Dagenham would retain 22 the primacy of the investigation because we could not 23 prove murder. We were informed however that we would be 24 supported with four search officers and one interviewer 25 the following day, but not immediately."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

10 (Pages 37 to 40)

<p>1 I am going to take you to a couple of other 2 documents, but in broad terms does that reflect your 3 memory of what took place that day? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. As I say, let's look at two more documents. 6 The first, if we could go to the screen, please, 7 IPC16. We have seen a document like this before, it is 8 a decision log. If we look on the front page we see you 9 are named as the SIO and DI McSheffrey is named as the 10 IO. Was this a log which was essentially -- we just 11 heard DI McSheffrey say, as it were, he relieved 12 DI O'Donohue, so was this a log which commenced at the 13 time we have just been reading about? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. We will see that it is filled in in handwriting, would 16 that be DI McSheffrey's handwriting or your handwriting? 17 A. Yes, DI McSheffrey. 18 Q. Thank you. 19 I just want to read one part of this document, which 20 relates back to that meeting we were just reading about, 21 so internal page 6, please. 22 Can you see, Mr Kirk, about 10 or 12 lines down, 23 there is a line where we see the words "DI McKeeve" on 24 the right-hand side, can you see that? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 an investigation of this type. 2 A. No. 3 Q. Let's look at one final document and I will come back to 4 that. Can we just finally please look at IPC293. If we 5 go to page 4 of this document, we will see that this is 6 a document that was created by, I think -- we will see 7 DI McKeeve, it is a bit like the HAT returns that we 8 have seen before, is it not? 9 A. Yes, this has just been taken -- it looks like it has 10 been taken from the HOLMES system, so you don't have the 11 original layout that you would on the ones you probably 12 have seen previously. 13 Q. We can see from the top the date of the call -- it is 14 actually given as 14 September. I think that must be 15 a typo, mustn't it, because we know it was 14 October? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Otherwise all the other information is consistent with 18 the other records we have seen. For example, we see 19 advice given by DI McKeeve, who we know is there, and 20 the borough DCI, that is your name, and we see the time, 21 the same time as DI McSheffrey gave, 3.15 to 5.30 that 22 day, yes? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Perhaps importantly, just under where it says "Brief 25 details", perhaps we can enlarge that. It says:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 Q. Reading from there, I think the writing is not the 2 easiest, but let's see if we can read it. This is 3 a record of the conclusion of that meeting: 4 "DI McKeeve, from HAT, has consulted upwards at 5 SC&O1 and despite this being agreed as serious and 6 complex, potentially four corpses, due to unable to 7 easily prove murder, Barking will be supported not 8 handing over. All concerns and issues raised, public 9 confidence, confidence in gay community, CCTV strategy, 10 CIU enquiries, BOCU will have to accept this. This of 11 course is also agreed that specialist forensic teams not 12 available to TP ..." 13 What does "TP" stand for? 14 A. Territorial policing, borough policing. 15 Q. "... without CSM, which comes from SC&O1. MIT to supply 16 four [I think that reads] search officers, then one 17 interviewer." 18 I really just went to that passage because of the 19 list of concerns that were raised about the wider sort 20 of ramifications of the discovery on that day and what 21 was going to happen. 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Also a concern really that -- which perhaps harks back 24 to the email you wrote a year before -- Barking simply 25 didn't have the skill sets or the resources to conduct</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 "This HAT report in itself is not advice, rather it 2 is the record of an initial meeting between DI McKeeve, 3 DS Prendergast who attended a meeting with Barking CID 4 at Fresh Wharf [between those times]." 5 That is the status of this document. 6 Then if we can just go forward to page 10 of the 7 document, please, the detail about each of the cases is 8 recorded in the pages we have skipped over. We see in 9 the middle of that page: 10 "In summary, In my opinion there are a number of 11 issues that need to be addressed." 12 This is DI McKeeve's opinion, yes? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. We see again he gives some detail about the links, the 15 various different individuals. Then at the bottom of 16 that page, so perhaps if we can just scroll up with the 17 enlarged text and see the little table at the bottom, do 18 we see here that -- was this really -- does this 19 represent the discussion around the table, the 20 connections that were made. So we see the four cases, 21 linked to POI, that would be Stephen Port, conviction, 22 CCTV, sexuality, location, whether a phone was found 23 with the bodies -- and so that rather important link was 24 made at that very early stage? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

11 (Pages 41 to 44)

<p>1 Q. Causes of death, the GHB involvement in all four cases. 2 Of course by that stage the toxicology results had 3 been returned for Jack's death, so this was not 4 speculation, this was the scientific evidence of what 5 had been found in each of the four cases. 6 Then the location and the connection there, the 7 proximity of the four bodies. 8 This was all links that had been made just in those 9 two hours, those two and a quarter hours of that 10 conversation? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Then, just for completeness, if we go over the page, we 13 see the penultimate paragraph: 14 "Currently MIT 24 have agreed to provide four 15 detective constables to support the execution of 16 a section 8 PACE warrant at Stephen Port's home address 17 on the next day [the Thursday] and to liaise with the 18 crime scene manager around forensic support. They will 19 also provide a tier 3 interviewer for the purposes of 20 any suspect interview should Port be arrested." 21 There is a reference to CSM Kynaston, who of course 22 the jury heard from, who has knowledge of the deceased, 23 one on the Anthony Walgate case: 24 "... she is on standby to advise, the plan will be 25 to enter and secure the premises on the warrant and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 A. No. 2 Q. Do you think that HAT should have taken over there and 3 then at that meeting? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Just to complete the story, we know that Stephen Port 6 was arrested the next day, and very shortly after that, 7 in fact, that decision by MIT was reversed and a team 8 simply arrived to take over? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. You didn't need to ask them again? 11 A. No. 12 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you, we can take that down. 13 DI Kirk, I have almost finished my questions. Just 14 one further matter, really taking a step back and 15 thinking about the evidence you have given to the jury 16 over the three times you have been here. 17 At the time you have described that you were the 18 acting DCI, you were running that unit in Barking, and 19 you have accepted that there were various things that 20 went wrong over the course of those three cases. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. You have also expressed a view that, on the other hand, 23 there were things that went wrong with SC&O1 response, 24 and you have said on various occasions you feel they 25 should have taken over the case?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 retain it as a scene until the suspect has been 2 interviewed." 3 Really just drawing the strands together, DI Kirk, 4 and coming back to that point I raised with you, let's 5 have in our mind that email that you had written to 6 Superintendent Sweeney the year before. 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Where one of the main points you had wished to make was 9 that the borough simply didn't have the resources or the 10 training to investigate what you at that stage thought 11 was a probable homicide? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Here the decision made on that day was that it should be 14 the Barking CID who should be responsible for planning 15 a strategy to execute an arrest of Stephen Port, to 16 seize his property, take control of his house, and 17 I haven't read the rest of DI McSheffrey's witness 18 statement out, but it is right, isn't it, that he then 19 details all of the difficult discussions that you and he 20 had about how to go about that, thinking about balancing 21 a speedy arrest with securing evidence and all that 22 might happen in a major homicide investigation? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. The simple question is: were either you or he trained to 25 plan a strategy for arresting a potential serial killer?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Of course what those cases at the time had in command 3 was that they were classified as unexplained, there were 4 various views taken at different times about how 5 suspicious they were, but they were never treated as 6 suspicious homicide-type cases, is that fair? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Of course you now work, as you told the jury the first 9 time you came, on a major investigation team dealing day 10 in, day out with homicide cases? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Can I just ask you to look, please, at the last 13 paragraph of one of the witness statements you made. 14 For the screen, it is HAL8, page 13. If we can 15 enlarge just that last paragraph 40, please. 16 Let me read this out and then ask you to expand on 17 it. You say: 18 "The whole investigation ..." 19 Do you mean by that really everything that has 20 happened? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. "The whole investigation has been a salutary lesson to 23 me and is something I very much keep in mind in my 24 current role at specialist crime when looking at 25 'unexplained' deaths."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

12 (Pages 45 to 48)

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do tell us what you mean by that and expand on it?</p> <p>3 A. There hasn't been a day gone past when I don't think</p> <p>4 about it, and I doubt there will be a day in the future</p> <p>5 when I don't. My role at the moment on a MIT team, we</p> <p>6 are, and have been for the last four or five years, one</p> <p>7 of busiest, taken the most jobs, there are now 20 MIT</p> <p>8 teams. For the last four years we have had 100 per cent</p> <p>9 detection rate and we also advise on all of the jobs we</p> <p>10 don't take, we have taken over 50.</p> <p>11 And I will always, if I am available, I will try and</p> <p>12 make myself available to attend the post mortem, because</p> <p>13 I think that is the -- that is one of the areas that was</p> <p>14 let down with this investigation.</p> <p>15 And my team will always if possible supply some of</p> <p>16 the people that are very, very good in certain areas.</p> <p>17 We are overseeing an investigation at the moment where</p> <p>18 they wanted some CCTV officer to -- an expert CCTV</p> <p>19 officer to oversee what they had recovered and --</p> <p>20 Thursday ... they are there today overseeing it.</p> <p>21 I have always got at the back of my mind how</p> <p>22 stretched boroughs are, the working conditions, I still</p> <p>23 speak to and have a lot of friends on borough. It is</p> <p>24 still a really tough place to work. There is a reason</p> <p>25 that we cannot recruit detectives, because the starting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 mortems, for those where it is not clear. If we have</p> <p>2 dealt with a job, for instance a stabbing, it is quite</p> <p>3 clear it is a murder. You know, it is highly likely you</p> <p>4 are not going to be surprised with anything that is</p> <p>5 found in the post mortem, but where you have got a death</p> <p>6 like this, I will always try and go to the post mortem,</p> <p>7 because it is the small things that were missed in this</p> <p>8 that stick at the back of my mind as to the very</p> <p>9 important issues in the investigations.</p> <p>10 MR O'CONNOR: Yes.</p> <p>11 Yes, thank you very much indeed, DI Kirk.</p> <p>12 Questions from MS HILL</p> <p>13 MS HILL: Good morning, Mr Kirk, as you know I ask questions</p> <p>14 on behalf of the families of those who were murdered by</p> <p>15 Stephen Port, some of whom sit here and the rest of whom</p> <p>16 watch remotely, save for Daniel Whitworth's partner who,</p> <p>17 as you know, is represented by my learned friend to my</p> <p>18 left.</p> <p>19 First of all, I would like to ask you some questions</p> <p>20 please about the CID involvement in the Jack Taylor</p> <p>21 scene, to see if you can help a little with some details</p> <p>22 around that.</p> <p>23 We have heard evidence from DS Sweetman about his</p> <p>24 attendance at that scene. As you know, he also attended</p> <p>25 the Gabriel Kovari scene.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 point is on borough and their uniformed colleagues see</p> <p>2 what the borough detectives' working conditions are and</p> <p>3 they don't want to apply and there is a massive</p> <p>4 shortage, nationally I believe, of detectives. That is</p> <p>5 why the direct entry detective scheme has been brought</p> <p>6 in. I have always got it at the back of my mind that</p> <p>7 there is a lack of experience, lack of resources.</p> <p>8 Obviously we cannot take every unexplained death</p> <p>9 that comes to us, but we will always, I will always</p> <p>10 ensure my DSs and my DCIs are of same view that we will</p> <p>11 support where we can, advise where we can and oversee --</p> <p>12 we can't take everything. But the working conditions on</p> <p>13 a MIT team are very different to those on borough.</p> <p>14 Q. You talk about your detection rate. No doubt that is</p> <p>15 very laudable, but that of course is -- those are cases</p> <p>16 which have been classified as homicide, that is why you</p> <p>17 are investigating them?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Do I take it from what you say that part of the your</p> <p>20 role, as we have heard was the role of these teams back</p> <p>21 in 2014/2015, is to do something similar to the HAT car</p> <p>22 exercise and going out to the borough and advising on</p> <p>23 so-called unexplained deaths. Is that the experience</p> <p>24 you take with you?</p> <p>25 A. That is where I will always try and go to the post</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. We heard his evidence after you were here last time, so</p> <p>3 I would just like to ask you a little bit about that, if</p> <p>4 I may.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. When he gave his evidence, we went through in some</p> <p>7 detail his background professionally before he came to</p> <p>8 Barking. I think we established that the attendance at</p> <p>9 the Gabriel Kovari scene may well have been the first</p> <p>10 death of this kind that he had attended and that the</p> <p>11 Jack Taylor scene was the second. Do you understand?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Were you aware of how little experience he had in this</p> <p>14 sort of issue?</p> <p>15 A. I was aware he was an experienced detective. I can't</p> <p>16 recall his background now, but to become a detective,</p> <p>17 you have to complete the detective programme, which is</p> <p>18 a broad spectrum of issues and although you might end up</p> <p>19 working in a different line of investigation to this,</p> <p>20 you would have been trained on all aspects of</p> <p>21 investigation to become a substantive detective.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you know his background was primarily in proactive</p> <p>23 or covert policing rather than this kind of detective</p> <p>24 work?</p> <p>25 A. I knew that is where he had come from. Before that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 I don't know.</p> <p>2 Q. The role that he had when he first went to the</p> <p>3 Gabriel Kovari scene was in the CPU within Barking,</p> <p>4 wasn't it? That was not a role that would normally</p> <p>5 involve him going out to the scene of deaths?</p> <p>6 A. I can't remember his role, but, no, the CPU -- I mean</p> <p>7 ultimately everybody had to muck in on occasion and the</p> <p>8 borough wouldn't function without that. That role, no,</p> <p>9 wouldn't necessarily be expected, if the DS from the CID</p> <p>10 was available, they would normally go.</p> <p>11 Q. I think when he gave his evidence in fairness, he said</p> <p>12 that he was approached by a sergeant from within the</p> <p>13 main office to go to the scene of Gabriel Kovari's death</p> <p>14 but didn't check that with you.</p> <p>15 Does that sound right to you, that you didn't know</p> <p>16 that he had been asked to go down?</p> <p>17 A. I didn't, no, but I do recall a email after he went,</p> <p>18 briefing upwards.</p> <p>19 Q. The evidence he gave was that the impression he took</p> <p>20 from the sergeants was that they were sinking with work</p> <p>21 and that is why he went down. Does that sound right to</p> <p>22 you?</p> <p>23 A. More than likely, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Broadly, just putting the threads together of his</p> <p>25 evidence about those two scenes, is it your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 Anthony Walgate death when he attended the</p> <p>2 Gabriel Kovari scene, and DC Adeyemo-Phillips did not</p> <p>3 mention the Daniel Whitworth case when she attended the</p> <p>4 Jack Taylor scene, isn't that a similar pattern of</p> <p>5 officers attending but just not making any links with</p> <p>6 the previous cases?</p> <p>7 A. If what you said has happened, yes.</p> <p>8 I don't know, I was -- I am not a party to those</p> <p>9 conversations, so I can't say.</p> <p>10 Q. These are members of your team who are attending these</p> <p>11 different deaths. What I am suggesting to you is that</p> <p>12 what it very much looks like is that neither DC Desai at</p> <p>13 the Gabriel Kovari scene, nor DC Adeyemo-Phillips at the</p> <p>14 Jack Taylor scene, had the wherewithal or the curiosity</p> <p>15 to recall that they had been at something very similar</p> <p>16 before or been involved in something very similar</p> <p>17 before. Do you understand?</p> <p>18 A. I understand, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Sergeant Sweetman of course himself had been in person</p> <p>20 at two of those scenes but didn't himself seem to link</p> <p>21 them, did he?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Doesn't that suggest a significant lack of professional</p> <p>24 curiosity by those detectives?</p> <p>25 A. As I have said before, I think it also suggest that is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 understanding that at the Gabriel Kovari scene it was</p> <p>2 DC Desai who also attended with him and at the</p> <p>3 Jack Taylor scene it was DC Adeyemo-Phillips who went</p> <p>4 with him, and I think others, but those two are key. Do</p> <p>5 you know that now?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't, no, but ...</p> <p>7 Q. If we have understood the evidence correctly, when</p> <p>8 Sergeant Sweetman gave his evidence, he said that at no</p> <p>9 point when he attended the Gabriel Kovari scene, all</p> <p>10 right, did DC Desai mention anything about</p> <p>11 Anthony Walgate. Do you understand?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Sergeant Sweetman's evidence is that when he attended</p> <p>14 the Jack Taylor scene, at no point did</p> <p>15 DC Adeyemo-Phillips mention anything about her</p> <p>16 involvement in the Daniel Whitworth case. Do you</p> <p>17 understand?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. There is obviously, as you may know, some tension</p> <p>20 between Sergeant Sweetman and DC Adeyemo-Phillips about</p> <p>21 that, because she says she did talk about the phones at</p> <p>22 the Jack Taylor scene but he denies that, do you</p> <p>23 understand that dispute between those officers?</p> <p>24 A. I wasn't aware of it.</p> <p>25 Q. If it is right that DC Desai did not mention the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 it wasn't as obvious as it is to us sitting here today.</p> <p>2 Q. You would agree I think, wouldn't you, that the role of</p> <p>3 the detective sergeant who attends a potentially</p> <p>4 suspicious death is quite significant?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Although they may not be the sole decision maker, their</p> <p>7 views will be no doubt listened to by the duty officer</p> <p>8 from the uniform branch, isn't that fair?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Therefore, if a detective at the scene makes the wrong</p> <p>11 call and says, "I don't think this is suspicious", that</p> <p>12 can have quite significant consequences?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, it can. I wouldn't expect anybody at the scene of</p> <p>14 something like that to -- I wouldn't expect there to be</p> <p>15 disputes or differences of opinion. They should be</p> <p>16 resolved and whether they call other people in with</p> <p>17 either more experience or from other departments with</p> <p>18 more expertise around it, it shouldn't just be left as</p> <p>19 a dispute over what to do.</p> <p>20 Q. Looking back on it now, if it is in fact the case, as we</p> <p>21 understand, that when DS Sweetman attended the</p> <p>22 Gabriel Kovari scene, that was the first time he had</p> <p>23 been to a death of that kind, a potentially suspicious</p> <p>24 death, would you like to have been consulted about the</p> <p>25 decision he made?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 A. For the first one we received a briefing, via email if 2 I remember correctly. 3 Q. Yes. 4 A. And also obviously the duty officer that attended, there 5 was nothing raised, if the duty officer was concerned 6 that DS Sweetman hadn't fulfilled his role to the 7 required standard, they would have raised it, to either 8 myself or the SLT. 9 Q. Can I ask you some questions now, please, about the CID 10 involvement in the later parts of the Jack Taylor 11 investigation. You have been shown some documentation 12 by learned coroner's counsel. Can I just bring up, 13 please, IPC772. This is the email from 18 September, so 14 a few days after Jack's body was found, where on the 15 face of it Sergeant Sweetman was reporting that he has 16 explained to the coroner, "We could see no link (other 17 than location)." 18 Do you see that? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. "The coroner and Teresa [I think her officer] are 21 a little concerned about the potential for links. 22 I have explained that we could see no link ..." 23 Can you see that? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Is that something you recollect Sergeant Sweetman ever</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 an officer batting away somebody raising an issue about 2 the concerns about links but without any real basis for 3 doing so? Because there is no evidence, is there, that 4 PC McDonald had at that point done a proper review of 5 the other cases? 6 A. I doubt PC McDonald would have reviewed the other cases. 7 Q. Again, doesn't this email suggest that her conversation 8 with the family was along the lines of, "I have no 9 reason to believe they are connected", but really she 10 had no basis for saying that, did she? 11 A. I don't know. I can't answer that, I wasn't aware of 12 this document. 13 Q. The theme that those exchanges reflect is rather 14 similar, isn't it, to the conversations that you had to 15 have earlier in this chronology, in September 2014, when 16 the press were concerned about links between, at that 17 point, three of the deaths. Isn't that right? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. I just want to ask you a couple of questions about that, 20 if I may, because we have had some further evidence 21 about that press conference since you last came before 22 the court and gave evidence. 23 A. Can I just say, it wasn't a press conference. 24 Q. Forgive me, a press release. Or press discussion. 25 A. There was a press release, which would have been press</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 discussing with you before he effectively batted away 2 the coroner in that way? 3 A. No. I wasn't at work for a lot of this time and I don't 4 recall any conversations around it. 5 Q. When he said that to the coroner, that as far as we are 6 concerned we could see no link, there was no substantive 7 review he had carried out of those earlier cases, was 8 there? 9 A. Not that I am aware of. 10 Q. Bring up, please, IPC640, which is the documentation 11 provided by PC McDonald of her discussions with the 12 family of Jack Taylor on various dates. 13 On 5 October, do we see this, if we scroll in on the 14 middle paragraph of that: 15 "On this day, Donna [we can see] raised questions 16 regarding the previous deaths at the site and was 17 already asking whether they could be connected to Jack. 18 I have told her that I have no reason to believe they 19 are connected." 20 Do you see that? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. When we heard evidence about this yesterday, I think the 23 understanding was that this was PC McDonald having had 24 a conversation with Donna Taylor -- this is her record 25 of what she said. Is it not on the face of it again</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 lines, and then I had an over-the-phone interview with 2 one person from the press. 3 Q. Forgive me, that is my shorthand then, but you know the 4 event I am talking about? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Can I just bring up to orientate you, please, if I may, 7 IPC253, just to remind you of the chronology, the foot 8 of IPC253 seems to reflect, 12.24 on 29 September, 9 somebody called Freddy, a reporter I think you are 10 familiar with, asking about the "two most recent 11 incidents", and by this point that would have been the 12 Gabriel and Daniel cases, yes? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. "I do not believe we logged the initial incident." 15 I think that means the Anthony Walgate death, 16 correct? 17 A. Sorry, "logged"? 18 Q. What I am trying to understand is the email here at 19 12.24 seems to be from the press person within the 20 borough or within the police to you, yes? 21 A. Yes, sorry, yes the department, the DMC. 22 Q. What she is doing is flagging with you that there is 23 a journalist who needs to be spoken to and she is 24 sending you information about it? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

<p>1 Q. Putting the emails together, what seems to happen is</p> <p>2 that fairly shortly after that, so a few minutes later,</p> <p>3 can we bring up, please, IPC252, you say to</p> <p>4 Sergeant Turrell, 12.44:</p> <p>5 "Can you stick Walgate's details on there as well,</p> <p>6 please, I am going to be asked about it."</p> <p>7 Do you recollect that?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. There seems to be a feeling that you are going to be</p> <p>10 asked about the Anthony Walgate case?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Then, just trying to piece this together, please, take</p> <p>13 this shortly if I may, go back to IPC253. In the middle</p> <p>14 of the page at 205 you seem to try and speak to either</p> <p>15 Jo or to the journalist directly, I am not quite sure,</p> <p>16 can you help? Because you say at 205:</p> <p>17 "I have rung the office number and the mailbox is</p> <p>18 full."</p> <p>19 Is that you ringing Freddy?</p> <p>20 A. From reading the email above, that I have tried and</p> <p>21 couldn't get through, I would say yes. What would</p> <p>22 happen is the request for an interview would go to DMC,</p> <p>23 the Directorate of Media & Communications, they would</p> <p>24 then ask me to do it and I tried to make contact and</p> <p>25 I am letting Jo Hudson at DMC know that I tried and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 asked about.</p> <p>2 How had Freddy been put off the idea of asking about</p> <p>3 the Anthony case?</p> <p>4 A. I have no idea, I don't know.</p> <p>5 Q. Just looking at your two emails, at 12.44 on the 29th,</p> <p>6 you say, "I am going to be asked about Walgate". At</p> <p>7 4.33 on the same day you say, "It appears I am not going</p> <p>8 to be asked about it".</p> <p>9 How had that been batted away or removed from what</p> <p>10 you were likely to be asked to deal with?</p> <p>11 A. I have no idea. I clearly hadn't spoken to Freddy.</p> <p>12 I don't know Freddy. I have no idea what changed.</p> <p>13 Q. You were no doubt thinking carefully about what you</p> <p>14 could say to the press with confidence?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. You made it clear in this email that you did not want</p> <p>17 GHB mentioned; is that right?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. I think you had made clear in earlier emails, and</p> <p>20 perhaps we can just bring up -- I don't think we need to</p> <p>21 bring it up actually, but for reference I think it is</p> <p>22 IPC221, there are some earlier emails a few days before</p> <p>23 this, where you said you didn't want the fact that some</p> <p>24 of these young men were gay being mentioned. Does that</p> <p>25 sound right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 couldn't get through.</p> <p>2 Q. It looks as if, because you couldn't get through, at</p> <p>3 4.30, at the top of that page you go to Mr Schamberger</p> <p>4 and ask him to try Freddy the following day, is that</p> <p>5 right?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. When he gave evidence about this, he didn't remember</p> <p>8 this at all, he said on Day 26, page 41:</p> <p>9 "I don't remember reaching or speaking to Freddy,</p> <p>10 I did not talk to the press on this one. I don't recall</p> <p>11 the conversation around that with you. If I had not</p> <p>12 done it, he would have never brought it up with me of</p> <p>13 course."</p> <p>14 I don't quite follow that part of his evidence, but</p> <p>15 he was certainly not recollecting anything about this,</p> <p>16 but what is it you were asking him to do, you were</p> <p>17 asking him to speak to the journalist and do what?</p> <p>18 A. I didn't know what the journalist wanted, so I am</p> <p>19 assuming they wanted obviously to speak to us to find</p> <p>20 out what we would be willing to release to the press, so</p> <p>21 it would be a case of phone them up, find out what they</p> <p>22 wanted and then you have to work out what you are in</p> <p>23 a position to release and what you are not.</p> <p>24 Q. You had reached the view, it looks like from this email,</p> <p>25 Mr Kirk, at 4.33, that Walgate was now not going to be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, that was after an email from the family liaison</p> <p>2 coordinator that the families didn't want that released.</p> <p>3 So you try and balance the feelings of the families and</p> <p>4 loved ones with what needs to go out in the press as --</p> <p>5 we have a duty to report.</p> <p>6 Q. Of course, it is understand that you may be wanting to</p> <p>7 manage what goes out from the police but you said this</p> <p>8 in the email here, don't you, the second line down:</p> <p>9 "The only thing we know and can confirm is that they</p> <p>10 knew each other."</p> <p>11 You see that, please, it's the top of IPC253,</p> <p>12 please, this is what you were telling Mr Schamberger:</p> <p>13 "The only thing we know and can confirm is that they</p> <p>14 knew each other."</p> <p>15 A. Yes, and at the time, on the basis that I was informed</p> <p>16 that the note was legitimate, that was a given, but</p> <p>17 obviously we now know that is not the case.</p> <p>18 Q. Can you help at all in any further way with how this</p> <p>19 journalist was dealt with and how this issue of the</p> <p>20 potential link with Walgate surfaced and then was</p> <p>21 squashed down?</p> <p>22 A. I can't. I don't -- it may have been me just wanting to</p> <p>23 make sure I had the details, which is why I asked for</p> <p>24 Mr Walgate's details in case I would be asked. I don't</p> <p>25 know if I ever -- I don't know how the message came to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

<p>1 me to ring him. I don't know if there were emails that 2 I haven't seen in relation to that. It -- I can't 3 answer. I don't think it was a case of I discouraged 4 him from asking about them, because I clearly hadn't 5 spoken to him at that point.</p> <p>6 I would have just liked to have been prepared before 7 I made the phone call and that is why I asked for the 8 details. And then, from looking at these emails, it 9 would appear that I didn't get through, and because 10 I was going to be away from the office the next day, 11 I asked Rolf to make the phone call for me.</p> <p>12 I don't think it is a case of putting the journalist 13 off, he hadn't been spoken to. I don't know if he was 14 ever going to ask me about it. It might be just me 15 making sure I was prepared.</p> <p>16 Q. Finally on this, when Mr Schamberger gave evidence on 17 Day 26, he says: 18 "I do know I did not speak to Freddy Mayhew." 19 I asked him: 20 "Didn't you at any point ring up Mr Kirk ..." 21 Just pausing there, even if you put to one side, 22 Mr Kirk, what you are willing as police to say to the 23 press, right I understand that might be different to 24 what you are actually doing internally, what I asked 25 Mr Schamberger was this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 Q. -- so whatever the press had got, and of course the 2 press may or may not get the sniff of things right, of 3 course they may get things wrong, but putting that to 4 one side, wasn't this yet again somebody raising with 5 you indirectly the fact that there might be links 6 between these three cases?</p> <p>7 A. No, it is just quite apparent there is not a link with 8 Mr Walgate at that stage.</p> <p>9 Q. When you became aware of the Jack Taylor death, again 10 there is evidence, isn't there, that the family had 11 raised the possibility of those links, and so had the 12 coroner. But, again, this didn't seem to create any 13 lightbulb moment with you at that point, did it?</p> <p>14 A. I think it has been clear from my initial evidence that 15 I was not aware of any of those emails or conversations 16 until the image had been identified. I was off for 17 a lot of that period and I don't remember -- sorry, 18 I wasn't at any of the meetings between the CID and the 19 uniform officers dealing with it. So it is not a case 20 of I was aware and didn't make a link. I wasn't aware 21 at all.</p> <p>22 Q. I think your officers had been closely involved, hadn't 23 they, in the early October period in dealing with some 24 of the uniformed officers?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, some of them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 "Didn't you at any point ring up Mr Kirk and say, 2 'Hang on a minute, what do you mean Walgate? I know 3 nothing about this, I am looking at the other two, what 4 is the link? What are you talking about?' Did you have 5 no conversation with him at all?"</p> <p>6 His answer on page 43 was this: 7 "I would imagine we did have conversations at the 8 time, but I don't recall.</p> <p>9 Putting aside whether or not you were tasking 10 Mr Schamberger to put off the journalist or something 11 like that, didn't you at that point talk to him and say: 12 "Look, hang on a minute, the press are sniffing 13 round, you have now got Gabriel and Daniel to 14 investigate, there is a potential link with Walgate that 15 needs to be looked at."</p> <p>16 A. I don't recall that, no.</p> <p>17 Q. When the press themselves appear to have been sniffing 18 around, isn't that something obvious that you should 19 have done?</p> <p>20 A. It appears the press were asking about -- once I had 21 spoken to them -- Mr Kovari, and Mr Whitworth and 22 Mr Ahmed.</p> <p>23 Q. Certainly the first email suggests that you had thought 24 you were going to be asked about Anthony -- 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 Q. I think you know, don't you, that when the coroner's 2 expert has looked at these issues, she has taken a broad 3 view across all of the evidence and she has tried to 4 work out, hasn't she, where criticism can fairly be put 5 for failing to make links between these case, you know 6 that that is what she has done?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. I think in fairness to you, if we could just bring up, 9 please, INQ24, internal page 7, paragraph 27 of her 10 report, she may well say this to the jury when she gives 11 evidence next week, INQ24, internal page 7, she has made 12 the point that there were others who were aware of these 13 different links, so she has said it is now apparent on 14 her understanding of the evidence that Detective 15 Superintendent Sweeney was sighted on all four deaths. 16 Do you see that?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. We can take that down.</p> <p>19 Obviously questions have been asked about others 20 within your team, such as Mr Slaymaker, who was the FLO 21 on different parts of the case and so on, but you are 22 aware, I think, aren't you, looking at all the evidence, 23 Ms Mackay's view is that you were in a position across 24 all these cases to have formed a realistic view, in 25 particular in September 2014, that there were links</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 between these cases. You know what is what she is 2 likely to say, don't you? 3 A. Yes, I disagree. 4 Q. In relation to the Jack Taylor investigation, because 5 you are here to answer for CID effectively, do you know 6 that her view was also that it was appropriate for CID 7 to have taken more of an intrusive role in the 8 Jack Taylor investigation? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Just bring up, please, INQ6, internal page 32, 11 paragraph 137. Because her view has been that when the 12 timeline or briefing note from 5 October was shared with 13 Sergeant Sweetman to DI McSheffrey, we have looked at 14 that document I think briefly, that effectively amounted 15 to the uniformed officers asking for more help with what 16 was an increasingly difficult investigation. Do you 17 accept that that is what the briefing note shows? 18 A. Yes, but as I understand it, and only from documents 19 I have seen very recently, they were supported in some 20 of the activity. 21 Q. Just bring up briefly, if we can -- in fact I don't 22 think we need to bring it up, but the phrasing on it is 23 specifically to the effect that because of all the 24 difficulties that the uniformed officers are 25 identifying, they wanted further exploration,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 is also likely to be that the receipt of the toxicology 2 evidence on 6 October, again, should have flagged a more 3 intrusive approach by CID. At that point, she makes the 4 point four young men had overdosed on GHB, and at that 5 point it should have been the subject of more intrusive 6 thinking. What do you say about that? 7 A. It is certainly a relevant factor that should have been 8 taken into consideration. 9 Q. The themes that the inquests may well hear tomorrow from 10 DAC Cundy are broadly five key themes, that is what he 11 is likely to talk about tomorrow, do you understand? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Bring up, please, MPS718, internal page 6. 14 The first theme he is likely to talk about is the 15 quality of the investigations and the professional 16 curiosity of investigators. He says at the end of that 17 first paragraph at 22, please, paragraph 22.1, he says: 18 "Considered as a whole, the approach of both local 19 policing [that's where you fit] and specialist 20 investigators should have been better and could have led 21 to the earlier arrest of Mr Port on suspicion of 22 murder." 23 Is there anything else about that that you would 24 like to say as you finish your evidence to this inquest? 25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 investigation or advice and we have had some evidence 2 that the uniformed officers at that point thought the 3 HAT team should have been involved because things were 4 so complicated. 5 If you would just look, please, at internal 136. 6 Ms Mackay's view is: 7 "It would have been appropriate for CID to have been 8 more engaged in reviewing the investigation and taking 9 responsibility for it. I believe that would have then 10 led to them seeking further advice from the HAT team." 11 This is all before the key events when DC Parish 12 looked at the photograph. 13 Do you want to answer that? 14 A. I wasn't at work during that whole period, I wasn't at 15 the meeting and I wasn't aware they had taken place. 16 It is difficult, DI McSheffrey was acting up in my 17 absence. 18 We all try and protect our resources as much as we 19 can and by taking on things that wouldn't necessarily 20 fall within our remit it impacts elsewhere. So it would 21 have been a decision that DI McSheffrey would have made 22 with Inspector O'Donohue. If Inspector O'Donohue wasn't 23 happy, he could have spoken to his chief inspector or 24 the superintendent. 25 Q. Finally on this part of her report, please, her evidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 Q. You accept that that is a fair reflection, do you, of 2 the investigation into these young men's death? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. In relation to his second point, please, on internal 5 page 7, that there were lines of enquiry that were 6 missed and that leadership could have been better and 7 that there was no review of these cases to identify any 8 potential links. Again, do you accept that? 9 A. The facts are correct, there was no review. There was 10 nothing in the policy for what it is worth, it wasn't 11 really fit for purpose, as we have heard. There was no 12 clear policy on what to do and who should do it. 13 Q. Forgive me, Mr Kirk, when you are talking about policy, 14 do you mean the practice of dividing responsibility 15 between homicide command and the borough. Is that what 16 you mean? 17 A. No, the policy for investigation of unexplained deaths, 18 should they remain on borough? 19 Q. Isn't it clear that once the decision is made that the 20 case will remain on borough, that you have a role and 21 responsibility to perform in that? 22 A. I do not have a role to perform, I am the -- I am 23 responsible for the whole, all of the CID departments. 24 So I am responsible for every crime they investigate, 25 every vulnerable adult and child that comes to notice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 and all the other areas of business that would sit</p> <p>2 within my portfolio. I would not take an active role in</p> <p>3 the investigations for any individual. If something was</p> <p>4 raised to me as being a problem, or there were barriers</p> <p>5 in the way, then I would address them.</p> <p>6 Q. Ultimately, you were responsible for the investigations</p> <p>7 into Anthony Walgate's death, through that inspector;</p> <p>8 the Whitworth and Kovari one through that inspector, and</p> <p>9 to some degree the Taylor investigation before the</p> <p>10 homicide command took over, weren't you?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Isn't it fair to say as you have agreed already, that</p> <p>13 the lack of investigation structures and strategies did</p> <p>14 not lead to any review of deaths before October 2015,</p> <p>15 that's correct, isn't it?</p> <p>16 A. Can you just repeat that last bit?</p> <p>17 Q. This part of the likely evidence of Mr Cundy from</p> <p>18 tomorrow, the lack of clear structures and strategies</p> <p>19 did not lead to any review. That is a fact, isn't it?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Your own initiative outside of those structures and</p> <p>22 strategies did not lead to any review either?</p> <p>23 A. It is not about initiative, I had no cause to review</p> <p>24 them. Nobody had raised any concern about the</p> <p>25 investigations, so I had no cause to go and review them</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Q. Your officers did not identify a red blanket at the</p> <p>2 scene, you know that now, I think?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. That was completely missed?</p> <p>5 A. I wasn't on duty for those -- for that period of time,</p> <p>6 and I don't -- I know there were opportunities missed,</p> <p>7 I don't know the specifics of them.</p> <p>8 Q. The interactions between local policing and the homicide</p> <p>9 command, number 3, again, is there anything else you</p> <p>10 would like to say about that? Do you want to reflect on</p> <p>11 everything you have said today about the Taylor phase of</p> <p>12 this investigation, about the role of the homicide</p> <p>13 command, because the evidence you have given this</p> <p>14 morning suggests, doesn't it, that even when Mr Parish</p> <p>15 had seen the photograph of Port, there was no reluctance</p> <p>16 by the MIT team to take this case on. Isn't that fair?</p> <p>17 A. There was, yes. I think it is only fair that the MIT</p> <p>18 teams justify the reasons why they haven't taken on the</p> <p>19 work. I strongly feel to this day that all four should</p> <p>20 have been taken and the reasons for that are quite</p> <p>21 obvious. That doesn't excuse the investigation that</p> <p>22 took place subsequently, I am not trying to do that, but</p> <p>23 they should have, in my view, been taken by the MIT</p> <p>24 team.</p> <p>25 Q. I will not go through the other two findings in any more</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 and there was nothing in the policy that required me to</p> <p>2 review those investigations.</p> <p>3 Q. We will obviously disagree about that --</p> <p>4 A. No, there is nothing in the policy that requires the DCI</p> <p>5 on borough to review those investigations.</p> <p>6 Q. This is not a policy matter, is it? This is a situation</p> <p>7 where you have been given cases that the MIT team have</p> <p>8 refused to take. You must have known that these were</p> <p>9 real --</p> <p>10 A. That is why I allocated a DI to investigate them,</p> <p>11 because they were serious.</p> <p>12 Q. Forgive me, I am not talking about any particular</p> <p>13 policy, I just want to put to you one more time that</p> <p>14 these were cases that were important, these were</p> <p>15 borderline potential homicide cases and that you were</p> <p>16 sighted on enough information to have justified carrying</p> <p>17 out a review at the very least in September 2014. Do</p> <p>18 you understand?</p> <p>19 A. I understand, but I don't agree.</p> <p>20 Q. The lines of enquiry that were missed, we see here, as</p> <p>21 part of finding number 2, also applies doesn't it to</p> <p>22 some degree to the Taylor investigation, because we</p> <p>23 know, for example, don't we that the red blanket at the</p> <p>24 scene was entirely missed?</p> <p>25 A. I don't know anything about that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 detail, we will hear about that tomorrow. I would just</p> <p>2 like finally to bring up INQ6, internal 35, please,</p> <p>3 again.</p> <p>4 Scroll in, please, on paragraphs 147 to 150. Just</p> <p>5 for you to reflect finally on this, Mr Kirk, with your</p> <p>6 position within the borough CID.</p> <p>7 The coroner's expert is likely to say four key</p> <p>8 things here, 147:</p> <p>9 "The lack of inquisition or enquiry into the</p> <p>10 circumstances of Anthony's death resulted in a missed</p> <p>11 opportunity to charge Port ...</p> <p>12 "The death of Gabriel ... not investigated in</p> <p>13 sufficient detail to identify his last movements ... if</p> <p>14 it had been ... his association with Port may have been</p> <p>15 identified ... (when [he] was still on bail).</p> <p>16 "The death of Daniel was accepted as it was</p> <p>17 presented ... the lack of identification of the person</p> <p>18 he had been with on the night before ... meant that</p> <p>19 an opportunity to identify Port was missed.</p> <p>20 "When the media and family ... were asking if the</p> <p>21 deaths were linked ..."</p> <p>22 Just pausing there, looking at all the evidence as</p> <p>23 you now understand it to be, Mr Kirk, isn't this right,</p> <p>24 that the Walgate family, Anthony's family, had said to</p> <p>25 their FLO, as far as you understand their evidence, that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 they were concerned about the possibility of links, do 2 you know about that? 3 A. Only through this procedure. 4 Q. And that although the Gabriel Kovari family had been 5 entirely ignored by one of the FLOs in your team, his 6 friend, John Pape, and also his former partner, 7 Thierry Amodio, had said to your officers they were 8 concerned about links. Do you know about that evidence? 9 A. Again, only through this inquest. 10 Q. And that the evidence of Daniel Whitworth's father and 11 stepmother has also been they told their FLO that they 12 were concerned about links, do you know that that is 13 their evidence? 14 A. I haven't seen that, but ... 15 Q. You have already been taken this morning to the log of 16 contact between the Taylor family and PC McDonald to say 17 that they were expressing concerns about the links. You 18 know about that now, don't you, from today? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. What the coroner's expert may well say at 150 is when 21 the media and family members were asking if the deaths 22 were linked, I think she is talking specifically here 23 about 29 September 2014, there was an opportunity to 24 seek an independent review of the three deaths that were 25 not taken and in fact any link was dismissed without</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. My learned friend ran through with you some of the 3 contacts between family and friends and the police 4 service. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. In fact there is quite a lot more. 7 There is China Dunning and Kiera Brennan. 8 Kiera Brennan's evidence is that they tried to contact 9 the police 30 times. 10 John Pape, Gabriel's friend, repeated emails of his 11 were ignored by the police service. 12 Thierry Amodio, Gabriel's former partner, he had 13 vital information about Karl, who in fact had pictures 14 of Port's flat. 15 My client, Ricky Waumsley, his evidence is he made 16 12 phone calls to Detective Constable Slaymaker and in 17 fact completely gave up trying to contact the police 18 after Christmas 2014. 19 And Donna Taylor, Jack's sister, she and her sister 20 Jenny Taylor had to push repeatedly for lines of enquiry 21 to be followed up by the police. 22 Just pausing there, do you accept that if not for 23 Donna and Jenny Taylor's efforts, Port would not have 24 been caught at that time? 25 A. I don't know. I don't know enough of the details to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 rationale. Do you see that? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. The death of Jack Taylor, just go down to 151, should 4 also have triggered a recognition of similarity in 5 circumstances. Do you see that? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Just pausing there, finally, knowing that I represent 8 all of these families except for Daniel Whitworth's 9 partner, is there anything else you would like to say to 10 them in light of the likely evidence we are going to 11 hear from the coroner's expert? 12 A. Just that I am deeply sorry for what has happened. 13 It's -- nothing I can say will provide much comfort, 14 I am afraid. 15 MS HILL: Thank you. 16 Forgive me, just bear with me a moment. 17 Thank you very much. 18 Questions from DR VAN DELLEN 19 DR VAN DELLEN: Madam, I only have three questions, thank 20 you. 21 Detective Inspector Kirk, as you may remember I act 22 for Ricky Waumsley, Daniel Whitworth's partner. 23 Would you agree that in unexplained deaths family 24 and friends can have important information about the 25 deceased?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 comment. 2 Q. Why does there appear to have been a police culture of 3 not engaging with important informants with vital 4 information in every single one of these deaths? 5 A. I am not going to try and excuse what happened, but 6 I think just for context that these were not officers 7 that were lazy and not doing anything. They were all 8 working in very difficult conditions, relentlessly 9 working very hard for very little reward. 10 As I said, I am not trying to excuse what has 11 happened, it is clearly not acceptable, but I just think 12 the context needs to be borne in mind. For everybody 13 that was working on the borough at that time, it was 14 very, very difficult for all. 15 Q. Are you suggest these officers were working for very 16 little reward, at that time in 2014, starting out, what 17 would a sergeant be earning? 18 A. I don't know and I don't think that is relevant. When 19 I am talking about reward, I am talking about there was 20 very little recognition for the good work that they were 21 doing, which was very, very good work in a lot of areas 22 which I have talked about. 23 I just want to make -- set the context that it is 24 not a case of these were the only things going on for 25 these officers, they weren't and that is why the links</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

20 (Pages 77 to 80)

<p>1 were not made, because we can sit here now with 2 hindsight and it is very easy to pick out the points, 3 but when you have got hundreds of crimes every day 4 coming in and 10, 20 prisoners a day, if not more, 5 critical incidents, missing people, all going on at the 6 same time, any lengthy protracted investigation, 7 unfortunately has to take a back seat, because 8 a prisoner has to be dealt with, a missing person has to 9 be dealt with, they cannot be put on the back burner, 10 whereas protracted investigations unfortunately have to, 11 we have to prioritise.</p> <p>12 It is the one problem with borough work where the 13 specialist units don't have the same issues is you 14 cannot turn off the flow of work that comes into 15 a borough, particularly a borough CID. Prisoners come 16 in at all times of the day, as do the crimes and you can 17 never know, you can never predict, you can never prepare 18 for busy times, Sunday morning can be quiet, Sunday 19 morning you can come in to 10 prisoners.</p> <p>20 It is not -- it is just a really thankless task for 21 those officers.</p> <p>22 DR VAN DELLEN: Madam, no further questions, thank you. 23 THE CORONER: Mr Davies, it might be appropriate to take 24 a break at that stage, we haven't had one yet and I am 25 conscious of the stenographer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 the product of homicide? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. And likely to be at the hands of the same individual, 4 Port? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. In terms of DI McSheffrey's statement, could we have on 7 screen, please, back on screen, IPC425, page 6, the 8 first two paragraphs. 9 What he says, and Mr O'Connor has taken you to the 10 first part of this: 11 "At the end of the briefing, DI McKeeve from SC&O1 12 left the briefing room to brief up to an unknown 13 supervisor from SC&O1. Despite all of the evidence 14 presented, the conclusion was that Barking and Dagenham 15 would retain the primacy of the investigation because we 16 could not prove 'murder'. 17 Pausing there, a matter for the jury but this 18 approach may be thought to find a resonance in the 19 approach taken by SC&O1 in terms of primacy on the 20 Walgate investigation, Mr Kirk? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. And the fact they did not assume primacy on the 23 Whitworth/Kovari investigations? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. The culture implied by this comment, do you agree with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 MR DAVIES: I certainly wouldn't complain. 2 THE CORONER: Thank you. 3 We will take a short break. 4 (11.44 am) 5 (A short adjournment) 6 (12.08 pm) 7 (In the presence of the jury) 8 Questions from MR DAVIES 9 MR DAVIES: Thank you, madam. 10 Could I take you back, please, to -- as 11 DI McSheffrey put it in his statement -- the full and 12 comprehensive briefing between you and others from 13 Barking and the HAT car on 14 October 2015, between 1515 14 and 1730 hours, so some two and a quarter hours of 15 briefing, where you and DI McSheffrey laid out the 16 evidence documenting the bases, multiple bases, of 17 suspicion to link the four deaths we are considering, 18 correct? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Mr O'Connor has taken you already to the typed document 21 with the table in it, reflecting in detail on that date 22 what may be thought to be by that date the very obvious 23 bases to at least suspect the four deaths were linked. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. And were linked on the basis that they were likely to be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 it, is that at this time as and until it was 2 demonstrated to be a homicide MIT would not assume 3 primacy? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Rather than the specialist resources of MIT being 6 deployed to an unexplained death in order to establish 7 whether it is a homicide? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. No doubt forged by your experience in these 10 investigations, Mr Kirk, in 2016 you moved to MIT, you 11 stay there. In terms of your own approach, I think you 12 stated that you now approach these situations with 13 a different mindset. Is that a fair summary? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. I don't want to put words in your mouth, but in the 16 sense that you, Mr Kirk, will be more intrusive in 17 a situation like this than simply saying, "Murder is not 18 established yet, therefore it stays on borough"? 19 A. I think this investigation changed a lot of people's 20 mindsets in relation to the way the MIT teams work with 21 boroughs and also the borough's expectation and the 22 demands they make of the MIT teams as well. 23 Q. One can understand why you may well take a different 24 approach yourself, Mr Kirk, now, but what is your 25 position based on five years of service in a MIT as to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

21 (Pages 81 to 84)

<p>1 the wider approach from colleagues, from what you have 2 observed directly?</p> <p>3 A. There have been some improvements, as I said, as 4 a result of this investigation and the learning that has 5 come out of it. It is not a perfect system, by any 6 means, and as more and more officers come from borough 7 who were aware of this investigation and the other 8 problems and issues that boroughs face, the MIT teams 9 are, and the fact that there are two more MIT teams than 10 there were back then -- there were 18 and there are now 11 20 -- that has obviously helped with demand as well for 12 the MIT teams to be able to assist further. Like 13 I said, it is still not perfect but it is better.</p> <p>14 Q. Are you aware of any centralised change to guidance as 15 to the approach taken to unexplained deaths?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. You appear to be implying that it is still a matter of 18 personal experience and word of mouth rather than 19 centralised changes of policy?</p> <p>20 A. I understand the policy has been rewritten more than 21 once since this occurred.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes.</p> <p>23 A. But a lot of it is still down to officer discretion.</p> <p>24 Q. All right.</p> <p>25 Going back to Mr McSheffrey's statement, next</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 forensic strand of this investigation without missing 2 any opportunities. Normally SC&O1 would liaise with 3 a crime scene manager and would receive advice as to the 4 best way to proceed, however CSMs are not readily 5 available to territorial policing, BOCUs. I have 6 a borough forensic managers ... who have a different 7 level of expertise."</p> <p>8 DI McSheffrey is identifying, isn't he, just simply 9 one element in terms of expertise that is materially 10 different as between borough and MIT?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. There are others. We have been through them in other 13 parts of the evidence.</p> <p>14 A. Yes, there are.</p> <p>15 Q. Back to the other point, bearing in mind the intrinsic 16 nature of the work on CID, the volume, the reactive 17 nature of some of it and so on and so forth, you have 18 been through it, is it possible simply to stop 19 everything and prioritise an individual unexplained 20 death investigation?</p> <p>21 A. No. No, as I have said before, the issue you have on 22 borough is that you can't stop the flow of work coming 23 in, so if a prisoner comes in you have a certain amount 24 of time to deal with them. If it is a domestic abuse 25 crime the last thing you want to do is to release</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 paragraph, he says: 2 "I, at the time and now, believe there was a lack of 3 urgency from SC&O1 to carry out this job. I was 4 astonished that I and the main CID team were being left 5 to investigate these offences as we did not have the 6 resources or training to know how to carry out a murder 7 investigation."</p> <p>8 Do you agree or disagree with that proposition?</p> <p>9 A. I agree.</p> <p>10 Q. Quite aside from capacity, was the borough team equipped 11 to investigate potential homicides in 2014/2015?</p> <p>12 A. No, especially when you take into considerations the 13 workloads that they had to carry in addition to these 14 investigations. If you are in a position to, as I have 15 had to do once before and it works very well, take 16 officers from their day job and create a small 17 investigating unit, you can get very good results, like 18 that, with the right officers, with the right skills and 19 experience.</p> <p>20 Q. I will come back to that point in a second. Page 7 of 21 the same document, please, the paragraph starting, 22 "Another consideration", second paragraph, Mr McSheffrey 23 said this: 24 "Another consideration, after realising I would be 25 the SIO for this investigation was how to manage the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 somebody, you want to get them charged and remanded in 2 custody to reduce the risk to the victim. That has to 3 take priority.</p> <p>4 This type of investigation would be a slower-time 5 investigation, because there is less urgency until you 6 start making arrests and forensic windows have closed 7 and things like that, but you cannot control what comes 8 into a borough and those have to take priority. You 9 cannot call other people in to deal with them. You have 10 your finite resource on borough.</p> <p>11 Q. Searches have to be conducted, warrants executed, 12 vulnerable missing persons found. CCTV seized for other 13 criminal enquiries. None of these things can wait, can 14 they?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. You cannot simply prioritise one investigation?</p> <p>17 A. No, and that why I described the investigations, again 18 from my knowledge of what went on, having read through 19 some of the evidence here, is that they became 20 disjointed and they became disjointed because of that 21 constant workload coming in that meant nobody really had 22 the time to look at these in any great depth and bring 23 all the pieces together.</p> <p>24 Q. The document can come down now, thank you. 25 Final point, and I emphasise of course that any</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 police officer, any police staff member, has to do their 2 job professionally in the environment in which they find 3 themselves. 4 But can you add a bit of colour to the reality of 5 working at Fresh Wharf in terms of the physical 6 environment for us. 7 First of all, it was located on a light industrial 8 unit, wasn't it? 9 A. Yes, it is a bit of a lengthy story but ultimately it 10 was a purpose-built building which to look at would be 11 an industrial unit. It was one of the first 30-cell 12 custody sites, so it was predominantly a custody site 13 for the north-east. 14 Q. It is well suited in terms of location as a custody 15 suite, isn't it? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. But less well suited in terms of CID, because there is 18 nothing around it? 19 A. There is no public area to take members of the public, 20 family, witnesses, et cetera. The CID office, as it 21 was, when the building was built, because I was there as 22 part of the design process, wasn't an office, it was 23 a void above the custody suite, but it was considered -- 24 there was no room for the CID and the investigative unit 25 so that void was converted, professionally at the time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 Q. Which was what date, remind me, please? 2 A. If someone could assist -- I can't remember, 3 25 September? 4 Q. It was the 25th. 5 A. September. 6 Q. That was to do with the coronial investigation of the 7 debt? 8 A. It was about the family liaison request. 9 Q. You may have heard about the evidence that has been 10 given at the inquest that Jack's sisters, who were not 11 police detectives, did some basic open source research, 12 found out about three previous deaths of young men in 13 Barking and drew the obvious inference that they may 14 have been connected. Have you heard that evidence? 15 A. I haven't heard of it -- heard the actual evidence, no. 16 Q. You have heard about that, have you? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Why, as a senior detective, did you not make that 19 obvious inference? 20 A. I don't know. It wasn't obvious to many, many officers. 21 And, as I said, with the benefit of hindsight it is 22 obvious but lots of officers that have given evidence 23 here didn't make a link. It clearly, to us at the time, 24 wasn't as obvious and the moment it did become obvious 25 a lot of action was taken. There is no benefit or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 of the building being built but still, they couldn't 2 change the outside fabric of the building, hence the no 3 windows. 4 Q. So the CID office wasn't designed for what it became? 5 A. Not initially. It was built after the building had been 6 finished, before people moved in, but, yes, it had no 7 windows and it was considered a soulless place to work, 8 because it was very bland and not many windows and 9 things like that. 10 Q. Did your office had a window? 11 A. No, I had a cupboard, for want of a better word. 12 Q. We have heard the size of the CID office described. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. No natural light? 15 A. One very small window right in the corner, which I think 16 was considered the emergency exit. It was set deep 17 within a well, but certainly not openable and you 18 couldn't see it from most of the office. 19 MR DAVIES: Thank you. 20 Questions from MR SKELTON 21 MR SKELTON: Mr Kirk, I ask questions on behalf of the 22 Metropolitan Police. Can I ask you first about 23 Jack Taylor. When did you first become aware of Jack's 24 death? 25 A. I think it is probably the email from DI Lalani.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 reason for us not to make a link, I would have loved to 2 have made the link earlier. 3 Q. You are saying it wasn't obvious that the deaths of four 4 young men of similar ages, found in a similar place, all 5 potentially associated with drug abuse and none of whom 6 had a direct connection to Barking, all of whom had come 7 from outside the area, without any explanation for who 8 they met, who they spoke to, how they got the drugs, 9 what had happened to them the night before they died, it 10 wasn't obvious there were connections between those 11 things? 12 A. You have obviously laid it out with the benefit of 13 hindsight with all the information that you have 14 received. That isn't how it was at the time. 15 Q. You were asked about MIT's engagement and I think 16 DI McKeeve attended Barking at your request on 17 4 October? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. The jury have seen a rapid analysis of the four deaths 20 was done that day, including the similarities and the 21 connections between at least some of the deaths and 22 Stephen Port? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. That is in the HAT return? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 Q. As you understand it, DI McKeeve contacted his manager 2 and a decision was made to provide immediate support for 3 the arrest and interview of Port the next day? 4 A. The next day, yes. 5 Q. You had no engagement directly with the MIT manager, did 6 you? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Do you know why he made the decision he made? 9 A. I don't. Mr Wilson and Mr Taylor were both aware of as 10 much information as I am. It would be their role to 11 make contact if they didn't agree with the decision. 12 Q. You would be aware, as you have seen from the HAT 13 return, that five officers were due to come to Barking, 14 including four detective constables and a tier 3 15 interviewer? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. And there was going to be a liaison with the CSM as 18 well. In fact Ms Kynaston had been reengaged? 19 A. Yes, on standby, as I understand it. 20 Q. Yes. 21 Did you tell DI McKeeve that you disagreed with the 22 plan to arrest Port the next day with assistance from 23 MIT? 24 A. I have no doubt that I would have made my feelings felt. 25 I knew Euan McKeeve quite well.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 question. Did anybody go back to the MIT and say, "Hang 2 on, you need to take primacy"? 3 A. The information came from Euan McKeeve that they were 4 not going to take it that night. I don't know what 5 Mr Wilson or Mr Taylor did that night. 6 Q. Did you consider that Port, by this stage, had murdered 7 at least two of the men, possibly more? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. What did you arrest him for the next day? 10 A. I believe it was administering a noxious substance. 11 Q. Why not murder? 12 A. It was the discussion that we had had with the MIT team. 13 They favoured that as the -- that was the advice they 14 gave us. I didn't have any reason to disagree with 15 that, I just wanted him in custody. It doesn't really 16 change -- if you arrest somebody for that, you can 17 always further arrest them, the main thing is to get 18 them in custody and then you can further arrest them if 19 need be. Even if you don't arrest them they can be 20 charged with the offences later down the line. It is 21 semantics. 22 At that point in time we just wanted him arrested. 23 Q. Were you directly involved in matters the next day? 24 A. The next day -- 25 Q. The 15th?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you remember doing so? 2 A. Not specifically. 3 Q. Did you tell any of your managers that you disagreed 4 with them not taking primacy that night? 5 A. I don't remember the conversations, but we were all 6 present, we were all in the same building, we were all 7 together when we found out about the link. They would 8 have been updated instantly with any decisions that were 9 being made and with progress there was, as I said, a lot 10 of activity both from my team and all the way up through 11 the organisation. 12 Q. Did anyone in borough CID or uniformed branch contact 13 the MIT and say, "Hang on a sec, we think these are 14 murders, could you take them over tonight, please"? 15 A. Well, that is why we had the meeting, we said that at 16 the meeting, that is why we had all of the papers, we 17 had spent several hours gathering all of the 18 documentation from the previous year's investigations, 19 ready because we assumed this they would take it when 20 they came. 21 We laid them out, literally laid them out on the 22 table in front of them. Everything in the HAT return is 23 information we provided them. All of the links that 24 were on there we had made -- 25 Q. I understand that, I was asking a more specific</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. Not in the arrest, no. Did I go to the arrest, no, we 2 were having various gold groups within higher up in the 3 organisation and I can't remember where they were. 4 Q. When you said that the borough team, in evidence, in 5 answer to questions I think from Mr Davies, you said the 6 borough team was left alone by the MIT team, what did 7 you mean by that and what did you base it on? 8 A. Left alone by the MIT team? 9 Q. You felt left alone by the MIT team. 10 A. That night. 11 Q. It was just that night? 12 A. Sorry, I can't recall but they left, the two officers, 13 DI McKeeve and DS Prendergast left to write the HAT 14 return and we carried on, we set our strategy in place 15 to do the section 8 warrant in the morning when we had 16 the correct resources and so, yes, they left that night 17 and it was ours to deal with overnight. 18 Q. It was more they physically left you alone that night. 19 Do you remember what happened the next morning? 20 A. No. 21 Q. You don't remember, for example, that the MIT 1 DCI, DI, 22 DS and a bunch of detective constables all arrived in 23 Barking? 24 A. That was later on in the afternoon and we repeated the 25 handover process with the DCI, Tim Duffield, and, as he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 was, DS Richards and DI Marks.</p> <p>2 Q. In fact, almost the entire MIT 1 team were there the</p> <p>3 next day, weren't they?</p> <p>4 A. In the afternoon, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Well, a lot of officers were there in the morning as</p> <p>6 well to assist with his arrest, weren't they?</p> <p>7 A. Okay, I don't know.</p> <p>8 Q. That was the plan on the HAT return. Do you remember</p> <p>9 seeing that?</p> <p>10 A. The plan was to do the search warrant. There was no</p> <p>11 mention of a team coming over to take it over the next</p> <p>12 day.</p> <p>13 Q. No, but they did come over the next day and they</p> <p>14 arrested him for murder, didn't they?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know the specifics.</p> <p>16 Q. In fact the timeframe that we are talking about is about</p> <p>17 24 hours, isn't it, before MIT 1 took over the entire</p> <p>18 investigation, arrested Port for murder and, as we know,</p> <p>19 Lilford then progressed and successfully convicted him?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You last gave evidence on 3 November and the jury since</p> <p>22 then has heard from most of the detectives who were</p> <p>23 responsible for investigating Gabriel and Daniel's</p> <p>24 death, and indeed Jack Taylor's death. Did you watch</p> <p>25 that evidence or have you since read it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 period to establish a connection between the two. Were</p> <p>2 you aware of that?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. DC Adeyemo-Phillips, who gave evidence I think a couple</p> <p>5 of days before you last did, she only sent an extract of</p> <p>6 the note found with Daniel to his family for checking</p> <p>7 the handwriting and content, didn't provide him the</p> <p>8 whole note, didn't visit him to give him the note to</p> <p>9 have a look at.</p> <p>10 She was also in contact with Gabriel's former</p> <p>11 boyfriend, Mr Amodio, who had received some worrying</p> <p>12 messages from someone called Jon Luck, who we now know</p> <p>13 was Stephen Port, who claimed to have slept with</p> <p>14 Gabriel. She didn't take any proactive steps, it seems,</p> <p>15 to find out who Jon Luck was and what contact he in fact</p> <p>16 had had with Gabriel, were you aware of that?</p> <p>17 A. Again, more recently but not at the time.</p> <p>18 Q. Those are just some of the actions that the jury have</p> <p>19 heard were not completed by the borough CID team that</p> <p>20 were involved in those two deaths.</p> <p>21 There are many other examples, one glaring one is</p> <p>22 perhaps Dr Swift's recommendation for testing the blue</p> <p>23 bedsheet found with Daniel, which simply was not</p> <p>24 actioned after the special post mortem, were you aware</p> <p>25 of that as well?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 A. Some of them. If I have had – it has been a very busy</p> <p>2 few weeks. I have not had that much opportunity. Some</p> <p>3 of them I have, some I haven't.</p> <p>4 Q. I would like, if I may, just to give you a few examples</p> <p>5 of some of the evidence that has been given.</p> <p>6 One of the witnesses was DC Baxter, who gave</p> <p>7 evidence on 5 November. She was appointed as the FLO</p> <p>8 for Gabriel's family but she never actually made any</p> <p>9 contact with Gabriel's family. She also had an exchange</p> <p>10 with someone called John Pape, who knew Gabriel, and who</p> <p>11 gave her some very significant information about the</p> <p>12 possible drugging and sexual abuse of young men in</p> <p>13 Barking by older men at parties.</p> <p>14 She took no steps, it seems, to follow up either of</p> <p>15 those things. Were you aware of that?</p> <p>16 A. I wasn't aware of it, no.</p> <p>17 Sorry, do you mean was I aware of it at the time?</p> <p>18 Q. Aware of it at the time or aware of it now, either?</p> <p>19 A. I am aware of it now, I wasn't aware of it at the time.</p> <p>20 Q. DS Slaymaker, as you probably are aware, also took</p> <p>21 responsibility for obtaining phone data in respect of</p> <p>22 Gabriel and Daniel.</p> <p>23 He obtained some of it in respect of Daniel, one</p> <p>24 week's work, but never in fact applied for the remaining</p> <p>25 phone work in respect of both men for the relevant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 A. In relation to, sorry?</p> <p>2 Q. The blue bedsheet.</p> <p>3 A. In relation to Mr Whitworth?</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. Subsequently, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. When those officers gave evidence, so</p> <p>7 DC Adeyemo-Phillips and DC Baxter, neither of them</p> <p>8 blamed being overworked or pressured on the failures.</p> <p>9 Were you aware of that evidence?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. DS Slaymaker, who did acknowledge being a very busy</p> <p>12 sergeant, explained that he had no good reason or excuse</p> <p>13 for not completing the task that he needed to do.</p> <p>14 In light of those mistakes, and in light of the</p> <p>15 answers that the officers have given as to their</p> <p>16 explanations for them, and the context I have just</p> <p>17 mentioned, it cannot be the case, can it, that these</p> <p>18 mistakes can be excused on lack of time or resources?</p> <p>19 A. As I said, I didn't want to excuse the mistakes that</p> <p>20 were made. I just wanted to put it into context.</p> <p>21 Q. Because those actions that needed doing in respect of</p> <p>22 those deaths were fairly straightforward and within the</p> <p>23 capability of those officers?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. I think as they all recognise, because the HAT team had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

<p>1 been involved, they were particularly important because</p> <p>2 there was a potential homicide connecting the two men?</p> <p>3 A. Yes. Obviously we now know the importance, they</p> <p>4 wouldn't have appreciated the importance at the time.</p> <p>5 Q. Had they read the HAT return, which I think at least</p> <p>6 some of them did, because that was the advice on the</p> <p>7 scene after Mr Whitworth's death, that made it clear and</p> <p>8 indeed contact with the detective sergeant from the MIT</p> <p>9 team afterwards made it clear that they were trying to</p> <p>10 rule out potential homicide and the third party</p> <p>11 involvement in particular. Do you remember that?</p> <p>12 A. Not specifically.</p> <p>13 Q. That adds a level of importance, doesn't it, to making</p> <p>14 sure basic actions are completed?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, I am not saying those actions shouldn't have been</p> <p>16 completed.</p> <p>17 MR SKELTON: Thank you.</p> <p>18 Questions from MR ATCHLEY</p> <p>19 MR ATCHLEY: DI Kirk, you have been asked and it has been</p> <p>20 put to you that a number of these officers made</p> <p>21 mistakes. Are they lazy?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Are they stupid?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. It is your opportunity now to say what you think of them</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 Q. That is what I was going to ask you, for that period</p> <p>2 there were seven DIs, all substantive, none acting up.</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. In 2014, when we were talking about it, there was just</p> <p>5 one DCI, yourself?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Acting up?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And the seven substantive DIs had dropped to three, all</p> <p>10 acting up?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, we had three DI posts under the local policing</p> <p>12 model and there were no substantive DIs to fill those</p> <p>13 roles.</p> <p>14 Q. Why had this happened, in your view?</p> <p>15 A. The local policing model had cut the posts, had cut the</p> <p>16 numbers significantly as a result of the cuts to funding</p> <p>17 and that knock-on effect of having less officers, and</p> <p>18 then for whatever reason people not being promoted and</p> <p>19 not being posted into the borough.</p> <p>20 I wasn't in a position to recruit people to the</p> <p>21 borough, you have to rely on them being posted centrally</p> <p>22 to the borough. Specialist units have a process where</p> <p>23 they advertise a post and they can recruit people in to</p> <p>24 fill their posts.</p> <p>25 Borough don't have that, that opportunity. So you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 and how you found them during the period that you were</p> <p>2 working with them.</p> <p>3 A. It was a very tough time working at Barking and</p> <p>4 Dagenham. The pressure around the performance and the</p> <p>5 lack of resources was immense and felt by everybody,</p> <p>6 I think, across the whole borough, not just the CID.</p> <p>7 Numbers have increased and the whole model for the Met</p> <p>8 has changed drastically since then as well, so I think</p> <p>9 it has been accepted that the model that was put in</p> <p>10 place for that short period of time didn't work. The</p> <p>11 local policing model.</p> <p>12 Q. Sorry to interrupt you, so since then, since 2015/2016,</p> <p>13 there have been changes?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, soon after that, what we call the BCU model, so the</p> <p>15 amalgamation of boroughs, so now for instance Barking</p> <p>16 and Dagenham are now merged with Havering and Redbridge,</p> <p>17 as one BCU, which has added some resilience in the</p> <p>18 staffing of those.</p> <p>19 Q. Can I deal with some figures. 2009 I think it was when</p> <p>20 you first went to Barking CID?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Between 2009 and 2013ish, was it right there were two</p> <p>23 detective chief inspectors?</p> <p>24 A. There were two when I arrived, but that soon went down</p> <p>25 to one, but I was the seventh substantive DI.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 have to rely on centrally being posted officers to fill</p> <p>2 the posts. The DCI post was vacant for three plus</p> <p>3 years, or more.</p> <p>4 Q. Can I ask you about this, just again to try and put it</p> <p>5 in context, how many non-suspicious deaths on average is</p> <p>6 there a year in Barking?</p> <p>7 A. The number that sticks in my mind from when we did the</p> <p>8 work soon after this was discovered, there were in</p> <p>9 excess of 200 deaths that came to the notice of the</p> <p>10 police. That would be a wide ranging and I accept that</p> <p>11 obviously a lot of those would have been clearly natural</p> <p>12 causes and people in care settings, but it doesn't</p> <p>13 include deaths in hospitals, if they don't come to the</p> <p>14 notice of the police.</p> <p>15 Q. How many cases a year were CID dealing with; have you</p> <p>16 any idea?</p> <p>17 A. It was -- there were several hundred crime reports each</p> <p>18 day. Some of those would have been screened out without</p> <p>19 further investigation. Some of those could have been</p> <p>20 very serious and complex and then anything in the</p> <p>21 middle. But it wasn't just the crimes, it was the</p> <p>22 missing people, missing children, the referrals that</p> <p>23 came in in relation to safeguarding and then things like</p> <p>24 managing of sex offenders and serious violent offenders,</p> <p>25 all added work, just on top of the crimes. And it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

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<p>1 a busy and complex borough, but the volume, when you</p> <p>2 compare some of the inner London boroughs is not the</p> <p>3 same, but then the staffing was very, very much shorter</p> <p>4 than they would be.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you personally have any investigative role in any of</p> <p>6 those crimes?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Could you have done?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. Can I ask you about this borough intelligence</p> <p>11 department --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- was there one?</p> <p>14 A. There used to be what we called the BIU, the borough</p> <p>15 intelligence unit, which was made up of analysts,</p> <p>16 researchers and police officers. Under the local</p> <p>17 policing model the intelligence function on borough was</p> <p>18 centralised and we were just left with what we called</p> <p>19 the local intelligence team, which was one or two PCs,</p> <p>20 I believe, and a researcher or two, no analysts, which</p> <p>21 were the key people that would identify issues. They</p> <p>22 would have the daily meetings. The LIT was really</p> <p>23 an administrative function for our intelligence system,</p> <p>24 where we had an intelligence system, and then to</p> <p>25 complete the daily briefings that the response team</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 Jack Taylor's sisters. You will see it names the deaths</p> <p>2 that they linked to Jack's death and sets out at the</p> <p>3 bottom of that page the similarities between the four</p> <p>4 deaths.</p> <p>5 The jury have asked the following questions.</p> <p>6 Firstly, during investigations how often do family</p> <p>7 and friends offer evidence like this and advise, in your</p> <p>8 experience?</p> <p>9 A. In my current role, quite often. It is a significant</p> <p>10 part and that is the whole part of a family liaison</p> <p>11 officer, is to be the link evidentially between the</p> <p>12 family and the investigation team, as well as providing</p> <p>13 support.</p> <p>14 On borough, not quite as much because we don't</p> <p>15 normally deal with this kind of investigation and we</p> <p>16 don't often deploy family liaison officers. So</p> <p>17 certainly not as much. It is on borough investigations</p> <p>18 not as common, but in murders and homicides it is more</p> <p>19 common.</p> <p>20 THE CORONER: Here, and this is something Dr van Dellen put</p> <p>21 to you, there were friends and family of each of these</p> <p>22 young men who were feeding valuable information into the</p> <p>23 borough --</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 THE CORONER: -- and who had drawn links.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 officers would look at before each shift.</p> <p>2 Q. Should they have played some part in linking these</p> <p>3 deaths?</p> <p>4 A. It is difficult to say. The borough intelligence unit,</p> <p>5 before it was disbanded had some very, very good</p> <p>6 analysts and researchers and they did some outstanding</p> <p>7 work in relation to the pressures that we faced through</p> <p>8 our performance, hence we did very well in that respect.</p> <p>9 I can't say whether they would have done. I would like</p> <p>10 to think certainly it would have given us more chance.</p> <p>11 Q. Has it changed since this?</p> <p>12 A. I don't know.</p> <p>13 Having not been on borough, I am not sure what the</p> <p>14 current situation is.</p> <p>15 MR ATCHLEY: Thank you.</p> <p>16 Yes, that all I have to ask. Thank you very much,</p> <p>17 officer.</p> <p>18 MR O'CONNOR: Madam, I don't have any more questions.</p> <p>19 THE CORONER: There are several questions from the jury,</p> <p>20 which I am going to try and draw together. Some of them</p> <p>21 you have dealt with before.</p> <p>22 Questions from THE JURY</p> <p>23 THE CORONER: Can I just ask that you turn up in bundle D in</p> <p>24 front of you, Mr Kirk, tab 18, page 4. For the screen,</p> <p>25 it is FAMI, page 4. This is a page of the notes made by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 THE CORONER: Should your officers have found those links</p> <p>3 earlier?</p> <p>4 A. I think it would have been beneficial if they had</p> <p>5 listened and passed that information further up the</p> <p>6 chain, or into the investigative teams, depending on who</p> <p>7 was gathering the information, yes.</p> <p>8 THE CORONER: Then a slightly different topic,</p> <p>9 DI McSheffrey's statement was put to you in which he</p> <p>10 said there were no officers at Barking who were trained</p> <p>11 in relation to murder investigations and you agreed with</p> <p>12 that.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 THE CORONER: The question from the jury is: would there</p> <p>15 have been, in your experience, officers who should have</p> <p>16 been trained in some sort of murder investigation, or</p> <p>17 done courses relevant to such investigations, or simply</p> <p>18 not ever?</p> <p>19 A. The SIO course is the main course for the management of</p> <p>20 homicide investigations and that is not available to</p> <p>21 officers on borough. It is an ongoing process, you</p> <p>22 become accredited and then you have to maintain that</p> <p>23 accreditation. And to do that you need to be</p> <p>24 investigating murders, which is I understand why you</p> <p>25 can't have them necessarily on borough. So the highest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

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<p>1 accreditation you can achieve on borough is PIP level 2, 2 and, no, there is no -- there is an awareness, the whole 3 "think murder" goes through the detective training 4 process at whatever rank you go through, but there is no 5 specific training. 6 Really it is just the SIO training on how to manage 7 a complex murder investigation. 8 THE CORONER: Now you have effectively worn both hats, what 9 would your view be as to what should happen with 10 an unexplained death? 11 A. I think there is -- again, a lot of it comes down to the 12 people and people's experience. My experience is going 13 to be different from a lot of others but there are a lot 14 of very, very good detectives out there on borough and 15 on the murder teams and it is -- the murder teams have 16 the space to conduct complex investigations, whereas the 17 borough don't. I think if the MIT teams bear that in 18 mind whenever they are attending a call for assistance 19 from borough, I think that is the first step, to be -- 20 to have the open mind and appreciate that the borough 21 don't have the same opportunities to investigate 22 these -- the more complex issues that the MIT teams do. 23 But, saying that, the MIT teams are a finite 24 resource and they would sink if they took every 25 unexplained death, there is no two ways about it. It is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 MR MARK RICHARDS (continued) 2 Questions from MR O'CONNOR 3 MR O'CONNOR: DI Richards, this morning we had DI Kirk for 4 the third time. Now we are having you for the fourth 5 time. 6 DI Richards, when you gave evidence to the jury on 7 the last occasion, that was of course about the 8 circumstances surrounding the deaths of Gabriel Kovari 9 and Daniel Whitworth and the investigation that followed 10 their deaths towards the end of 2014. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. As I am sure the jury will realise, the reason that you 13 are giving evidence now is to perform that similar 14 exercise and tell us about Operation Lilford's 15 investigation into the circumstances surrounding 16 Jack Taylor's death and what you were able to discover 17 about those events. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Before we go to the detail though, perhaps you can, as 20 it were, fill us in on what Lilford were able to 21 discover and what your findings were relating to that 22 year between the time of Daniel Whitworth's death in 23 September 2014 and the autumn of 2015, because I think 24 it is apparent from everything you already told us that 25 you were investigating all of Stephen Port's activities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 a difficult balance. It is probably very difficult to 2 write a policy around. It relies on the people having 3 the experience and being aware of other people's 4 experience and resources that were available when they 5 give the advice, and to maintain the oversight, I think. 6 THE CORONER: Thank you very much. 7 Thank you, Mr Kirk. 8 Mr O'Connor, it is 12.50. Better to break for lunch 9 at this stage? 10 MR O'CONNOR: I think that is probably right, madam. We 11 have one more witness, we will not be a long time with 12 him, but clearly -- 13 THE CORONER: I am going to say not before 1.50, but I know 14 the jury have somebody to see over lunch today. 15 MR O'CONNOR: Yes. 16 THE CORONER: If it takes longer than 1.50, please feel free 17 to take up to 2.00, I don't want you to be delayed in 18 sorting things out behind the scenes. 19 I will say not before 1.50. Thank you very much. 20 (12.48 pm) 21 (The Luncheon Adjournment) 22 (1.58 pm) 23 (In the presence of the jury) 24 THE CORONER: Yes. 25 MR O'CONNOR: Madam, may we please call DI Richards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 throughout that period. Is that right? 2 A. Yes, that's correct. 3 Q. To start with, and perhaps if we can go in jury bundle 4 A, to the chronology, you may not need to look at this 5 for these purposes DI Richards but if you do it is there 6 in the smaller bundle. For the screen, if we can bring 7 it up on screen, it is INQ38. Tab 1 of jury bundle A. 8 We can just be reminded that one important event in 9 that period is that Stephen Port spent some time in 10 prison? 11 A. Yes, he did, yes. 12 Q. Just to remind ourselves of the dates on this 13 chronology, he went to prison on 23 March, when he was 14 sentenced at Snaresbrook, that's 23 March 2015? 15 A. Correct. 16 Q. He was in prison for something less than three months, 17 we see that he was released on 4 June? 18 A. That's correct, yes. 19 Q. You, presumably, investigated the events surrounding 20 that time that he spent in prison? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. First of all, for example, we have become familiar with 23 the evidence relating to Stephen Port working at the bus 24 garage, that is what we heard about in relation to both 25 Anthony and also Daniel and Gabriel's deaths.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

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<p>1 Did he manage to keep that job while he was in 2 prison? 3 A. No, the company he was working for within the bus garage 4 basically disposed of his services for gross misconduct 5 because of the prison sentence. 6 Q. Right. Did you discover exactly what his employer had 7 understood about that prison sentence or the facts 8 underlying it, or was that not something -- 9 A. No, it was essentially they knew what was in the public 10 domain, what had been told, and they invoked 11 disciplinary procedures for gross misconduct and they 12 disposed of his service. 13 Q. We will hear I think in a few minutes, when we come to 14 talk about it, about some subsequent employment that he 15 obtained? 16 A. That's correct, yes. 17 Q. Also importantly, his flat at 62 Cooke Street, did he 18 maintain his residence there? 19 A. Yes, he did. At varying times his sister was looking 20 after his flat for him, looking after his affairs while 21 he was away in prison -- 22 (Alarm sounds) 23 Q. I think whatever that was, it may have been switched 24 off. 25 A. Sorry, yes, his sister was looking after his affairs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 one of the sort of IT resellers, a company called Bright 2 House. 3 Q. Which you in the end recovered? 4 A. We did subsequently recover that as well, Bright House 5 kept a record of it coming back into their store and 6 then being resold to somebody else. We recontacted that 7 person, replaced their laptop from them and took the one 8 that Port had previously owned from them for evidence. 9 Q. That is two laptops, one seized from the flat on 10 16 October and one that you obtained in that way? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. This may not matter very much but in terms of 13 communications with Jack Taylor, was it both computers 14 that were relevant or just the latter one? 15 A. Just the latter one. 16 Q. All right. Was Stephen Port's phone available to you at 17 this time? 18 A. Yes, it was. 19 Q. Did you also seize it on the day he was arrested? 20 A. That's correct. 21 Q. Of course we know that Jack Taylor's phone was never 22 recovered; is that right? 23 A. No, never located. 24 Q. You have told us that but we will come to see, won't we, 25 and in fact the jury have already heard something about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 while he was away in prison and his flat was there, 2 still there for him to use when he came out. 3 Q. Without getting into too much detail, we will see some 4 of the similar evidence that we have seen previously 5 about Stephen Port's laptop usage. 6 A. Yes, that's right. 7 Q. We know that one of his laptops was seized back in 8 June 2014. But were your investigations, did they 9 demonstrate that he in fact had a laptop when he left 10 prison and during this time in the autumn of 2015? 11 A. Yes, he did. He got himself a new laptop. 12 Q. All right. Let's move on then, and I want to ask you 13 next about Lilford's investigation of communications 14 between Jack Taylor and Stephen Port, starting just with 15 the evidence base, before we get into the detail of what 16 you actually found. You have already just mentioned 17 that Stephen Port had a computer during this time. 18 A. Yes, he did. 19 Q. We have heard this morning that Stephen Port was 20 arrested at 62 Cooke Street on 15 October? 21 A. That's correct. 22 Q. Was a computer seized at that time? 23 A. Yes, it was, yes, another laptop. 24 Q. Was that the computer you have just mentioned? 25 A. There was an interim laptop that he disposed of through</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 the phone data, those processes which had been set in 2 train. We will come to see there was some evidence 3 obtained relating to Jack's phone, even though the 4 handset was never recovered? 5 A. Absolutely. 6 Q. It is also the case, isn't it, that you obtained 7 separately some evidence from Grindr, that may be the 8 first time that we have seen that sort of evidence in 9 these proceedings? 10 A. Yes, we did. 11 Q. Tell us something about that? 12 A. We received from Grindr all of the material, all of the 13 messages, between Mr Port and varying other members of 14 the public, men that he was talking to through the app 15 Grindr. And also we discovered that Jack Taylor had 16 a Grindr account and we recovered all of his messages, 17 so therefore we had all of the messages between the two 18 of them as well. 19 Q. Right. So those are the various sources of the 20 information we are about to come to? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Electronic sources. 23 In a moment I will ask you about communications and 24 evidence relating to Jack Taylor and Stephen Port on the 25 night of 13 September and going on into the next day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 Before I do that, I think it is right that the 2 communications between Jack and Stephen Port that night 3 were not quite the first time there had been 4 communications between the two of them? 5 A. No, that's correct. There had been -- as I explained in 6 earlier evidence, Stephen Port's messaging was huge, it 7 was enormous, it was constant messaging, with hundreds 8 and hundreds of different men. Jack's wasn't. But Jack 9 had been involved in a very brief conversation with 10 Stephen Port in July 2015, which was literally four or 11 five messages which came to nothing. It was: 12 "Hi, how are you?" 13 "Where are you?" 14 "Barking." 15 Essentially it came to nothing, it was four or five 16 messages, because Stephen was messaging with lots of 17 people and I can only presume that he has decided to 18 send Jack a message and Jack has responded, but it came 19 to nothing. 20 Q. We don't need to look at the schedule to see that, in 21 fact you have just not summarised but you have 22 completely stated everything that passed between them 23 more or less, but just to be clear who was that 24 conversation initiated by then? 25 A. I believe -- I wouldn't be able to answer confidently</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 heard other evidence about. For these purposes, let's 2 go -- I am going to just look at your statement, 3 inspector, and I am looking at paragraph 268. The jury 4 have heard about Jack Taylor being out on the night of 5 Saturday, 12 September. We have heard from Colin, his 6 dad, about him getting home that night. Saying good 7 night to his dad and going upstairs. 8 Then, when one looks at the electronic evidence, 9 does one see that when Jack did go upstairs he switched 10 his computer on and started to undertake some internet 11 searches? 12 A. Yes, that's correct. I can only presume from the 13 evidence of Colin Taylor that Jack was upstairs at the 14 time using his computer and he was researching things 15 about SIA registered security guards, possibly for the 16 career that he was looking towards. 17 Q. As you say, those searches relating to the security 18 industry lasted for a little while, a few minutes, 19 I think? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. After that, does all this evidence, putting it together 22 that we have discussed, including the Grindr 23 information, demonstrate that there was a renewed 24 exchange between Jack Taylor and Stephen Port? 25 A. Yes, there was. Just before 2.00 am Jack initiated</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 without seeing it. I think it was initiated by Mr Port 2 saying to Jack, "Why don't you join?" Or something, 3 which intimates to me through my experience of Grindr 4 through work is that a chat group had been started with 5 people that were online, because you can message 6 multiple people at one stage and it can form a group. 7 Q. Yes, well, it was I can suggest to you it was initiated 8 by Stephen Port who said something like, "Come join me" 9 and then, as you say, there was two or three exchanges 10 between them and that was the end of it. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. That was in July? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. And then nothing until we get to September? 15 A. That's correct. 16 Q. Just to be clear, is that because, for example, you 17 don't think you have a complete record of their accounts 18 or you have a complete record and therefore you can be 19 confident there was no communication? 20 A. Yes, we can be confident of that. We obtained this 21 material directly from Grindr and we understand it to be 22 a complete picture. 23 Q. So reason to think, good reason to think then, no 24 communication between them over those couple of months 25 or, so until we get to that night that the jury have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 contact with Stephen Port. We have no evidence or 2 anything else to suggest that they knew each other in 3 any way, shape or form before that moment, apart from 4 the three or four messages in July. And Jack initiated 5 contact by just sending a simple message of "Hi". 6 Q. Is it fair to say that what followed was an exchange 7 lasting about 45 minutes? 8 A. That's correct. 9 Q. Where they chatted by exchanging messages, sent photos 10 and as the exchange developed, there was a plan that 11 developed between the two of them for Jack to go and see 12 Stephen Port in Barking? 13 A. That's correct, yes. 14 Q. Perhaps one -- I was going to say "oddity", but one 15 point to note is that Stephen Port actually told Jack 16 what his address was and said either come to 17 62 Cooke Street or I can meet you at the station. Jack 18 said I will meet you at the station? 19 A. Yes, absolutely. 20 Q. Let's go forward then because we mentioned the phone 21 data, and of course we have also heard about the CCTV 22 evidence that had already been obtained. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Putting those sources of evidence together, was it 25 possible to form a fairly complete picture of Jack's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 movements to Barking that evening?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, from his house, to Barking and then to</p> <p>3 Cooke Street.</p> <p>4 Q. I should also mention of course there was a witness</p> <p>5 statement from the taxi driver, Mr Ahmed --</p> <p>6 A. Yes, there was.</p> <p>7 Q. -- which was consistent with all the other sources of</p> <p>8 evidence?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. In summary, does all that evidence demonstrate that</p> <p>11 essentially Jack arranged for that taxi, it picked him</p> <p>12 up at his house and he got to Barking station just</p> <p>13 around about 3.00 in the morning?</p> <p>14 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Then there is CCTV evidence that we have heard a lot</p> <p>16 about, it shows those two men, who of course we now know</p> <p>17 are Jack Taylor and Stephen Port, meeting outside the</p> <p>18 station and then walking, taking that route towards</p> <p>19 62 Cooke Street?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. We are going to call up on screen and have a look at the</p> <p>22 telephone records and actually the cell site data in</p> <p>23 a moment, so we will see how that all fits together.</p> <p>24 Is it right then that in much the same way as</p> <p>25 Anthony Walgate's data -- no, Daniel Whitworth's data</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 the network, until 9.43 that evening. There is no user</p> <p>2 active data, so what that means is the phone was</p> <p>3 switched on, the PIN number was not put into the phone</p> <p>4 and no human active data happened. So there were no</p> <p>5 telephone calls made, no messages sent. There was data</p> <p>6 communications, so it could have been emails updating,</p> <p>7 apps updating, the things that go on in the background</p> <p>8 and a number of text messages arrived at the phone. So</p> <p>9 whilst Jack's phone had been switched off, if anybody</p> <p>10 had been sending him a message whilst it was switched</p> <p>11 off it couldn't be delivered. So subsequently when it</p> <p>12 turned back on, those messages arrived on the handset.</p> <p>13 No human usage that was apparent.</p> <p>14 Q. Just to be clear then, we are talking about the 16th, so</p> <p>15 that was the Wednesday of that week, Jack's body</p> <p>16 discovered on the Monday, the middle of the day, this</p> <p>17 was the Wednesday, so a couple of days later.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. You have talked about a period of 10 hours or so,</p> <p>20 between 11.49 and 9.43. Is it a fair summary of what</p> <p>21 you have said that there must have been a human</p> <p>22 intervention to actually turn it on?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. That couldn't have happened automatically or without</p> <p>25 some human doing something?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 showed him moving towards Cooke Street, it then doesn't</p> <p>2 leave Cooke Street and the phone was switched off, or at</p> <p>3 least left the network, at 8.45 the next morning?</p> <p>4 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. You have previously given evidence to say you cannot be</p> <p>6 sure in those situations whether it was switched off or</p> <p>7 ran out of battery or was put into aeroplane mode, but</p> <p>8 by one or other of those means that is what happened and</p> <p>9 therefore stopped communicating with the network?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>11 Q. That is at 8.45 the next morning, on the Sunday morning?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. We will see that, again, in the schedule. One other</p> <p>14 point, some days later, on 16 September, did the phone</p> <p>15 data show that in fact at that point the phone</p> <p>16 reconnected with the network?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, it did. Exactly that, excuse me, on 16 -- sorry,</p> <p>18 on 16 September, Jack's handset reconnected with the</p> <p>19 network. So for that to have happened, obviously the</p> <p>20 gap in between you would suggest the battery would have</p> <p>21 had to have been charged subsequently. Which means</p> <p>22 somebody has either switched it on, taken it out of</p> <p>23 aeroplane mode or recharged it and switched it on.</p> <p>24 It reconnected at 11.49 in the morning, just before</p> <p>25 11.50 lunchtime, and it was online, communicating with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. But beyond that, in fact we can be sure that no human</p> <p>3 made a call or actually sent a text?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. The other matters you have described, which is the phone</p> <p>6 communicating with the network, receiving data, is</p> <p>7 something that would have happened automatically?</p> <p>8 A. Yes. That is very fair, there is no active user data.</p> <p>9 The only thing we can tell from that because it was</p> <p>10 connecting to the network is where it was when it first</p> <p>11 connected to the network, because subsequently, because</p> <p>12 it was only data, it could have moved around over those</p> <p>13 10 hours but at the time it was switched on, we know</p> <p>14 where it was, in an area, but nothing more than that.</p> <p>15 Q. Where was it in terms of the general location?</p> <p>16 A. It was connecting to masts at East Ham, which if you</p> <p>17 travel by tube is one stop down from here.</p> <p>18 Q. We will come to see in a moment the cell site data</p> <p>19 relating to a few nights before, and as part of that we</p> <p>20 may see that this sort of data doesn't tell you exactly</p> <p>21 where a phone is?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. But, given that it was connecting to masts in East Ham,</p> <p>24 can we be confident at least that it wasn't in</p> <p>25 Cooke Street?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 A. Highly unlikely.</p> <p>2 Q. All right.</p> <p>3 Let's go then, having gone through that, I would</p> <p>4 like to call up on screen, please, MPS24. If we can go</p> <p>5 straight to page 9 of that document, I hope that is the</p> <p>6 right page -- yes. In fact, can you just tell us what</p> <p>7 this schedule shows in outline and then we will go</p> <p>8 through some of the entries?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, it was a document we put together to assist the</p> <p>10 jury in the criminal trial and to assist barristers and</p> <p>11 counsel and it essentially shows the -- so Jack Taylor</p> <p>12 is the -- his handset is the peachy-coloured number and</p> <p>13 Stephen Port is the pink coloured squares and what that</p> <p>14 shows is.</p> <p>15 The column on the left immediately shows the date.</p> <p>16 Followed by where the cell site was that the phone</p> <p>17 was connecting to.</p> <p>18 The end cell site, if that is available -- and that</p> <p>19 is only available for telephone conversations not data</p> <p>20 or text messages.</p> <p>21 Then what the handset was, the IMEI.</p> <p>22 Who is ringing it or who is making the call or</p> <p>23 sending the text, or with the number.</p> <p>24 How long it lasts and what type of activity it was.</p> <p>25 Then who the recipient is.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 The "RM" stands for Romford?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Do we infer from this that these are all sitings or</p> <p>4 events that take place when Jack is still at home?</p> <p>5 A. It would suggest that from the evidence from Mr Taylor</p> <p>6 and also these are the cell sites that covered Jack's</p> <p>7 home address.</p> <p>8 Q. Is that an example, so we see that the first of this</p> <p>9 little group, the first, the third and the fourth are</p> <p>10 the same mast, but then the second is a different one.</p> <p>11 Does it appear that is an example of the situation</p> <p>12 where a phone doesn't necessarily have to move, it's</p> <p>13 just there are more than one mast which it can link to</p> <p>14 and sometimes it will switch from one to the other for</p> <p>15 lots of reasons?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, if you are in London, we have masts everywhere. If</p> <p>17 you are in Cornwall the masts will be a lot wider apart</p> <p>18 due to the geography and it is more likely in London</p> <p>19 that you will just bounce around masts, whichever is</p> <p>20 stronger at that particular time, that can be based on</p> <p>21 all sorts of things, from weather, topography,</p> <p>22 buildings, all sorts.</p> <p>23 Q. This is not an exact science?</p> <p>24 A. No, definitely not.</p> <p>25 Q. In any event then -- and of course this is consistent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 Q. Thank you, and so if we look here, we can see, picking</p> <p>2 it up towards the top of the page, there are a series of</p> <p>3 entries, aren't there, I'm not looking at the very top</p> <p>4 one but then just down the second and so on, there are</p> <p>5 a series of entries which represent -- entries represent</p> <p>6 messages or other siting by Jack's phone?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>8 Q. If we look at the -- perhaps first of all let's just</p> <p>9 look at the time, so that is the column just to the</p> <p>10 right of the two orange boxes, we can see this is all</p> <p>11 happening at around about 2.37, 2.38, which, going on</p> <p>12 the evidence you have already given, is during the time</p> <p>13 that Jack and Stephen Port are having those</p> <p>14 conversations, but towards the end of that time?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, it is -- yes, generally towards the end.</p> <p>16 Q. As we will see, it is just around the time that he is</p> <p>17 leaving to go to Barking?</p> <p>18 A. That's correct.</p> <p>19 Q. With that in mind, if we look over back towards the left</p> <p>20 at the cell siting box, each of these entries, well, no,</p> <p>21 in fact not quite, with the exception of the second one</p> <p>22 they are all the same. But they are linking to two</p> <p>23 masts then in very much the same postcode, which is RM8.</p> <p>24 Do you see that, the first, the third and the fourth are</p> <p>25 RM8, the second one is actually RM9.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 with the other messages and so on, at 2.37/2.38 or so</p> <p>2 Jack is still at home. If we go down a few more lines,</p> <p>3 one can see right on the right-hand side that Jack sends</p> <p>4 a message, does he not, to Stephen Port saying he is on</p> <p>5 his way?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Then, in fact, there are a couple more sort of sitings</p> <p>8 immediately after that where we can see from the</p> <p>9 left-hand column again that Jack is actually still his</p> <p>10 phone is still connecting to those masts at Barking</p> <p>11 Football Club?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Then we see that the schedule then shows that there</p> <p>14 is -- it is an entry saying that at that particular</p> <p>15 time, which is 2.49, the CCTV shows Jack's minicab</p> <p>16 arriving at Barking station?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Then, a few minutes later, we see a CCTV shot showing</p> <p>19 Jack standing by the rail station sign at Barking train</p> <p>20 station?</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. The next bring is an entry for Stephen Port's phone</p> <p>23 showing his phone connecting to a mast, Crown House,</p> <p>24 with the IG11 postcode, which is Barking?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 Q. Is that one of the masts in this locality?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, it is just over by the walkway where the market is,</p> <p>3 just at the back.</p> <p>4 Q. Then we see another entry here, in the red line saying</p> <p>5 that a few minutes later, the CCTV that we have all</p> <p>6 heard about showing the two of them together is kicking</p> <p>7 in.</p> <p>8 Then the next few entries we can see, there's one of</p> <p>9 Jack Taylor's phone connecting to a mast in Barking fire</p> <p>10 station, one of Stephen Port connecting to a mast at</p> <p>11 Riverside Cottages. Immediately afterwards his phone</p> <p>12 connects to a different mast, the one back at Crown</p> <p>13 House.</p> <p>14 Then we see Jack Taylor's phone, the last two</p> <p>15 entries, connecting to the Riverside Cottages mast?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Does that appear to show them together and the Riverside</p> <p>18 Cottages mast, is its location significant in this</p> <p>19 respect?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, it is. Riverside Cottages are just -- when you</p> <p>21 visited the Abbey grounds, and I explained that the</p> <p>22 modern flats weren't there at the time and there is</p> <p>23 a waterway at the back, Riverside Cottages are just the</p> <p>24 other side of that. So that is the mast that would</p> <p>25 directly service 62 Cooke Street.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 still in Cooke Street?</p> <p>2 A. Oh, absolutely. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. That is another example of phone just -- we cannot be</p> <p>4 absolutely certain from the mast that it is connected to</p> <p>5 exactly where the phone is?</p> <p>6 A. In such condensed area as this, how local this is, it</p> <p>7 could be those masts from a number of</p> <p>8 destinations/locations.</p> <p>9 Q. Before we leave the schedule, let's just look at the</p> <p>10 next entry, because we will come to this in a moment,</p> <p>11 but the next morning, we are now at 7.25 on the Sunday</p> <p>12 morning, what does this next entry relate to, the red</p> <p>13 entry?</p> <p>14 A. When you use the app Grindr, you can communicate with</p> <p>15 anybody else that is a Grindr user. To make it more</p> <p>16 understandable for people that don't use Grindr, if you</p> <p>17 think of WhatsApp as a similar messaging system, you can</p> <p>18 delete messages that people have sent you, you can</p> <p>19 delete the whole conversation for both of you, but also</p> <p>20 you can block someone from ever being able to</p> <p>21 communicate with you again.</p> <p>22 This is exactly what Stephen has done at 7.25 in the</p> <p>23 morning. He has blocked Jack Taylor from ever</p> <p>24 contacting him again on Grindr.</p> <p>25 Q. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 Q. Insofar as one can read too much into these things, if</p> <p>2 one was walking from the station at Barking towards</p> <p>3 Cooke Street, you would be walking sort of into the area</p> <p>4 that is serviced by that Riverside Cottages mast?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>6 Q. We see at a few minutes past 3, both phones connecting</p> <p>7 to that mast?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Is that very much the time you assess that the two of</p> <p>10 them arrived at Cooke Street?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, with the CCTV footage showing the walk from the</p> <p>12 station towards Cooke Street, it fits with that time.</p> <p>13 Q. If we just go over the page, just to look at a couple</p> <p>14 more entries, we then go forward in time to 3.30 and we</p> <p>15 see two entries with Jack's phone connecting to that</p> <p>16 mast.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Which would be consistent with his phone being in</p> <p>19 Cooke Street at that time; is that right?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Then, in fact, a little bit later, we see Stephen Port's</p> <p>22 phone, this is 4.10 in the morning by this stage,</p> <p>23 connecting to the Barking fire station mast?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. Can we read anything into that, is it possible it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 I am going to go in a moment to some evidence about</p> <p>2 Stephen Port's movements before and after that evening,</p> <p>3 but before we move away, we have followed the evidence,</p> <p>4 such as it is, of Jack going to Barking, the cell site,</p> <p>5 the CCTV, he arrives, we know at Cooke Street some time</p> <p>6 after 3.00 in the morning?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Of course the jury have then heard evidence about his</p> <p>9 body being discovered in the middle of the day two days</p> <p>10 later on the Monday.</p> <p>11 Is there any, as it were, hard evidence that</p> <p>12 Operation Lilford discovered relating to when he may</p> <p>13 have died between those two times?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 The last we have of any proof was Jack was alive on</p> <p>16 the CCTV walking towards Cooke Street. Between there</p> <p>17 and his body being found, we have found nothing that</p> <p>18 would indicate a nearer time of death.</p> <p>19 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>20 Let's move on to the movements of Stephen Port,</p> <p>21 please, and I am looking at paragraph 280 of your</p> <p>22 statement.</p> <p>23 You refer there to some evidence that</p> <p>24 Operation Lilford obtained, I think from Stephen Port's</p> <p>25 computer, about what he was doing that evening, earlier</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 in the evening, before he communicated with Jack, before 2 Jack came to Barking. What did that show? 3 A. Yes, we know from his laptop and from the IP address of 4 his laptop at the time, that he was within his flat, 5 using his laptop and he was viewing date rape 6 pornography again from between 8.20 pm in the evening 7 through to just before midnight. 8 Q. We have seen the evidence about Jack going to Barking 9 and Stephen Port, the conversation that preceded it. 10 I am now moving on in your statement, we have just 11 covered the incident the next morning, 7.25, where 12 Stephen Port blocking that Grindr account. 13 Give us just an outline perhaps of what 14 Operation Lilford discovered about what Port did for the 15 rest of that day, the Sunday? 16 A. In a nutshell, by 8.10 the next day in the morning, 17 Stephen was contacting one of his drug dealers to try 18 and get his hands on some more drugs, particularly 19 mephedrone. He then started to build a story with 20 people as to why he wasn't going to be around that day 21 and why he couldn't have visitors at his house that day. 22 We know subsequently Stephen did buy drugs from his 23 drug dealer that day, because he went out, purchased 24 them, withdrew some cash and went back home, where again 25 he was watching pornography.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 A. Not to my knowledge, no. 2 Q. The next morning, the 14th, of course that was the 3 morning that Jack's body was discovered. Did Lilford 4 obtain some evidence about that morning with 5 Stephen Port, in fact we mentioned his employment 6 earlier, was he due to be working that day? 7 A. Yes, he was, that was meant to be the first day of his 8 new job. He was meant to be at work in Romford at 9 10.00 am the next day, on the Monday morning, for his 10 new job, but he didn't arrive. 11 He didn't arrive at 10.00 and his new line manager, 12 his new employer, contacted him and rang him and Stephen 13 explained that he had things to do at home and he would 14 be in a bit later and he actually arrived at 11.30 that 15 day, an hour and a half late for his first day at work. 16 Q. I think the evidence was that he then spent the whole 17 day working until 7.00 in the evening? 18 A. Until 7.00 pm, yes. 19 Q. Thank you. That is all I wanted to ask you about 20 Stephen Port's movements. 21 Let me just cover one or two other matters of the 22 type that we have dealt with in the earlier cases. 23 First of all, fingerprint analysis and for these 24 purposes I am looking at paragraphs 78 and 79 of your 25 witness statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 Q. I am just looking at paragraph 285. Is it right that 2 having blocked earlier in the morning Jack's account on 3 his Grindr account, did he then take some other action 4 relating to his own Grindr account? 5 A. He did, at 12.55 in the afternoon, so just before 6 1.00 pm lunchtime Stephen deleted his own Grindr 7 account, the Grindr account that he had been 8 communicating with Jack through. 9 Q. Then later that evening, so that is the Sunday evening, 10 is there more evidence of him being at home, watching 11 drug rape pornography? 12 A. Yes, exactly, from 6.00 pm that day he was online on his 13 laptop at home watching drug rape pornography for 14 another four hours, until just past 10.00 pm that 15 evening, 10.10. 16 Q. It has been a feature of this case that on more than one 17 occasion we have seen evidence of Stephen Port online, 18 either communicating with others or looking at porn, 19 late at night, into the early hours. 20 You have just said that night, the Sunday night, his 21 pornography watching ended at 10.00 or just after 10.00? 22 A. That we can find, yes. 23 Q. Is there any evidence that Lilford obtained, either 24 electronically or otherwise, about what else he did that 25 night?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 The jury will recall that amongst the items that 2 were found with Jack's body was the small bottle that we 3 have heard a lot about -- 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. -- and also a cigarette lighter? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Were those submitted for fingerprint analysis? 8 A. Yes, they were. 9 Q. Was anything useful obtained? 10 A. No, there were no useful fingerprints or marks on those 11 items. 12 Q. Of course we have also heard about the tourniquet, what 13 about that? 14 A. The same with the tourniquet and the three sealed 15 antiseptic wipes that were with them. Exactly the same, 16 submitted but no useful evidence. 17 Q. Let me next ask you about DNA evidence. For these 18 purposes I am looking at page 17 of your witness 19 statement. Of course Jack, as we know, had not had 20 a special post mortem, had he? 21 A. No. 22 Q. So the full range of swabs that were available in 23 relation to Anthony and Daniel were not available here? 24 A. That's correct. 25 Q. Looking at your statement, there were swabs that were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

34 (Pages 133 to 136)

<p>1 submitted for DNA analysis? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Is it right that they were swabs taken, first of all, 4 from the surface of the lid of that little bottle we 5 have just mentioned? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Secondly, a swab from the neck of the bottle itself? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Lastly, from the tourniquet? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. These were all items that you hadn't managed to get any 12 fingerprint data on -- 13 A. No. 14 Q. -- but did you manage to get positive results from the 15 DNA tests? 16 A. Yes, we did. 17 Stephen Port was present on the bottle, on both the 18 swabs from the lid and from the neck of the bottle. 19 From the surface of the lid, when we spoke earlier 20 on in evidence about the number of how likely he was to 21 be his DNA, he was 1 billion times more likely to be his 22 DNA on the lid of the bottle. 23 Then the neck, the swabs around neck, that number we 24 are looking at is 540 million times, so less than 25 a billion but still huge, 540 million times more likely</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 just to try and ascertain whether Anthony, but in fact 2 also Gabriel, Daniel and Jack, because similar tests 3 were done in relation to their hair samples, were they 4 not? 5 A. That's correct. 6 Q. Just to try and get an idea of whether they had ingested 7 drugs in the weeks before they died? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. That analysis was conducted by a scientist, a man named 10 Dr Cirimele, if I pronounce his name right? 11 A. Yes, Cirimele. 12 Q. That man gave evidence during Stephen Port's trial at 13 the Old Bailey that we have all heard about? 14 A. He did. 15 Q. You were present? 16 A. I was, yes. 17 Q. In order just to provide some context for the questions 18 that those two witnesses were asked and the answers that 19 they gave, I am going to read out a summary of 20 Dr Cirimele's evidence at the Old Bailey and then I am 21 going to ask if you agree with it, all right, so the 22 summary is this. 23 Dr Cirimele stated that he held a doctorate in 24 toxicology and he was a specialist in toxicological 25 analysis, including the analysis of hair samples, with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 to be him than anybody else. 2 The DNA on the tourniquet, although Stephen was 3 almost fully represented within there, because of the 4 nature of the DNA and the nature of the actual swab and 5 the sample, he was almost present, all of his profile 6 was almost present, but they couldn't get any 7 statistical evaluation on that number. 8 Q. Thank you, DI Richards. That is all I wanted to ask you 9 about the DNA evidence. 10 The last thing I want to ask you about is slightly 11 different. Of course I have so far just been today 12 asking you questions about Jack Taylor's case. But 13 I want now to come to a point which actually covers all 14 four of the young men whose deaths this jury is hearing 15 about. 16 You will recall, DI Richards, that in the course of 17 the evidence some weeks ago now that China Dunning and 18 Kiera Brennan gave to the jury they were each asked some 19 questions about the hair analysis that was conducted on, 20 in their case, the samples of hair taken from 21 Anthony Walgate's body. Is it right that that hair 22 analysis which was referred to was undertaken on behalf 23 of Operation Lilford? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Is it also right that the purpose of that analysis was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 20 years' experience. He explained the following 2 general points regarding hair sample analysis. If drugs 3 are ingested into the body, they are incorporated via 4 the blood into the hair of the person who ingested them 5 and because hair grows at an average rate of 1 6 centimetre a month, testing for drugs along a length of 7 hair can provide a history of that person's consumption 8 of drugs. 9 However, drugs can also be incorporated into hair as 10 a result of contamination from external sources, in 11 other words testing the hair may reveal the presence of 12 a particular drug but that drug may have got there 13 through external contamination, rather than because the 14 owner of the hair has ingested that drug. 15 Speaking just generally, rather than about the four 16 deceased in these cases, Dr Cirimele explained that one 17 potential cause of contamination could be blood or other 18 fluids getting onto the hair actually during a post 19 mortem, when the body is cut by the pathologist. He 20 went on to explain that in order to try and interpret 21 the extent to which the presence of a drug found in 22 a hair sample may be the result of contamination from 23 external sources, rather than from the owner having 24 ingested the drug, the hair is washed before it is 25 tested, the liquid used to wash the hair is itself</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

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<p>1 tested for that drug and then so is the hair.</p> <p>2 If the drug is found to be present in the wash, then</p> <p>3 this is a sign that the hair may have been contaminated.</p> <p>4 The respective concentrations of the drug found in the</p> <p>5 wash and in the hair can be compared, to try and assess</p> <p>6 the extent to which any trace of drug in the hair may be</p> <p>7 attributed to contamination from external sources."</p> <p>8 He added that a further factor that affects the</p> <p>9 reliability of these tests is the freezing of hair</p> <p>10 samples prior to testing. Tests on hair samples are</p> <p>11 less reliable where the samples used for testing have</p> <p>12 previously been frozen, and that is because condensation</p> <p>13 can cause any drugs present within the hair to be</p> <p>14 redistributed.</p> <p>15 Turning from the general to the particular,</p> <p>16 Dr Cirimele stated that he had tested hair samples taken</p> <p>17 from each of Anthony, Gabriel, Daniel and Jack. His</p> <p>18 evidence was that it was possible that the hair samples</p> <p>19 may have been stored in a frozen state prior to testing.</p> <p>20 He said that the samples from each of the deceased were</p> <p>21 tested for a number of drugs, including GHB. He stated,</p> <p>22 however, that he did not do a wash test for GHB. That</p> <p>23 was because, he explained, it is not possible on the</p> <p>24 current state of research to interpret any results</p> <p>25 obtained from the wash.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 Stephen Port, save for Daniel Whitworth's partner.</p> <p>2 Just a few points of detail if I may, please.</p> <p>3 You have given some evidence about DNA --</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. -- and what was found in relation to the items that had</p> <p>6 been placed with Jack. I think we heard on the last</p> <p>7 occasion, can I just bring up, please, IPC533, internal</p> <p>8 page 1.</p> <p>9 Just at the top, do we see there that Port's DNA had</p> <p>10 been taken in December 2012 when he was arrested, is</p> <p>11 that right?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Can we also bring up, please, IPC65, internal page 71.</p> <p>14 Just scroll in, please, on this part of the custody</p> <p>15 record for his arrest in June 2014. On the top entry at</p> <p>16 7.50 do we see that his DNA had been taken again on that</p> <p>17 date, 26 June?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Thank you, we can take that down.</p> <p>20 The account that you have given in relation to</p> <p>21 communications that Port had with X13 --</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. -- indicate, do they -- we can just perhaps bring up</p> <p>24 some of the communications very briefly, it is IPC86,</p> <p>25 internal 88. This is the line-by-line communications</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 He then went on to state that GHB is created</p> <p>2 naturally in the human body at low levels.</p> <p>3 Dr Cirimele's analysis of the hair samples from Anthony,</p> <p>4 Gabriel and Daniel each showed higher levels of GHB</p> <p>5 present in the hair than would occur naturally.</p> <p>6 Dr Cirimele was unable to exclude the possibility that</p> <p>7 in each of these three cases the GHB readings were in</p> <p>8 fact the result of external contamination. He did also</p> <p>9 state, however, that the variability of the measured</p> <p>10 distribution of GHB along the length of the hair</p> <p>11 samples, again in each of the three cases of Anthony,</p> <p>12 Gabriel and Daniel, might be thought to argue against</p> <p>13 external contamination.</p> <p>14 Regarding Jack, Dr Cirimele's evidence was that the</p> <p>15 analysis of his hair showed levels of GHB that were</p> <p>16 within the low range, which the body produces naturally.</p> <p>17 That is a summary of what Dr Cirimele said. Does</p> <p>18 that accurately, as far as you are concerned, reflect</p> <p>19 the evidence that he gave?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p>21 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you, DI Richards, those are all the</p> <p>22 questions that I have.</p> <p>23 Questions from MS HILL</p> <p>24 MS HILL: DI Richards, as you know I ask questions on behalf</p> <p>25 of the families of those who were murdered by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 with X13, but, just briefly, is this what you understand</p> <p>2 to be the position. That if we look at 13 September,</p> <p>3 8.11 am on the left-hand side, it is from that point</p> <p>4 that he starts laying a trail for the proposition that</p> <p>5 X13 should not come to his house?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>7 Q. We see several messages don't we about how he had stayed</p> <p>8 away and the understanding is that X13 cannot get into</p> <p>9 the house without Port letting him in, because he didn't</p> <p>10 have a key, something to that effect?</p> <p>11 A. To that effect, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Essentially you will see lots of messages where X3 is</p> <p>13 asking questions about could he come to his mate's,</p> <p>14 things like that, but essentially this is, as he had</p> <p>15 done with the other cases of the young men, Port laying</p> <p>16 a trail to stop somebody coming to his property --</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Forgive me, it is similar to the cases of the other</p> <p>19 young men because it is Port beginning to set up a lie</p> <p>20 of some sort?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. The communications that we see with X13 continue</p> <p>23 throughout the 13th and 14th and is this right, if we</p> <p>24 look at internal 89 of this document, that Port is</p> <p>25 communicating with X13 up until 11.15 on the night of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

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<p>1 the 13th, do we see communication at 23.18?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Of a perfectly normal, perhaps unsuspecting nature, "How</p> <p>4 is your night going?" Do you see that?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. That is from Port to X13, correct?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Then, on 14 September, at 9.15 am, again is there what</p> <p>9 purports to be a perfectly normal message, "Morning,</p> <p>10 just on the way to work now"?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Our evidence I think so far has been that Mr Elmes</p> <p>13 discovered or saw the body of Jack at around 12.50 pm on</p> <p>14 that day, is that right?</p> <p>15 A. I think it was slightly later, but yes.</p> <p>16 Q. I think the officers then come just after 1.00, but</p> <p>17 Mr Elmes's witness statement that was read has that</p> <p>18 time.</p> <p>19 A. Right, I agree.</p> <p>20 Q. Your understanding then, is this correct, at some point</p> <p>21 on the night of 13th into the 14th, that is when Port</p> <p>22 must have taken Jack's body and left it in the Abbey</p> <p>23 ruins?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. So it is between those messages.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 repeating this evidence, is it your understanding from</p> <p>2 the evidence obtained in Operation Lilford that as well</p> <p>3 as looking at security licence training information,</p> <p>4 before he left his home Jack Taylor set up Find My</p> <p>5 iPhone on his phone?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, he did.</p> <p>7 Q. In fact, if one looks at the table on internal page 86,</p> <p>8 it looks as if that is the very last thing he does</p> <p>9 before he leaves?</p> <p>10 A. Absolutely, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. We can see between 2.08 and 2.16 he is looking at how to</p> <p>12 do it, and your understanding is he does actually set up</p> <p>13 the Find My iPhone function?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. That is, I am sure the jury understand, a way in which</p> <p>16 your iPhone can be traced in terms of its location, by</p> <p>17 somebody else if they know the necessary information?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, by somebody else, if they know it or by yourself if</p> <p>19 you lose it, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Or by yourself, yes.</p> <p>21 For completeness, please, can I bring up MPS573,</p> <p>22 internal 56. It is paragraph 3.11 of your witness</p> <p>23 statement. Is this right, the family are obviously very</p> <p>24 aware of this but it is right for the record, isn't it,</p> <p>25 that the body of Jack Taylor was exhumed and subjected</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. The messaging continues -- we will just deal with this</p> <p>3 briefly, please -- over the page onto internal page 90,</p> <p>4 does Port continue to manufacture this series of lies by</p> <p>5 sending a photograph to X13 of another young man, not of</p> <p>6 Jack, to suggest that this young man is the reason why</p> <p>7 he has been distracted?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>9 Q. You can see, can you, the entry at 10.12 am on the 14th,</p> <p>10 at the top of page 90, that says, "It is the twink's</p> <p>11 fault, he kept me in bed, LOL"?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. "Tell that one to your new boss", says X13. Talks about</p> <p>14 problems with his washing:</p> <p>15 "But hey, what is that if you had a nice twink all</p> <p>16 weekend."</p> <p>17 Then at 10.14 Port sends a photograph and X13</p> <p>18 replies at 10.15 saying, "Some people have all the</p> <p>19 luck", and later says, "Yes, I can now see what kept</p> <p>20 you". So it is all about Port creating a distraction</p> <p>21 from what he has really been doing; is that fair?</p> <p>22 A. That is fair, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Just go back, please, within this document to internal</p> <p>24 page 86. Forgive me, I am not sure if you mentioned</p> <p>25 this. I don't think you did, but I am sorry if you are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 to a second post mortem, is that right?</p> <p>2 A. It was, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. The position in relation to the interviews that Port</p> <p>4 gave are perhaps best summarised in the prosecution</p> <p>5 opening note, which I can perhaps bring up, because,</p> <p>6 again, just taking it shortly, is this right, Port's</p> <p>7 account of his contact with Jack continued to change?</p> <p>8 A. Regularly, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. If we bring up, please, IPC685, is this right, that if</p> <p>10 we go to the internal part of the opening that deals</p> <p>11 with Jack, paragraph 221, internal page 35, please.</p> <p>12 That when he was first interviewed about his knowledge</p> <p>13 of Jack he said he did not recognise Jack at all, Jack</p> <p>14 had not been to his flat and he had not met him in</p> <p>15 Barking. Is that right?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Just for the note, I don't think we need to bring it up,</p> <p>18 but it is the interview of 15 October, IPC633, internal</p> <p>19 pages 42 and onwards.</p> <p>20 When he provided his defence case statement in the</p> <p>21 trial, and therefore knew the evidence against him, is</p> <p>22 this right -- can we bring up, please, MPS18, internal</p> <p>23 page 19, that he changed his account and again, as he</p> <p>24 had done with the other young men, tried to give</p> <p>25 a completely false account that fitted the evidence as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

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<p>1 best he could, is that right?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. He tried to say -- or he did say, forgive me, that Jack</p> <p>4 had injected himself with drugs?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. That Jack himself had wanted to take more drugs?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. That Jack had offered his phone as collateral?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. That Jack had suggested going outside to have sex?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. All of those lies were resoundingly rejected by the</p> <p>13 jury?</p> <p>14 A. They were.</p> <p>15 Q. Is this right, that the way that the prosecution put</p> <p>16 this, if we look, please at IPC685, internal 36,</p> <p>17 paragraph 223, was to say that the idea that Jack, a man</p> <p>18 who was very discreet about his sexuality, would suggest</p> <p>19 having sex outside is as ludicrous as the suggestion</p> <p>20 that he would offer up his mobile phone as collateral</p> <p>21 and, essentially, that was the prosecution case that was</p> <p>22 accepted at trial by the jury?</p> <p>23 A. It was, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Finally, is this right, that I think as we adduced or</p> <p>25 established on the last occasion, if we bring up,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 Questions from MR DAVIES</p> <p>2 MR DAVIES: Concentrating on the chronology in relation to</p> <p>3 Jack Taylor, what became Operation Lilford effectively</p> <p>4 started on 15 October 2015?</p> <p>5 A. I would say 16 October.</p> <p>6 Q. I won't argue, the 16th.</p> <p>7 Less than a month before that, 22 September 2015,</p> <p>8 the officer in the case allocated to that enquiry was</p> <p>9 somebody seconded to the parks police, PC Jon Taylor.</p> <p>10 A. That's correct.</p> <p>11 Q. From 25 September up to the assumption of primacy by</p> <p>12 MIT, it was still a uniformed acting inspector,</p> <p>13 Mr O'Donohue.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. At risk of labouring a point, if we could have MPS573</p> <p>16 up, please, page 3, paragraph 12, I suspect you have</p> <p>17 been taken through this data at an earlier point in the</p> <p>18 inquest, and if so I apologise, but we can see, can't</p> <p>19 we, in your own statement here by the end of Lilford</p> <p>20 inevitably, with all the human and specialist resources</p> <p>21 that were thrown at this, quite rightly, you had</p> <p>22 generated in your own words a vast amount of material.</p> <p>23 I won't insult the court's intelligence, but to take</p> <p>24 item 1, you generated not 929 pages of witness</p> <p>25 statements, but 929 separate statements?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 please, MPS659, internal page 9, we can see on the</p> <p>2 indictment, can't we, that at count 25 and counts 24 and</p> <p>3 23 there are the counts on the indictment that relate to</p> <p>4 Jack, murder, manslaughter and administering the drugs</p> <p>5 that we see at count 25.</p> <p>6 Is this right, that there were further offences that</p> <p>7 Port had committed on the indictment, if we look, please</p> <p>8 at count 26 through to 29, he was charged with further</p> <p>9 offences between 1 October and 5 October?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Then, over the page, between 8 and 11 October?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. So essentially was offending, according to the</p> <p>14 indictment, right up until the point at which Lilford</p> <p>15 arrested him?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. Yes.</p> <p>17 MS HILL: Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 DR VAN DELLEN: Madam, I have one question, but I just need</p> <p>19 to look something up if I may, so if I may defer to one</p> <p>20 of my learned friends.</p> <p>21 THE CORONER: Yes, certainly.</p> <p>22 Mr Davies.</p> <p>23 MR DAVIES: Thank you.</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Of different lengths, but thousands of pages of witness</p> <p>3 statements in aggregate?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Covering a whole range of topics.</p> <p>6 Nearly 1,000 separate actions under the</p> <p>7 investigation?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Over 2,000 physical exhibits.</p> <p>10 Documents into the incident room, over 1,000, 1,361.</p> <p>11 36 interviews of witnesses or suspects.</p> <p>12 We get a sense of the scale here, don't we?</p> <p>13 The resources, to be blunt, you were taken through</p> <p>14 in previous evidence the number of officers and their</p> <p>15 specialisations that could be committed to</p> <p>16 Operation Lilford. Which are out of all scale compared</p> <p>17 to what is available to a CID on borough; is that a fair</p> <p>18 comment?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Not a criticism, I emphasise. It is just reiterating,</p> <p>21 I suppose, evidence that has been covered.</p> <p>22 Page 57 of the same document, please, paragraphs 314</p> <p>23 and 315. In addition to officers attached to MIT,</p> <p>24 I think you also, in relation to living victims of Port,</p> <p>25 you engaged the services of specialist officers from the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 sexual offences command. We can see that at 2 paragraph 315 on page 58. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. This was a major enquiry, covering all these matters? 5 A. Absolutely. 6 Q. That can come down, thank you, for now. 7 When was Port charged with the four murders? 8 A. Late on the Sunday evening, so that would have been the 9 18th, I am guessing. 10 Q. The 18th -- 19th perhaps? 11 A. Late on the Sunday evening. 12 Q. Yes. You covered it in your evidence when I last 13 questioned you. Of course, by that stage you had 14 knowledge/evidence of four separate young men who had 15 died in demonstrably similar circumstances? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. You accepted last time that that is a very different 18 proposition than taking Anthony Walgate in isolation at 19 the beginning of any enquiry. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. To have proved the allegation against Mr Walgate in 22 isolation, pause the investigation with him, no other 23 evidence. The elements you would have to prove, to 24 prove homicide, would be that Mr Port in the privacy of 25 the flat with only Anthony present firstly administered</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 A. That would be down to the judge, but ... 2 Q. Yes. 3 Stated shortly, lies of themselves do not prove the 4 other elements of the case, do they? 5 A. Absolutely. 6 Q. In terms of the Anthony Walgate investigation, I think 7 even after charge you thought it necessary to generate 8 additional evidence, in terms of toxicology. 9 Could we go to page 31 of MPS573, please. 10 Paragraphs 155 to 157. 11 I'm not trying to catch you out, Mr Richards, I can 12 assure you but it does appear that this is your analysis 13 of the toxicology relating to Anthony Walgate, yes? 14 A. No, these findings were Dr Simon Elliott was for us to 15 understand GHB and its interaction with other drugs per 16 se, across the whole of Operation Lilford. 17 Q. Yes, but the point being that was an issue -- I will 18 read it into the record: 19 "Following research in the field, including with the 20 National Crime Agency [paragraph 157] Dr Simon Elliott 21 was identified as a GHB expert. He was contacted and 22 asked a number of questions in relation to the 23 toxicological findings. He provided a statement dated 24 15 July 2016." 25 Of course I accept it is after charge, his evidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 GHB to Anthony, yes? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Secondly, that GHB killed Anthony, it was the cause or 4 contributed to his death? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. That the administration of that drug, as a fact or in 7 the quantity in which it was administered, was 8 non-consensual on Anthony's part? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. And that Port had the intent when he did it, in terms of 11 murder, to cause at least really serious harm? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. All of those elements would have to be proved? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. In circumstances where in fact the only living witness 16 was Port? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. I think it is not contentious to say that the fact that 19 Port had lied to the police does not of itself prove 20 those other elements of the offence, does it? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Had the matter gone to trial, just in relation to 23 Anthony Walgate in isolation, the jury would have 24 received a direction as to how to treat Port's lies in 25 their consideration of the whole case?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 wasn't necessary for charge, but there was a level of 2 complexity to this, wasn't there, in terms of GHB, that 3 required you to obtain Dr Elliott's further specialist 4 opinion? 5 A. Yes, we needed to understand how GHB would interact with 6 other drugs, we knew that it was naturally occurring 7 within the body and it is in everybody's body. As you 8 day, or when you die, your body will naturally increase 9 the GHB within you due to the putrefaction, the 10 breakdown of your body as you decompose through death. 11 So we needed to understand from an expert how those 12 levels could rise after death, what level could it be 13 expected to rise to and also how GHB would interact with 14 other medication and non-medicated drugs, illegal drugs. 15 Q. That can come down, thank you. 16 Finally this: was there any previous example that 17 you were aware of of somebody being prosecuted in 18 United Kingdom for murder having used GHB as the weapon? 19 A. I believe this was the first. 20 Q. Have you -- had you come across an investigation 21 previously where no fewer than four scenes had been 22 staged by the same person -- 23 A. Did I have any knowledge of that? 24 Q. -- in order to give the false impression of accidental 25 overdose or suicide?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

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<p>1 A. I personally had no knowledge of that, but I can't say 2 if it was the only one but I personally have no 3 knowledge. 4 Q. Because I might be wrong, but this was the first 5 occasion, I think, that GHB was prosecuted as the 6 weapon -- 7 A. I believe so. 8 Q. -- for a homicide? 9 A. I believe so. 10 MR DAVIES: Thank you, that is all I ask. 11 Questions from DR VAN DELLEN 12 DR VAN DELLEN: Detective Inspector Richards, as you know 13 I ask questions on behalf of Ricky Waumsley, 14 Daniel Whitworth's partner. You have kindly explained 15 that Port was convicted of the four murders, that's 16 correct, isn't it? 17 A. That's correct. 18 Q. Just in terms of criminal law, being convicted of murder 19 is not only the act of murder but also the intention to 20 murder. That is correct, isn't it? 21 A. It is the intention to kill or to cause really serious 22 harm. 23 Q. Yes, you have kindly anticipated my follow-on question. 24 It is that really serious harm part that I am going to 25 ask you about.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 of Port's arrest? 2 A. We had 16 live operations. 3 Q. Did you continue to investigate those deaths after 4 Stephen Port's arrest? 5 A. Yes. Yes. 6 Q. So your team was able to undertake multiple 7 investigations competently at the same time as the 8 Stephen Port investigation? 9 A. Yes. 10 MR SKELTON: Thank you. 11 Further questions from MR O'CONNOR 12 MR O'CONNOR: DI Richards, very briefly from me. 13 You were asked some questions from Mr Davies on the 14 sort of hypothetical assumption that the case against 15 Stephen Port in relation to the case against 16 Anthony Walgate's death had been taken forward in 17 isolation, as it were, do you remember? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. You were asked about the evidence that would have been 20 available in that situation? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. It was suggested that the only living witness would have 23 been Stephen Port. 24 Would it be fair to say that there would have been 25 other living witnesses, perhaps not direct living</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 The intention to cause really serious harm, the 2 necessary intention exists if the defendant feels sure 3 that the death or the really serious harm is a virtual 4 certainty as a result of the defendant's actions and the 5 defendant appreciated that this was the case, is that 6 correct? 7 A. I would have to trust you on the case law. 8 Q. If I phrase the question this way, that the 9 administration of the GHB, the jury found wasn't only 10 for sexual purposes but the jury found that the 11 necessary intention to cause really serious harm was 12 present in all four cases? 13 A. Yes. 14 DR VAN DELLEN: Thank you, madam, no further questions. 15 Questions from MR SKELTON 16 MR SKELTON: DI Richards, just a few questions, please. 17 First of all, were you part of the MIT team that 18 took over the investigation of the four deaths on the 19 day Port was arrested, which I think was 20 15 October 2015? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Was that with DCI Duffield and several other detectives 23 from which MIT team? 24 A. MIT team 1. 25 Q. How many deaths was MIT team 1 investigating at the time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 witnesses of the things that had actually happened in 2 Cooke Street, but, for example, China Dunning, 3 Kiera Brennan, Ellie Green, who were all witnesses who 4 had something to say about the circumstances of 5 Anthony's death? 6 A. Yes, I read that question as in who was present at the 7 time of the act, but, yes, you are absolutely right, 8 there would be numerous witnesses involved. 9 Q. Of course leaving to one side the question of evidence 10 from human witnesses, there would of course have been 11 other evidence, for example the post mortem results? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. You have already mentioned the toxicology results? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Of course the jury will have well in mind the evidence 16 that was available from the download of Stephen Port's 17 computer? 18 A. From the laptop, yes. 19 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, that is all I wanted to 20 ask. 21 Madam, sorry, just give me a moment. 22 Thank you, no more questions. 23 Questions from THE CORONER 24 THE CORONER: Mr Richards, just two from me. 25 First of all, you were asked about I think X9, who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

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<p>1 was the victim Stephen Port offended against after 2 Jack's death? 3 A. Yes. 4 THE CORONER: It was X9 who was the victim on the last four 5 counts on the indictment, I just want to clarify that, 6 wasn't it? I am pretty sure it was, I was looking at 7 it -- 8 A. Yes. 9 THE CORONER: I just wanted to clarify for the jury, so it 10 was one living victim against whom he had offended and 11 was charged and was prosecuted, who was offended against 12 after Jack's death? 13 A. Yes. 14 THE CORONER: Thank you. 15 Then just this, in relation to the Grindr accounts 16 of Jack Taylor and Stephen Port, were they in their 17 names? 18 A. A Grindr account is not necessarily in somebody's name. 19 You -- the first -- you can register a Grindr account 20 with anything that looks like an email address, it 21 doesn't even have to be an email address. As long as it 22 has a name -- or "something" at "something" dot 23 "something", as long as that particular name isn't 24 already previously registered with Grindr as an account, 25 you can register it again. There is no verification</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	
<p>1 process, like you would find with Amazon or banking or 2 somewhere. 3 So Jack had registered in his own name with his own 4 email account, yes. 5 Stephen had many accounts but I would have to check 6 which one he was communicating with, but it was 7 definitely attributed to Stephen. 8 THE CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr Richards. 9 Is that as far as we can take things today, 10 Mr O'Connor? 11 MR O'CONNOR: It is madam, yes. 12 THE CORONER: That is as far as we can go today, members of 13 the jury. 14 I will see you tomorrow at 10.00. 15 (3.07 pm) 16 (The inquests adjourned until 10.00 am the following day) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	

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