

Monday, 23 September 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3

(Proceedings delayed)

4

(10.13 am)

5

THE CHAIR: Good morning, everybody.

6

MR GRIFFIN: Chair, today and tomorrow we continue to hear

7

commemorative and impact evidence. Again, we will be

8

hearing about some distressing and difficult matters,

9

and, as I've said at the start of each week, there is

10

an emotional support service available and it is

11

overseen by the Inquiry's chief psychologist.

12

Counsellors are present here today, and although they

13

have already been introduced, can I ask them just to put

14

their hands up once more? Thank you very much.

15

And there is a support services page on the Inquiry

16

website, lampardinquiry.org.co.uk, where further

17

information about services is available, or please just

18

ask a member of the Inquiry team present here today,

19

we're wearing purple lanyards. As I've said before, we

20

want all of those engaging with the Inquiry to feel safe

21

and supported.

22

Chair, the first account we are hearing today is by

23

Tim Whitfield, and it's about his wife,

24

Margaret Annequin, or Mags. And may I ask that the

25

first photograph is put up, please.

1 Can you see the photograph on the screen in front of
2 you, Mr Whitfield? Please start whenever you feel
3 comfortable.

4 Statement by Tim Whitfield about Margaret Annequin

5 MR WHITFIELD: Yesterday would have been our 40th wedding
6 anniversary, me and Mags. Mags for Margaret. So her
7 body will be part of nature now. But here in these
8 pictures, she was alive and still part of nature,
9 a natural beauty.

10 MR GRIFFIN: Next photo.

11 MR WHITFIELD: On the beach somewhere, possibly the
12 Hebrides.

13 MR GRIFFIN: Next photo, please.

14 MR WHITFIELD: Mags loved animals, and if I was driving and
15 she saw an animal in trouble anywhere, I'd have to stop
16 the car and see what I could do. Here she is with a dog
17 in Canada.

18 MR GRIFFIN: Next photograph, please.

19 MR WHITFIELD: And here she is with three Westies in
20 Holland Park in Kensington. Two of them were ours.

21 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

22 MR WHITFIELD: Here she is with Bambi -- I don't know what
23 the animal was, but we'll call him Bambi -- in 1962,
24 possibly.

25 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

1 MR WHITFIELD: This is Mags with a donkey. They should --
2 they shared the same stillness and resignation.

3 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

4 MR WHITFIELD: Mags on a horse in Canada.

5 MR GRIFFIN: Photo.

6 MR WHITFIELD: We first met at North London Polytechnic,
7 when we were both studying to do a degree in English
8 literature, but this picture I think is of us at my
9 brother's wedding in Paris, in roughly 2005, having
10 a good time.

11 MR GRIFFIN: Photo.

12 MR WHITFIELD: Mags with toothache on our honeymoon in
13 Amsterdam, 1984.

14 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

15 MR WHITFIELD: I like this picture, it's me and Mags at
16 a friend's flat in Tollesbury before we actually moved
17 to Tollesbury together. And the caption was, "Long as
18 I could be with you. It's a lovely day."

19 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

20 MR WHITFIELD: Now, a long time ago, Mags with her father
21 and her twin brother Stuart, and a guinea pig and
22 a rabbit.

23 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

24 MR WHITFIELD: This was with our friend Paul in Amsterdam.

25 MR GRIFFIN: Photo.

1 MR WHITFIELD: Mags on the beach on the Isle of Jura in
2 1989, just Mags on a beach.

3 MR GRIFFIN: Photograph, please.

4 MR WHITFIELD: She was always in transit, Mags, and here's
5 a typical picture of her waiting at yet another airport.

6 MR GRIFFIN: Photograph.

7 MR WHITFIELD: Mags climbs the Crac du Chevalier in Syria,
8 where the crusaders had ensured that they could -- they
9 didn't need to dismount from their horses to get around
10 the place. That's when we were in Syria in 1998, when
11 it was still a peaceable place.

12 MR GRIFFIN: Photo.

13 MR WHITFIELD: Yes, this is me and Mags in the Sudan. There
14 was an advert in The Guardian for English teachers in
15 the Sudan, and all you needed to have was a degree,
16 a degree in anything, and we thought, "Yes, that sounds
17 good." And after a weekend spent in the comfort of
18 Farnham Castle in Surrey to prepare us for the hardships
19 of the Sudan, the fact that the pay was in fact £1,500,
20 not £15,000, was just a minor amendment, and we still
21 carried on to going to the Sudan. And this was in our
22 house in the Sudan. Actually it was the only room
23 really in the house that we had, and this is Mags waking
24 up one morning to another jolly day teaching English in
25 the Sudan.

1 MR GRIFFIN: Photograph, please.

2 MR WHITFIELD: This was at our favourite coffee shop on the
3 banks of the Nile, and that shadow which Margaret is
4 stroking is a sheep.

5 MR GRIFFIN: Photo, please.

6 MR WHITFIELD: Margaret preparing a meal in our courtyard.

7 MR GRIFFIN: Photo.

8 MR WHITFIELD: Margaret doing the laundry in our courtyard.

9 MR GRIFFIN: Photograph.

10 MR WHITFIELD: Margaret doing the gardening. Well, actually
11 that garden where she's doing whatever she's doing,
12 before we left in a few months' time, there was
13 a sunflower taller than me had grown from that. We had
14 boys delivering us water from the Nile every other
15 morning on their donkey.

16 MR GRIFFIN: I think that's the last of the photographs that
17 you have for us to share. Was there anything else you
18 wanted to say?

19 MR WHITFIELD: Yes, all these Sudan things reminds me of the
20 wedding in Tangasi. Tangasi was a rather prosperous
21 town just upriver from where we were in Merowe, and for
22 some reason me and Mags were invited to a wedding in
23 Tangasi. I can't remember who -- whose wedding it was,
24 I don't think I knew at the time, but we were invited so
25 we thought we'd go, and when we got to the place --

1 I can't remember how we got to the place, it's about --
2 it's about six or seven miles from where we lived, along
3 the river, but when we got there, Mags was taken away
4 with the women and I was left with the men, and me and
5 the blokes went to a place where we were each given
6 an angareeb to lie on, that's a rope bed, and then were
7 fed with all kinds of delicacies and lovely things to
8 drink, and music playing, which went on for a while, but
9 then there was a noise at the gate, a clattering and
10 a rattling, and then finally the door burst open and
11 Mags came in -- this was the other side of the
12 courtyard -- and screamed at me "We're going now. Do
13 you know what they've made me do? I've been standing up
14 the whole time, there's been nowhere to sit down, we
15 didn't have anything to drink, we didn't have any water,
16 we didn't have any food, and you lying here with all
17 this food. We're going home now." And we did.

18 Well done, Mags. Yeah, that ... that's it.

19 THE CHAIR: Mr Whitfield, thank you. That will have made
20 a great impression on everybody here. We'll remember
21 Mags as we (inaudible). Thank you.

22 (Pause)

23 MR GRIFFIN: Chair, it will just be a few moments while we
24 set up the table for our next two witnesses.

25 (Pause)

1 Statement by Dawn Johnson and Craig Scott about Iris Scott

2 MR GRIFFIN: We'll hear now from Dawn Johnson and

3 Craig Scott about their mother Iris Scott.

4 May I invite Dawn to come up?

5 Could you put up the photograph, please.

6 (Photograph shown)

7 MS JOHNSON: Well, this is my commemorative account about my

8 mum, Iris Scott, who died on 1 March 2014.

9 Mum was a loving, strong, energetic, bright, vibrant
10 and full of life. Mum's favourite colour was red and it
11 truly reflected her personality. Red was the chosen
12 colour of her bridesmaids in February 1960 and
13 represented her favourite time of year, Christmas,
14 family time.

15 Born in Stepney in December 1940, mum grew up living
16 in the East End of London with her parents and her elder
17 brother, John. Mum had a loving and fun childhood and
18 often recounted her family summer holidays in Kent
19 working on the hop farms and family gatherings of
20 a Sunday.

21 Mum was an intelligent child and at school she was
22 both sporty and academic. She had a mathematical and
23 problem-solving brain, she loved to learn, and from the
24 age of 12 she attended the Robert Montefiore School in
25 Whitechapel.

1 When mum was applying for a job in 1955 her
2 headmaster wrote a reference for her saying:

3 "Hard working, intelligent, she is of marked
4 organising ability and well behaved. Bright in manner,
5 and possesses powers of leadership. She is careful of
6 her appearance and always found to be honest, truthful
7 and reliable."

8 How accurate he was.

9 From her late teens, mum worked as a secretary and
10 bookkeeper in Holborn. She carried these skills through
11 her life. Mum met dad through mutual family friends and
12 they married in 1960, mum aged 19, and dad 24. And they
13 honeymooned in Porthleven, Cornwall, a place that would
14 become dear to us all.

15 I was born in June 1961 and when I was five we moved
16 from London to Essex, in fact to the same road as mum's
17 brother John. I grew up living five doors away from
18 Uncle John, Aunty Eileen, and Debbie and Jackie, my
19 cousins. We did most things together, socialising both
20 at home and on holidays in Essex, Kent, the Isle of
21 Wight, and they were great times. We were and we still
22 are a very close family.

23 Sadly in 1967 my Uncle John was diagnosed with
24 a brain tumour. Mum was pregnant with my brother Craig
25 at this time, and in October, two weeks after Craig was

1 born, sadly my Uncle John died aged just 31. Despite
2 just giving birth and being devastated by her brother's
3 death, mum rallied round to help Aunty Eileen. Our
4 family doubled overnight, because mum helped take care
5 then of Debbie and Jackie, who were then aged eight and
6 three, so that Aunty Eileen could come to terms with her
7 loss and eventually return to work.

8 Unfortunately, my grandfather also suffered
9 a breakdown on the death of his son, so mum had even
10 more to deal with, but she was strong and nothing fazed
11 her.

12 In May 1969 my brother was born -- my brother Glenn
13 was born, sorry. At this time, dad was working two
14 jobs, a job as a salesman and also working some evenings
15 and weekends from the pleasure boats at Westminster
16 Pier. We didn't have a lot of money, but we never
17 missed out. Mum just had the ability to make a little
18 money go a long way.

19 With two young brothers, I was mum's little helper,
20 which somehow she made fun, and I learnt a lot of skills
21 from a very early age.

22 When we were growing up, mum worked one day at the
23 weekend and one day of an evening at Sainsbury's up in
24 Brentwood. On the other evenings, she used to cover
25 lampshades, cover coat hangers, cover clothing buttons,

1 anything just to make some extra money, as she could
2 literally turn her hand to anything. The button machine
3 was good fun, that I do remember, because I used to sit
4 there on her lap, choosing the material, working the
5 machine, and I know I significantly slowed her down, but
6 she didn't seem to mind, she always gave us the time.

7 We had a happy childhood. Mum and dad's house was
8 always the centre of activity for both adults and
9 children. Over the years, mum organised many parties,
10 Christmas, New Year, birthdays, Jubilee, charity. It
11 was always mum. She was the life and soul of the party,
12 and very happy to organise.

13 Mum was happy if everybody else was happy, and she
14 always just put everybody before herself.

15 Mum also liked to keep fit. She was a member of
16 a keep fit club with my Aunty Eileen, and they used to
17 perform in displays all over the eastern region. She
18 was very sporty and would join in all sporting events,
19 especially participate in our school sport days, because
20 she was very competitive, and support all three of us in
21 our chosen sports.

22 But it was at Christmas that mum came into her own.
23 Christmas was family time, often planned from the
24 summer, soon after my birthday. The more people the
25 merrier. It wasn't just a one-day event, it was

1 a three-day package. Everybody had a job, it was
2 a well-oiled machine, and if I'm honest, if it could
3 have, it got even better when the grandchildren started
4 arriving.

5 In August 1991, mum's first grandchild was born and,
6 like any grandmother, she couldn't have been happier.
7 Over the coming years, she welcomed another five. She
8 could not do enough for them. They meant the world to
9 her. Mum took pleasure in all their achievements and
10 was interested in absolutely everything the children
11 did. She was very keen for them to learn and do well at
12 school, and she helped with all manner of creative
13 things for school plays, Christmas, school book days and
14 the like. She just would help wherever she could.

15 In the school holidays, again she kept all the
16 children entertained by taking them to many attractions,
17 both in Essex and in London. Mum and dad also took all
18 of the children to Cornwall where they had honeymooned
19 in 1960 so that they could share their special place.
20 We all have very fond memories.

21 In the home, mum was in charge of most things, she
22 was very organised, and looked after the filing and the
23 accounts and the general running of the household. If
24 I'm honest, I don't think my dad got a look-in, she
25 liked to be in control, and she worked tirelessly. If

1 she couldn't do something, she would learn, and she just
2 didn't shy away. When I started driving when I was 17,
3 mum also started learning to drive at the age of 38.
4 She then took it on herself to sign up for a starter
5 computer course at the library, and then taught herself
6 at home on Excel. As I say, always eager to learn.
7 When my brothers were in their teens, mum returned to
8 work at a local company as a secretary and a bookkeeper.

9 Mum and dad had made lots of friends over the years.
10 When we grew up, they took advantage of travelling as
11 much as possible, and maintained contact with everybody
12 that they met on their way. When they were in their
13 60s, mum and dad embarked on a six-week road trip around
14 Europe. They certainly did live their lives to the
15 full.

16 My sons were 17 and 22 when mum died. They both
17 knew I was struggling to write this statement,
18 especially in respect of the impact that it had on the
19 whole family, not just me. Both wanted to contribute
20 and have their voice heard. My youngest son wrote:

21 "I've always said I had the privilege of being
22 brought up by my entire family, my grandmother, nanny,
23 especially. The woman who taught me to cook, who took
24 me to every swimming practice, sewed every outfit for
25 every fancy dress party, who taught me always to be the

1 first and the last person on the dance floor and told me
2 to put family and friends before anything else. But the
3 last months of her life sullied the memories that she
4 had built with the people she loved more than anything
5 else. Her care, or lack of, humiliated her and her
6 condition. The failings of those entrusted to keep her
7 safe not only led to the horrific and avoidable death,
8 but also undermined and riddled her nearest and dearest
9 of the right and the ability to grieve properly and
10 wholly. Today they are to blame for a family torn apart
11 by unimaginable wounds that have remained open and bare
12 for the last ten years. For me and the rest of the
13 grandchildren, they took away the loudest voice at our
14 Christmas table, the proudest smile at all our life
15 events, and the most infectious laugh at the end of the
16 phone call we knew to expect every evening. And
17 regardless of the result of this Inquiry, these are the
18 injustices they will never be able to pay for and the
19 scars they will never be able to heal, and like our
20 entire family, they need to carry that burden for the
21 rest of their lives, so that other families do not have
22 to go through the same inescapable pain."

23 My eldest son wrote:

24 "I was doing my master's at university when nan
25 passed away, and for a while I didn't know how to deal

1 with it and it had a huge impact on my studies. When
2 I was told of nan's death, I was so sure suicide wasn't
3 possible and I considered that she must have been really
4 ill without presenting or had had a heart attack. So
5 the news of how she died made me question so much of
6 what I assumed daily and still cover this in therapy
7 that I've been an active participate in for the past
8 ten years. I still don't truly understand how or why
9 this was allowed to happen, and I'm hoping for some more
10 answers by the end of this Inquiry."

11 On 1 March 2014, my life and that of my family
12 changed forever. My mother had died, found hanging in
13 her bedroom on Ruby ward, whilst under the care of Essex
14 Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. On that day, despite
15 a note on my mum's file stating that any news should
16 come through Craig and I -- and I'd like to add that mum
17 was very insistent on this, that dad wasn't disturbed
18 throughout her care -- the ward sent the police to my
19 father's house where he was asleep alone to inform him
20 of mum's death. In turn, dad had to contact Craig and
21 I.

22 When I answered the phone at 4 am on that fateful
23 morning, my distraught dad just said, "She's done it.
24 She's done it." I cannot start to explain the emotions
25 that took over my body at that time. We had lost our

1 mum in such tragic circumstances. My sons had lost
2 their grandmother, and also they had lost me. I was
3 lost. Our whole world fell apart.

4 My dad could not cope with the loss of mum, the lady
5 he'd fallen in love with some 60 years earlier, and she
6 was his soulmate and his rock. My dad gave up, he lost
7 the will to carry on, he just lost his zest for life.
8 He didn't want to be here any more.

9 Mum was admitted into Ruby ward, for what we were
10 told should have been a three-week quick fix, never to
11 return to us.

12 To the Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, my
13 mum was just one person. To us, she was our world.

14 Thank you very much, Chair.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much indeed, very moving.

16 Thank you.

17 MR GRIFFIN: Thank you very much.

18 I invite Craig to come up.

19 (Pause)

20 MR SCOTT: Iris Scott. Iris was born on 5 December 1940 in
21 Stepney, East London. She was born into a working class
22 family, the second child of Jack and Hannah Yems. Iris
23 had an older brother, John. Like so many Londoners at
24 the time, Iris' early life was difficult and fraught
25 with danger, spending large periods of time sheltering

1 in London's Underground stations from the bombs of
2 World War II.

3 During her school years, Iris was a popular,
4 intelligent pupil, with a thirst of knowledge and a keen
5 sportsperson, all of which would continue into
6 adulthood. During this period, she forged some lifelong
7 friendships. On finishing school, Iris took secretarial
8 and bookkeeping courses and obtained qualifications in
9 both, which she would later put to good use working for
10 local businesses.

11 Now in her late teens, Iris met what would turn out
12 to be the love of her life, John Scott, who she married
13 on 27 February 1960 at St Dunstan's church in east
14 London. They would spend their honeymoon in Porthleven
15 in Cornwall, a location with close family connections
16 that still continue today. This would ultimately be
17 their final resting place.

18 On 4 June 1961, Iris and John were blessed with
19 their first child, a daughter, Dawn. In early '66, the
20 family moved from London to Essex, only five houses from
21 Iris' brother and his family. This would be the family
22 home for over 40 years, and they would go on to make
23 many friends that lasted the test of time.

24 Iris and John were always willing to help their
25 neighbours and be key participants in the community,

1 such as fundraisers and events like the Queen's Silver
2 Jubilee celebrations. Iris was one of the event
3 organisers for the street party and complementing events
4 of the day.

5 Both Iris and John were keen to add to their family.
6 This proved to be more difficult than they had hoped.
7 It wasn't for another six years they would welcome me
8 into their family on 28 September 1967. The joy of
9 welcoming a new child into the family was unfortunately
10 marred by the death of Iris' brother from a brain tumour
11 in October '67.

12 Living in such close proximity to Iris' brother's
13 family, Iris' strong sense of family commitment would be
14 demonstrated, whereby over the subsequent years Iris
15 would often care for her brother's daughters after
16 school or during school holidays when her sister-in-law
17 would be at work.

18 This extended family dynamic would forge strong
19 family ties that still exist today between the two
20 families. On May 3, 1969, the family unit would be
21 complete with the birth of my brother, Glenn.

22 In the years that followed Iris and John would
23 welcome six grandchildren into the family. If Iris was
24 a great mother, she excelled as a grandmother, ever
25 present, supportive, involved in all they did, welcoming

1 any opportunity to spend time with the grandchildren,
2 always offering to babysit, attend school sports days,
3 a variety of school performances, dance shows and
4 presentation events. She was so proud of them, and they
5 loved her dearly.

6 My earliest memories of mum are how proud she was as
7 a homemaker, mother and wife. Although we were far from
8 a wealthy family, dad often working two or three jobs
9 and mum also working as a secretary and bookkeeper to
10 help fulfil their ambitions for the family, we had
11 a great upbringing and childhood. I don't think any of
12 us would have changed a thing. Yes, there were some
13 difficult times, but the fun, laughter and love
14 projected by both of them towards us was unmistakable.
15 We all knew how much we were loved.

16 Iris was incredibly house-proud, where everything
17 had its place. Iris knew it would have to be balanced.
18 With two young football-mad sons and a daughter about to
19 enter her early teens, as you can imagine, the house and
20 garden would not always be looking its best. Mum
21 understood this, encouraging our interests and passions,
22 but when the time came to clear up, we all cleared up,
23 installing some early life lessons, many more would
24 follow.

25 Mum encouraged us to pursue our dreams, ambitions,

1 and supported us in all our interests, making many
2 sacrifices along the way, even when she didn't quite
3 approve of some of our early career choices. If that's
4 what we wanted to do, she would support it and be there
5 with encouraging words whenever required.

6 Mum loved Christmas. She loved every aspect of the
7 festive season but most of all having the family
8 together was the most important to her. I have
9 wonderful memories of Christmas growing up. Although we
10 did not always get what was on our Christmas lists,
11 Christmas felt magical, mum made sure of that. This
12 would be magnified in later years with the introduction
13 of the grandchildren.

14 Growing up mum and dad often hosted Christmas and
15 New Year's Eve parties where their open-house approach
16 would welcome family and friends from across the
17 community. Iris looked forward to these events. She
18 was a great hostess, where nothing was too much trouble.
19 She was often the first on the dance floor, partying
20 into the early hours.

21 Family holidays were also great fun. In my pre-teen
22 years, Cornwall, Devon were typically the most visited
23 locations. As foreign travel became more accessible,
24 mum would be keen for us to experience other
25 destinations, Malta, France and Spain were some of the

1 first countries we visited. These family holidays
2 abroad sparked mum's desire to travel and experience
3 more of the world. Mum and dad would later go on to
4 travel far and wide, Africa, Asia, the United States,
5 the Caribbean and many other European destinations.

6 How would I describe Iris Scott? She was the most
7 devoted, caring, supportive and loving mother and
8 grandmother, a strong, independent, modern-thinking
9 woman who knew her own mind and had her own opinions and
10 never shied away from a debate. I would suggest
11 subconsciously this was one of the biggest things that
12 mum installed into Dawn, Glenn and I, always stand up
13 and fight for what you believe. It's part of the reason
14 why I'm here today.

15 Her personality was infectious, she had a great
16 sense of humour, she had many friends, most of which
17 were those she had known for many years, even as far
18 back as childhood. Mum had style. She was
19 a good-looking lady. She enjoyed being able to dress up
20 for an evening out at a theatre, a party or a meal with
21 friends. Mum liked to experience some of the finer
22 things life had to offer. She was never out of place or
23 intimidated by her surroundings. She loved and lived
24 life to the full. She loved to travel, see the world
25 and experience other cultures. She was loved by so

1 many. Testament to that was at her funeral, when so
2 many travelled the length and breadth of the country to
3 pay their respects. But most of all, she was simply the
4 best mother and grandmother to our children we could
5 have hoped and wished for. She gave her time and love
6 unconditionally to the whole family and, without
7 exaggeration, we miss her every single day.

8 The impact of mum's death was immense for the whole
9 family, losing such a loving wife, parent, grandmother
10 and aunty will always be hard, but the manner in which
11 we lost her magnified the experience tenfold. We were
12 all truly heartbroken with the emptiness that only comes
13 with the grief of losing someone so loved.
14 Unfortunately I'm not eloquent enough to do that
15 justice.

16 Since that day, many members of the family have had
17 to face their own struggles, coming to terms with the
18 events of 1 March 2014. For me, it started with a phone
19 call in the early hours of the morning. I immediately
20 knew something had happened, with an obviously very
21 confused father on the other end of the line, having
22 himself just been woken by two police officers informing
23 him that his wife had taken her own life. His world and
24 ours would never be the same again. We would later find
25 out that mum had hung herself in her room whilst

1 an inpatient on Ruby ward, Crystal Centre, which is part
2 of the Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

3 From the experience my family and I endured during
4 the inquest, I fear we will never truly know what
5 happened in the events leading up to mum's death, which
6 makes it even harder.

7 Explaining to my then 17 and 15-year-old daughters
8 what had happened and trying to console them remains the
9 hardest thing my wife and I have had to do as parents.
10 We had gone through our whole lives never having any
11 direct experience of suicide. How could we know how
12 this was going to impact them? I cannot speak
13 accurately on how each individual outside my immediate
14 family manage their grief. I can only speak today for
15 how it's affected me.

16 On 1 March 2014, I changed forever. The person
17 I was had gone. He died with mum. My own mental health
18 has suffered. I have changed beyond belief. These
19 changes impacted my personality, which in turn affected
20 my marriage and relationship with my daughters. It was
21 only when I changed jobs and moved to a new firm in 2018
22 my then manager recognised the signs. He had gone
23 through a similar experience and encouraged me to seek
24 help. Thankfully, for the sake of my family and my own
25 well-being, I agreed. With the help of a mental health

1 counsellor I'm now able to understand what happened to
2 me, what is still happening to me, and how to manage it,
3 and possibly most importantly accept it. The healing is
4 far from over.

5 Unfortunately the same could not be said for my dad.
6 We all knew the loss would be unbearable for him. Mum
7 was everything to him, the love of his life, his wife
8 for over 50 years, his very being. Despite our own
9 personal grief and struggles, we all rallied round to
10 help dad through this difficult time, but following the
11 inquest, dad's health began to deteriorate, he had just
12 given up, he didn't want to be here any more, not
13 without his Iris. Dad passed away on 13 January 2017.

14 I appreciate your time today and the opportunity to
15 provide you with a brief insight to who my mum,
16 Iris Scott, was. I hope I have been able to convey in
17 some small way the positive impact she had on so many
18 people's lives and how dearly she is still missed by all
19 those who knew and loved her.

20 What I do know is she went through her life putting
21 others before herself, and she deserved far more from
22 those who were responsible for her care in her final
23 days.

24 Thank you.

25 MR GRIFFIN: Could you put up the final photo collage,

1 please.

2 (Photographs shown)

3 Thank you very much.

4 We'll just take a few moments to rearrange the desk.

5 (Pause)

6 Statement by James Nolan about Michael Nolan

7 MR GRIFFIN: We will now hear the commemorative account of
8 James Nolan about his father Michael Nolan, and it will
9 be read by James's legal representative, Achas Burin.

10 DR BURIN: Commemorative account by James Nolan regarding
11 Michael Nolan.

12 My dad was born on 30 January 1939 in Billericay,
13 Essex. He had three brothers and they all got on well
14 with each other. He had a decent upbringing. As
15 a teenager he was a motorbike enthusiast, and he even
16 had his own motorbike.

17 My dad met my mum in a nightclub called Rachael's.
18 My mum was 18 years old at the time. They hit it off
19 from there and spent a lot of time going out together
20 having dinners together.

21 My parents had been married for 38 years by the time
22 my dad passed away. My mum and dad initially lived with
23 my dad's parents. My mum became pregnant whilst living
24 there. Eventually they moved into a flat together, got
25 married and then I, James Michael Nolan, was born on

1 14 October 1983.

2 I would say that growing up with my dad was
3 a peaceful experience. I remember that he always seemed
4 calm and collected. He was a kind, decent man. He kept
5 to himself, he had his own way of thinking and his own
6 hobbies. His hobbies were darts and pool, but mainly
7 darts.

8 So here's the negative part of this story. From
9 what I could see, it all really started after my nan, my
10 dad's mum, passed away. This really affected my dad and
11 he became so depressed that he was off work for a long
12 time. To his family, he often said he was okay, but
13 I now feel that deep down he was mentally unwell.

14 Over time, he became obsessed about bills and
15 whether there was enough money, but again he wouldn't
16 discuss it in any detail with the family, maybe because
17 of his pride, maybe he didn't want to worry his family,
18 maybe because he was also suffering with other thoughts
19 that made him so depressed and anxious that he could not
20 talk to us.

21 Eventually, he became more mentally ill and it
22 started affecting his ability to sleep. One day, the
23 impossible happened. He tried to kill himself with
24 a knife. I found him trying to do this and had to
25 disarm him. An ambulance was called. My mum was in

1 shock. My dad was in shock.

2 He was then sectioned and went into a mental health
3 ward. My mum and I visited him, and it was clear to us
4 that my dad was not quite right mentally.

5 Whilst under section on the ward, my dad took his
6 life on 10 July 2022. I found out about my dad's death
7 via telephone call. This happened on the ward where he
8 was supposed to be safe and getting better.

9 I was shocked when I learnt at the inquest of the
10 failings of my dad's care. I learnt that in the time
11 period leading to my dad's death, my dad was meant to be
12 observed regularly by the staff to make sure he was
13 all right and safe. But in fact my dad was not properly
14 observed. I think to myself that if my dad had been
15 properly observed, then maybe he would still be alive
16 today, maybe someone would have seen that he was upset,
17 could have spoken to him, reassured him, and stayed with
18 him.

19 I don't understand why this happened. I was so
20 angry, learning these failings happened. I don't
21 believe that the staff looking after my dad carried out
22 their duties properly. They didn't give him the care,
23 attention and treatment he so desperately needed.

24 What happened to my dad devastated me, my mum and
25 both sides of the extended family. We're all still

1 shocked. I had to start taking tablets because of the
2 depression and anxiety which kicked in. On top of
3 dealing with the mental impact of dad's death, it has
4 had a financial impact which hasn't helped in allowing
5 us time to grieve.

6 I live on. At some level, if I'm being honest,
7 I'm also angry with my dad for what he did, but then
8 again he was in the right place, in hospital, and the
9 Trust did not do their job properly in looking after
10 him.

11 My mum still gets upset and always talks about "what
12 if" all the time. It has impacted us both mentally.
13 I also no longer trust the NHS to do their job properly,
14 which obviously makes things difficult when I need
15 treatment for myself. I feel that my dad's death could
16 have been prevented. His life could have been saved.

17 Thank you for listening to my story. James Michael
18 Nolan.

19 MR GRIFFIN: Thank you.

20 Could you take the photo down, please.

21 Chair, we now come to our mid-morning break. Could
22 we reconvene at 11.35, please.

23 THE CHAIR: 11.35, everybody, thank you.

24 (11.03 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.35 am)

2 (Proceedings delayed)

3 (11.38 am)

4 MR GRIFFIN: Next we will hear from Ann Sefton. She'll be
5 speaking about her daughter, Georgina Sefton. Ann's
6 husband George Sefton is here watching today, and Ann is
7 accompanied at the table by Rachel Troup, Counsel to the
8 Inquiry, and Rebecca Hall of the Inquiry's engagement
9 team.

10 Statement by Ann Sefton about Georgina Sefton

11 MRS SEFTON: Good afternoon, everybody.

12 With reference to our daughter Georgina Sefton, you
13 asked what she was like. Georgina was a good baby, who
14 was always laughing and she grew up into a girl. She
15 loved music and loved to dance, and she used to dance at
16 home. Georgina also loved art and was a good artist,
17 just like her dad.

18 Gina was over the moon when her daughter was born.
19 Gina was thoughtful in 2005 after our son died. She
20 wrote to the Essex chronicle about me and I ended up
21 winning the Essex achievement over adversity award, all
22 because Georgina wrote in to nominate me.

23 You can carry on there.

24 MS TROUP: Georgina was a user of drugs. This we do believe
25 was part of her bipolar. Going back, Gina whilst at

1 school got on well with her brother and sisters,
2 mostly her brother Tony, who she always went to with her
3 problems. He used to go all-night fishing and Georgina
4 used to say, "Can I go with him?" She did and loved it.

5 As regarding her artwork, Tony taught her how to
6 shadow her drawing, and she was really good, like her
7 brother. They talked a lot and laughed all the time.
8 Sometimes she would ask him for advice on different
9 things. She also got advice from her older sister.

10 Tony used to take her under his wing. Those were
11 her happiest days, and then something happened. We
12 don't know what or why she became re-closed and very
13 against the system.

14 When she was good, she was very good, a bundle of
15 laughs. And when she was bad, she was uncontrollable.
16 Going forward, we tried on several occasions to get her
17 into rehab and failed. We finally got her a place in
18 a rehab, and then we were told that Gina had to be
19 three months clear of drugs before they would accept
20 her. This is something I couldn't understand. How do
21 you ask an addict to clean up, because if she could stop
22 the drugs on her own, why would she need rehab?

23 The same applies to the Linden Centre. We went to
24 go and see her there. She seemed happy, then something
25 happened and it all went wrong. We are here now and we

1 still don't know why.

2 In the Linden Centre they didn't ask for our advice
3 at any time. Shame on them. They didn't tell us when
4 she tried to harm herself. They allowed her to harm
5 herself when she should have been safe.

6 I would like to know the truth. I want to know why
7 she wasn't kept safe.

8 Gina took her life while visiting her friend in
9 London. At the time, she was an inpatient in the
10 Linden Centre and she was allowed to go to London. She
11 didn't come back to the Linden Centre in the morning.

12 I found out that Gina had taken her life when police
13 knocked on my door to say, "We've found Georgina". I am
14 now a broken woman.

15 MR GRIFFIN: Please put up the remaining photos.

16 (Photographs shown)

17 I think you've brought the medal with you, haven't
18 you, that we just saw in the photograph?

19 MRS SEFTON: Yeah.

20 (Photographs shown)

21 MR GRIFFIN: That's the last photograph. Is there anything
22 else that you've brought with you, Ann, that you'd like
23 to show us?

24 MRS SEFTON: No, just the certificate I got. What it was
25 is --

1 THE CHAIR: She nominated you?

2 MRS SEFTON: When my son had his accident, I found out that
3 Essex only had two ambulances, so I went door by door to
4 get a local petition, and that's how I got this, and the
5 medal, because there was about -- I don't know -- about
6 6,000 --

7 MS TROUP: Signatures.

8 MRS SEFTON: Yeah, signatures for the petition for the extra
9 ambulance. I did get the extra ambulance. But now that
10 man called Anthony Marsh, who was the head of the
11 ambulances, has gone, I think the ambulance has gone
12 with him, which is sad.

13 THE CHAIR: Well, can I thank both you and Mr Sefton very
14 much for sharing your memories of Gina with us. That's
15 marvellous.

16 MRS SEFTON: Thank you for having me.

17 THE CHAIR: It's a great pleasure.

18 MRS SEFTON: Is that it?

19 MR GRIFFIN: Thank you.

20 Can you take the photo down.

21 (Pause)

22 We have one remaining account this morning. I don't
23 know if the desk, the table needs to be slightly
24 rearranged before it happens.

25 (Pause)

1 We will now hear the impact statement of Sally Ross.
2 It's concerning her brother, David Ross, and is being
3 read by Rebecca Harris, Counsel to the Inquiry.

4 Statement by Sally Ross about David Ross

5 MS HARRIS: My brother David took his own life in 2010 while
6 living in Arnhem Road, a supported living residence in
7 Chelmsford. He was 40 and had struggled with mental
8 health problems since his early 20s, making several
9 suicide attempts before he finally died.

10 He was in the care of Essex NHS Trust for most of
11 this time, and spent periods in the Linden Centre.

12 On the day he died, David told the person on duty at
13 Arnhem Road that he was struggling, and she advised him
14 to go to A&E. The system precluded her from taking him,
15 apparently. He never went to A&E that day and that
16 night he took a fatal overdose in his room at the house.

17 I was living and working in Zambia at the time, and
18 will never forget the dreaded call from my parents.
19 David was gone this time, really gone.

20 My next strong memory of that period was stepping
21 into the undertakers with my parents to view David's
22 body and the heartrending visceral cry that came from my
23 mum as she saw her son's body. His death was real.

24 One doesn't get over a suicide, it haunts a family,
25 and especially parents, forever, and this is certainly

1 the case with our family.

2 I am writing this now and not my parents as both of
3 them have now passed away. I'm the only Ross remaining,
4 something I feel keenly now that my parents are gone.
5 Yes, David was struggling and, yes, he wasn't always
6 easy, but he was my brother and my only sibling, and
7 I loved him. He was also a bright, intelligent,
8 conscientious guy, with a wicked sense of humour, who
9 did his best to leave a positive mark on the world and
10 was much liked by the people around him.

11 David had faced massive challenges in his 40 years,
12 and seemed to be in a better place at last. What
13 happened that Sunday? How was he able to hit rock
14 bottom and take his life whilst in a supported living
15 environment? I sincerely hope that this Inquiry gets to
16 the root of the issues and makes some solid
17 recommendations for improvements.

18 To those who receive the report, I ask you please to
19 take serious heed and work to implement the
20 recommendations. Mental health issues can plague any
21 family at any time. Please ensure that future families
22 are spared the loss that my family has suffered since
23 David's death.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you.

1 MR GRIFFIN: That's the last account for this morning. That
2 means that we break now until 2 o'clock.

3 THE CHAIR: 2 o'clock.

4 (11.50 am)

5 (The short adjournment)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 MR GRIFFIN: Chair, we will next be hearing the
8 commemorative account of Paul and Anna Rucklidge-Smith,
9 and it's about Paul's mother, Doris Smith. Paul will be
10 speaking, but he's accompanied at the table by his wife,
11 Anna. Could you put up the photograph, please.

12 (Photograph shown)

13 Whenever you're ready.

14 Statement by Paul Rucklidge-Smith and Anna Rucklidge-Smith
15 about Doris Smith

16 MR RUCKLIDGE-SMITH: Mum was born in Clerkenwell in London
17 in 1945. She had one brother, two sisters. She grew up
18 in the swinging 60s in the East End of London. She went
19 out with friends and had lots of stories to tell about
20 what she used to get up to. They would sleep on the
21 beach in Brighton, go dancing, and people said mum was
22 the life and soul of the party.

23 She had me, Paul, her only son, in 1977. I was
24 brought up with my mum as a single mum, but she gave me
25 an amazing, happy, safe childhood. We would spend hours

1 in Victoria Park with our dog, Misty, me on my bike, the
2 dog running after me, and eating ice cream.

3 In the summertime we would often visit family in
4 Clacton and spend time on the beach. Mum and I went on
5 holiday to Cornwall by train. I would spend most of the
6 journey running to the buffet car. She'd also tell me
7 not to put my head out of the window when the train was
8 moving, but yes, I did it.

9 From the mid-80s mum worked as a typist for
10 Hackney Council, and before she had me she worked in the
11 local pub. She worked for Hackney Council until she
12 retired and made a couple of good friends there.
13 However, she didn't really stay in touch with them after
14 leaving employment.

15 We lived in Hackney until 2001, and then we moved to
16 Chadwell Heath. Mum then moved to Clacton in 2010 to be
17 nearer my auntie and her childhood best friend. Mum
18 didn't have many friends. However, she was remarkably
19 close with my aunt and the childhood friend. Sadly they
20 both passed away within a few years of her living there,
21 and this started to impact her mental health.

22 Mum cared for my elderly nan until a couple of years
23 before my nan's death. Nan became too frail and she
24 went into a residential care home in Clacton.

25 Mum was a homely person but liked to go on holiday

1 with my auntie and my aunt's friend. They regularly
2 went to Jersey in the Channel Islands and always stayed
3 at the same hotel.

4 Mum always made sure she went out each day. She'd
5 walk into town, have a wander around, she had a few
6 casual friends that she spoke to, loved
7 Marks & Spencers, and one of the big things in her life
8 was when M&S closed down in Clacton.

9 In 2008 mum was diagnosed with breast cancer.
10 However, she made a full recovery from surgery and did
11 not, luckily, have any follow-up treatment.

12 I met Anna in 2007 and we married in 2008 -- 9. Mum
13 had an amazing day at the wedding, she spent all the
14 evening on the dance floor with my family. She said it
15 was the best wedding she'd been to and was enormously
16 proud of me.

17 My nan was from the north-east of England originally
18 and she wanted to return there one last time, so we went
19 up for a weekend. We took both of them by car, as it
20 was the easiest way to get there, visiting the street
21 nan was born in, visited the Angel of the North, walked
22 along the seafront, which was freezing cold and windy,
23 but we still had a good time.

24 Mum loved animals and adopted a cat, Meggie, when we
25 lived in Chadwell Heath, and Meggie then carried on to

1 move to Clacton. Meggie was my mum's world, she was her
2 little mate, and they had a lovely life together.
3 Meggie passing away also had a significant impact on
4 mum's mental health. She loved to read and knit, her
5 knitting was stitch perfect, and Anna always wanted her
6 to teach her how to knit, but unfortunately it never
7 happened.

8 Mum was an amazing mother and an amazing
9 mother-in-law, I think. She'd drive both of us crazy
10 but she was loving, caring and very kind. We had some
11 great times together over the years. She used to like
12 to come and stay with us. Mum was not the best cook, so
13 she'd enjoy Anna's cooking for the weeks she was with
14 us. She would eat so much, we never knew where it went,
15 because my mum was about 5 foot 6 and about 7 stone.
16 She had a crazy sense of humour, and me and her had
17 a lot of inside jokes, which other people couldn't
18 understand.

19 When mum became unwell, our concerns were not
20 listened to by the community mental health team. Anna
21 is a registered nurse and both she and myself were very
22 concerned about her behaviour. I have no contact with
23 my dad, so mum passing has just left me with a small bit
24 of family.

25 Following her death, I had to become very practical

1 as the only child, clearing the house, arranging the
2 funeral, sorting out the finances, but Anna helped me
3 with all of that. We do not feel we had time to grieve
4 for her, as then the inquest into her death and the
5 campaigning for this inquiry was happening, and
6 obviously sitting here today the nightmare continues.

7 One day we hope to get closure on this awful period
8 of time and be able to grieve for the mum that I lost.

9 Mum always said to me that following her death to
10 spread her ashes, which is really unusual, on the runway
11 at London City Airport. I contacted the airport with
12 this strange request and after lots of emails and phone
13 calls they actually helped me do it. They took me and
14 Anna and two friends out on to the runway after it
15 closed on Saturday afternoon and I spread the ashes on
16 the grass to the left of the runway. I often go down
17 there and look over to where she is, which is marked by
18 the wind sock, which is all very strange, but ...

19 That's about it, really. There's not much more
20 I can add.

21 MR GRIFFIN: Could you play the slideshow, please.

22 (Photographs shown)

23 That's the last photograph.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much indeed for letting us hear
25 about Doris. Thank you.

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(Pause)

MR GRIFFIN: Chair, we're going to hear from our next speaker in just one moment. I'll just allow the table to be rearranged.

(Pause)

Can we have two chairs, please.

(Pause)

Thank you. May I ask Julia Hopper to come to the table.

MR GRIFFIN: Julia will give her commemorative and impact statement about her son Chris Nota, and she's accompanied by her legal representative Nina Ali.

Could you put up the photo. Thank you.

Julia, please start whenever you feel ready.

Statement by Julia Hopper about Chris Nota

MS HOPPER: My son Chris Nota must be dead because I am sat here, and I still just can't accept it.

Thank you to my great friend Melanie Leahy who I found out about around five and a half years ago on social media when I was beginning to advocate on behalf of large numbers of children with additional needs, as well as my own, in Southend-on-Sea, where we lived.

In the town where I live, Southend, the majority of our disabled children were attending mainstream education with inadequate and inappropriate assessment

1 or support. Over the years, we have seen, for example,
2 eight-year-old children within this group with suicidal
3 ideation who can access nothing. It is my belief that
4 this sets the scene for their suffering to escalate.

5 Christopher Sampson Nota. Chris was born on
6 30 December 2000, the eldest of three autistic boys, all
7 approximately two years apart, and when he was a year
8 old we moved from Chelmsford to Southend because it was
9 once a great place for a child to grow up.

10 Chris had classic autism, and was assessed at
11 Great Ormond Street for this, with an IQ of 58, which
12 put him well within the threshold for learning
13 disability services. He later also developed epilepsy.

14 As a baby, Chris was extremely demanding. He
15 screamed a lot, and I could never put him down without
16 him screaming like a fire alarm. When he was small, he
17 would play Thomas the Tank Engine over and over again,
18 repeating the script. It was so comforting to him. It
19 was how he learnt to speak. There were so many things
20 that he did not yet do, but he could sing. He could not
21 hold a conversation with me, but if I sang a song to him
22 while he bathed and I stopped mid-line, he could
23 complete it in perfect pitch. His voice was heavenly.
24 We would laugh together with such joy over that. He
25 would later go on to say that music was his therapy.

1 He mostly ate yellow food as a small child. It was
2 extremely challenging, looking after him and ensuring
3 that he was safe. I would have to be very, very
4 organised, careful and safety conscious, for he knew no
5 fear. He had no patience, and he was impulsive. He
6 would climb out of a window on a hot day and serenely
7 walk on a slanted conservatory roof, or take off on one
8 of his beloved scooters to explore the neighbourhood.
9 I would have to chase and catch him. He would run into
10 a busy road if his hand were not held at all times.

11 I knew that he loved me. We were very close because
12 of his disability.

13 As a small child he would weep if I drove home from
14 school taking a slightly different route or if the
15 lampposts along the street had missing bulbs. He looked
16 for patterns and connections in a deeply confusing
17 world.

18 When he was very little, he would walk up to other
19 children in the park and say, "Cashier number 3,
20 please", a phrase that he had heard at the bank, because
21 he had no idea what else to say in order to make their
22 acquaintance. If he got really carried away and lost
23 for words, he might bite them, a little nip, but
24 children never seemed to mind that.

25 Chris struggled to sleep, so for the first

1 eight years of his life I went up to sleep beside him at
2 8 pm every night, holding his hand. It was nothing to
3 ask of me, since he so obviously deserved this. It also
4 meant that I could be up and have a clear and focused
5 head from 6 am, and keep him safe and occupied. I very,
6 very rarely left him. It would have disrupted his
7 routine, and it would have upset him.

8 After two scary burglary attempts, I sold our house
9 when Chris was 10 and we moved into a large house with
10 my parents and Chris's two younger autistic siblings.
11 We are mostly an autistic family, a very independent
12 one. I had lost my own brother, also named Chris, when
13 he too was 19. He had ended his life with his own hand
14 unexpectedly. I now suspect that he was autistic too.
15 My big brother's loss was devastating. It made me feel
16 very protective of the boys.

17 Chris was determined to attend mainstream school,
18 but he had to have a one-to-one helper with him to be
19 able to cope and to manage his day. As he grew into his
20 teens, he would stop at the park on his way home and he
21 would sometimes return bruised. He would always refuse
22 to say how it happened. Sadly, one or two teachers at
23 school and college also made it their mission to sort
24 him out, because he looked so normal physically that
25 they didn't believe that he was genuinely disabled.

1 In the evenings after school he was always
2 exhausted. Sometimes he would lie on the pavement and
3 people would ring me to ask if he needed an ambulance.
4 I wanted to wrap him in cotton wool, but he refused to
5 let me.

6 Chris did not wish to look or feel different. He
7 became increasingly skilled at masking who he really
8 was, and concealing his feelings. He often pretended to
9 be someone he was not, all the while I think his anxiety
10 and depression were building up inside.

11 I remember once driving him along the beach before
12 school and chatting to him to reassure him about the
13 world. As I drove, he nodded away. I remember feeling
14 that we had made progress in our communication. As
15 I pulled up, I said something along the lines of, "So,
16 do you agree?" He turned and looked at me, and then he
17 removed his earphones. He had been listening to music
18 and nodding away to the beat. He had not heard a word.

19 Chris was slowly becoming able to be more
20 independent, relishing every part of that sense of
21 freedom, using the school bus, and developing a great
22 passion for walking, being with friends at the park. We
23 felt so totally blessed. We travelled and spoiled the
24 boys.

25 We never expected life to be easy, our lives were

1 good enough. Very sadly, my late mother was diagnosed
2 with advanced ovarian cancer in 2014 when Chris was
3 almost 14. She fought against it for two years with our
4 help. We all pulled together and our home remained
5 a very happy place. However, her death and that of my
6 two aunts at roughly the same time, also from cancer,
7 was enough, combined with being bullied and dealing with
8 school, to completely break Chris's spirit overnight.
9 He could not reconcile the brutality of it all and it
10 became too much for him to bear. Outwardly he claimed
11 to be absolutely fine but events were to prove
12 otherwise.

13 In 2016, on a rainy Monday morning, Chris left for
14 school but never made it there. Instead, [Chris attempted
15 to end his life]. He
16 hesitated and was saved by a heroic guard who took him
17 to our GP opposite, and I rushed to collect him and take
18 him to A&E, where he was briefly spoken to by a mental
19 health nurse and released to me with a EWHMS, children's
20 mental health team, mental health assessment with
21 a psychiatrist organised for two weeks later. He was
22 16.

23 During that two-week wait, he developed a plan not
24 to eat and to reach a target weight of one pound. He
25 began to cut his arms and legs. For reasons that are

1 not clear, EWHMS cancelled his psychiatrist assessment
2 appointment by leaving an answer phone message. In
3 desperation, I went to our GP for help. None was
4 forthcoming.

5 We provided scaffolding to his life as best we could
6 thereafter, with the help of the good friends that he
7 made and loved. Time passed. He began to really
8 improve. He had a short period of happiness at college,
9 but he'd been introduced to cannabis.

10 Chris became acutely psychotic and suicidal again in
11 April 2020. I think a significant causative factor was
12 the global pandemic, which led to a very restrictive
13 living conditions. We had all been told that we could
14 not leave the home. This terrified Chris. He went
15 missing and was found on [a] bridge many miles
16 from home. His life was saved but he was not sectioned.
17 He was sent home in a taxi, while in what was clearly
18 a psychotic episode, with no notice, and immediately
19 went missing again.

20 From this time onwards Chris ricocheted in and out
21 of the hospital, multiple suicide attempts, both in and
22 outside, with a revolving door. It was absolute chaos.

23 My grandfather spent four years in a concentration
24 camp. He never ever spoke of it. I now understand why.
25 The mention of some things pollutes and toxifies the

1 earth because it is so wrong and so ugly. I can't bring
2 myself to deal with too much detail of what went wrong
3 today. The time will come shortly when I will ensure
4 that every single horrific issue is addressed.

5 What I knew was that our beautiful, glorious boy
6 desperately needed help and didn't get it. He died on
7 8 July 2020 after falling from a height in Southend. He
8 was under the care of Essex Mental Health Services and
9 Southend City Council at the time, because I had
10 demanded he be in a place of safety, having been
11 repeatedly discharged while still unwell. He was in
12 their care because he was not safe at home, and EPUT
13 kept discharging him regardless. I was told that he would
14 be safe.

15 The coroner ruled that EPUT, South Essex ICB and
16 Southend City Council had contributed to his death
17 together. EPUT apologised in a letter. I have asked
18 repeatedly but no apology has been forthcoming from the
19 other two.

20 When Chris died in public, on one of the most
21 beautiful days of the year, people were going about
22 their day and were forced to witness it. They have
23 suffered beyond measure. I think of them always. My
24 heart is with them. He would have hated the impact of
25 this upon them. He was too ill to notice.

1 I am autistic, and I sometimes struggle to show
2 emotions. Most of my emotions are masked to spare
3 others. It has become my way. So sometimes I appear
4 unemotional. I may appear to be fine, but often this
5 could not be further from the reality. I've had to take
6 Chris's death and place it in a sealed box mostly, like
7 I had to do with my brother. This is how we survive.
8 If I were not to do this, I would be paralysed. I am
9 very aware of the need of those around me for stability.
10 I don't get to indulge in screaming and collapsing. It
11 serves no purpose and makes others fearful.

12 I have been devastated by the loss of my son and
13 severely traumatised by the circumstances in which it
14 took place. My suffering continues. I have terrible
15 panic attacks if I have to go out even shopping and
16 leave my children. It is something I do rarely. I am
17 now diabetic and have been diagnosed with PTSD. My
18 blood pressure at one point became so high that I had to
19 be admitted to hospital. I don't really sleep. I am so
20 tormented that the only thing I feel I am fit for is
21 supporting my community who understand me. That might
22 take me to Westminster with a banner in the rain, or to
23 the cells of a police station to support a vulnerable
24 young person suffering with untreated mental illness on
25 Boxing Day, or a comprehensive school where a mentally

1 ill child is being treated as if he were a truant and
2 his distraught mother wrongly threatened with a fine for
3 his non-attendance. My hair comes out in clumps. It
4 keeps me busy and stops me dwelling on what was and what
5 should have been.

6 I try to speak generally and not to speak about my
7 family, my boys, because if I allow myself to feel
8 anything I will hit the floor and never get up. I know
9 that nobody has our back. Perhaps my emotions are
10 masked, perhaps I have simply just become mostly totally
11 numb, because of what I have seen, and in the knowledge
12 that it still goes on and threatens many openly,
13 including my own family.

14 Our home is on the market at a very reduced price,
15 and we wish to leave the UK quickly and forever. We do
16 not feel remotely safe. I can't leave soon enough.
17 Nothing has been done to protect or reassure us.

18 Just after Chris's inquest ended in early 2023, the
19 police contacted me to collect his effects from the day
20 of his death. They refused to drop them to me at home,
21 explaining that I was not feeling strong enough to
22 attend the station. They coldly said they were busy.
23 I had to force myself to go there and stand in a queue
24 in reception alone, whereby a transparent carrier bag
25 containing my son's shoes, wallet and mobile phone I had

1 not seen for three years were coldly tipped out on to
2 the public reception desk in a busy room and I was asked
3 to confirm them as being his. It took my breath away to
4 see them again. They were so much a part of him. It
5 was deeply painful and dehumanising that nobody could
6 see my need for dignity and privacy and a little
7 empathy.

8 There have been many such times at the hands of
9 other local agencies since Chris died. I can confirm
10 that both of Chris's brothers, who showed great academic
11 and sporting promise and achievement, despite their own
12 challenges, and worked very hard, have not been in
13 education since his death. After we lost Chris, the two
14 of them became unwell, with one of them unable to access
15 appropriate basic statutory support, while the other was
16 subject to a virtually identical systemic negligence to
17 that suffered by Chris. They are not remotely
18 recovered.

19 We feel entirely instinctively unable to ever trust
20 anyone. I have been forced to drag myself to court on
21 my own, bereaved and traumatised, to fight the same
22 agencies for other members of our family, and win
23 standing against their paid barristers for those rulings
24 to be effectively ignored by them openly.

25 The judge said that the case should never have come

1 to court. So why did it? Somehow I have to attempt to
2 live with the knowledge that the majority of people paid
3 to keep our incredible Chris, along with so many others,
4 safe knew that he was at great risk and did not act as
5 they should have done.

6 In internal emails sent during that very short
7 11-week fight, when Chris became unwell in 2020 and
8 needed to be safe, but was repeatedly discharged,
9 clinicians wrote in their internal emails:

10 "No amount of expertise and/or intensive monitoring
11 can safeguard someone who will act in this way without
12 any trigger or warning. Plans have failed too many
13 times in the last few weeks. Chris can't keep himself
14 safe. We are not able to help him remain safe either.
15 God forbid we are going to the coroners court." [As
16 read]

17 And at inquest:

18 "There were no contingency plans in place to meet
19 Chris's needs in the community." [As read]

20 The Coroner concluded that I had fought ferociously
21 for my son's life. They all had each other. Chris and
22 I were alone. I was left to try to hold onto my son.
23 I fought ferociously. I'm still fighting. My body is
24 still full of adrenalin. Those who loved Chris Nota get
25 no breaks, no closure.

1 I remember having to fly my two surviving children
2 abroad to my elderly father, since no support was
3 offered to us, in order for me to attend a three-week
4 Article 2 inquest and leave them, and travel to and from
5 40 miles a day. That inquest had to be adjourned
6 because it came to light that thousands of pages of
7 critical evidence had not been given to independent
8 investigators by EPUT.

9 I had to fly over and tell my family that the
10 inquest was adjourned for months, and we had to try to
11 have some kind of a Christmas with it all hanging over
12 us. I remember going to the bathroom and vomiting
13 blood, and then just washing it away as if it hadn't
14 happened. I was so numb.

15 I brought one of my sons back after the inquest and
16 left one in Portugal with dad. I miss him very badly.
17 We will join him as soon as possible.

18 I have lost all faith, hope and trust in this broken
19 nation. It would take the second coming of Christ now
20 to convince me otherwise. What we need is a broad and
21 uncompromising inquiry that encompasses every issue,
22 every agency, every death and serious failing, both
23 inside and outside, and if not, why not?

24 From all of the unitary local authorities in the
25 geographical Essex area, the integrated commissioning

1 boards, EPUT and NELFT, the friendly quangos that
2 bolster them, Essex Police, the LGO and the PHSO,
3 Ofsted, the CQC, NHS England and more. Potential frauds
4 and the like also need exploring.

5 People like me are told that we are greedy in
6 attempting to address these issues and wanting to
7 establish basic safety, told that money is limited. But
8 is it? Or is someone diverting it before it gets to
9 where the taxpayer in good faith wishes it to go?

10 This present system is rotten, poisonous,
11 radioactive and corrupt, crude and medieval, toxic and
12 hellish to its absolute stinking core.

13 Christopher, we love you.

14 MR GRIFFIN: Would you put up the photograph, please.

15 (Photograph shown)

16 And would you play the video.

17 (Video played)

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you so much.

19 MR GRIFFIN: Chair, it's time for our mid-afternoon break.

20 May I suggest that people return at 3.10.

21 THE CHAIR: 3.10.

22 MR GRIFFIN: Thank you.

23 (2.40 pm)

24 (A short break)

25 (3.10 pm)

1 MR GRIFFIN: We will next hear the commemorative and impact
2 statement of June and Roy Dicks. It's about their son,
3 Terry Dicks, and it will be read by their granddaughter
4 and Terry's niece, Daisy Wakefield. Chair, June and Roy
5 are also present here today.

6 Put up the photo, please. And Daisy, please start
7 whenever you feel ready.

8 Statement by June and Roy Dicks about Terrence Dicks

9 MS WAKEFIELD: I'm reading this on behalf of my nan and
10 grandad.

11 Our son, Terry, was born in St Thomas' Hospital on
12 17 August 1971. We lived in Clapham until Terry was
13 nine years old and then moved to Benfleet. Terry has
14 an older sister.

15 Terry went to Thundersley Primary and Deanes
16 Secondary School, making many friends along the way. He
17 did really well at school, achieving seven O levels and
18 then went on to work in London, gaining further
19 qualifications in the finance world.

20 For the 16 years he worked in the City, he spent
21 lots of time travelling to and working in Tokyo,
22 Hong Kong and New York until he was made redundant from
23 his job in 2003. At that time, his beloved son was born
24 and so Terry decided to work locally as a taxi driver so
25 that he could be near and spend time with his son.

1 When Terry was around five years old, he was
2 diagnosed with coeliac disease, an allergy to gluten.
3 In recent years, Terry laughed that his condition had
4 now become trendy and he could actually find nice things
5 on the supermarket shelves that he could eat. But, as
6 a teenager, he didn't want to stick to his special diet.
7 We found this out when he came home from a school trip
8 with the stench of rotten food coming from his suitcase.
9 That was Terry, always having to clear up after him. He
10 managed to keep himself very clean and tidy, but let's
11 say no more about his surroundings.

12 As Terry grew up he had many interests but his real
13 passion was always for football. His love for Chelsea
14 was influenced by his dad and he then shared this
15 passion with his son. All three of them regularly
16 attended England and Chelsea games over the years and
17 had lots of stories to tell us all, many of which
18 include language that can't be repeated.

19 This love of football led to him coaching his son's
20 team when he was younger for a few seasons. Terry and
21 his son also went to watch Southend games together.
22 They always stood behind the goal in the hope that they
23 would be on TV if Southend ever scored.

24 Terry, however, did manage to claim five minutes of
25 fame on a few other occasions, which used to make us all

1 laugh. His first TV appearance was when he was
2 interviewed by Ben Brown at the Champions League final
3 in 2012. Unfortunately, you would have only seen it if
4 you were up in the early hours of the morning.

5 Terry had a natural thirst for knowledge and was
6 very passionate about the world around him, always
7 wanting to know more. He never held back on sharing his
8 thoughts and views with us, loving a family debate over
9 a few sangrias on holiday, and often made us laugh
10 unintentionally. It was this love for general knowledge
11 that led to his more recent TV appearances where he
12 starred in two quiz shows, Perfection and The Chase. He
13 won the main prize of £6,000 on Perfection, and told
14 Nick Knowles that he was going to treat us all to
15 a family holiday with his winnings. We're still
16 waiting, Terry.

17 Holidays have always played a big part in family
18 life with Terry over the years, and he always kept
19 everyone amused, even from a young age. We recall
20 a particular holiday to Cornwall when Terry was about
21 four. The holiday started with Terry finding a marble
22 in the suitcase, which disappeared very soon after.
23 Yep, he'd swallowed the marble. The next days were then
24 spent inspecting his poo waiting for the marble to
25 return. What a way to spend a holiday.

1 For over 20 years we've had annual holidays as
2 a family to Lanzarote, where we've made the happiest of
3 memories. The stories we could share are endless, but
4 here are just a few that sum up Terry and our times
5 together on holiday.

6 A few years ago Terry stayed in an apartment at the
7 side of the main villa with his son and his niece. We
8 called them the three musketeers because Terry was
9 always encouraging them to get up to mischief. Every
10 night they would watch a late-night movie and Terry
11 would get them to sneak back into the main villa to
12 secretly get crisps, chocolate and lemonade to snack on.
13 His son and his niece both have such fond memories of
14 this time, causing trouble, staying up very late and
15 being so tired that Terry carried them both to bed.

16 Every day on holiday Terry would keep us amused in
17 some way or another, whether he meant to or not. He
18 would try to climb up trees to collect pineapples that
19 definitely didn't grow there. He never quite mastered
20 sun cream application, despite all the holidays we went
21 on, and he always looked like he'd put a whole bottle
22 on.

23 On one holiday he jumped over what looked like a
24 small wall, not knowing that there was a 6-foot drop the
25 other side. Terry disappeared from sight, and now this

1 wall has become a famous Lanzarote landmark in our
2 family, making us laugh every time we walk past.

3 One of our most memorable nights from our holidays
4 is when we were out for his niece's 18th birthday. Our
5 evening started with a nice sophisticated cocktail on
6 the seafront, but after a couple more and a couple more
7 after that, we thought it would be a great idea to
8 recreate the film The Hangover. We all woke up the next
9 day and looked through the photos from the evening, just
10 as they do in the film, and it's safe to say we did the
11 film proud. Terry's brother-in-law has never forgiven
12 Terry for posting some of these half-naked photos on
13 Facebook.

14 It was silly things like that that really made Terry
15 laugh and his sense of humour was something he and his
16 son shared. They would always have lots of private
17 jokes, probably sometimes at our expense, and this is
18 when Terry's contagious laugh would come out. He would
19 laugh so loud that he would go red in the face and cry
20 uncontrollable happy tears. Even when we had no idea
21 what he and his son were laughing at, Terry's proper
22 laugh would make us all join in laughing with them.

23 In recent years, another interest of Terry was
24 spiritual healing, and he gained a certification in
25 this. Despite some dubiousness, his nan and his uncle

1 had Terry perform some healing on them. She was
2 impressed with the results as her wrist always felt much
3 better after these sessions and also sent her into
4 a deep sleep. As his uncle was never a believer in this
5 type of therapy, he was shocked by how much his knee had
6 improved after. Unfortunately, the times Terry tried to
7 make us levitate off the sun loungers on holiday didn't
8 see the same success, although it did cause lots of
9 laughs.

10 This interest allowed Terry to express a different
11 side to him that perhaps not everybody saw. He was
12 always a sensitive soul and showed much compassion for
13 others. He volunteered at One Love soup kitchen helping
14 the homeless people in Southend. Staff have told us
15 what a kind hearted man he was and how he worked so hard
16 to help the homeless find shelter and have food during
17 the bad snowy weather in the winter.

18 Even in the days before he passed away, when he was
19 shopping with his sister, he went looking for a homeless
20 man he'd met at the soup kitchen. He wanted to make
21 sure that he was okay so that he could let his brother
22 know. These acts of kindness are a true demonstration
23 of Terry's sensitive and caring character.

24 Terry was also extremely intelligent. Sometimes we
25 think maybe he was too intelligent for his own good.

1 Nevertheless, his intelligence was something that came
2 across to anyone that met him. He enjoyed writing
3 poetry and had two poems published, and he wrote
4 a prayer.

5 The main thing that stands out is the fact that
6 Terry really was the best dad. He and his son were
7 truly mates and they adored each other. We know that
8 Terry would have been so, so proud of his son when they
9 received the Jack Petchey award for being the best
10 student of the year at school.

11 We appreciate that this is not the forum to talk
12 about the care and treatment that Terry had received in
13 respect of his mental health and, therefore, all we will
14 say at this point is that Terry became unwell and he was
15 sectioned in April 2015 for 28 days, his second section
16 was December 2016, and his last section October 2017.

17 Terry sadly ended up taking his own life on
18 16 April 2018. The emotional impact and devastation on
19 our family is profound and overwhelming. Terry's sudden
20 and unexpected death left us all in shock. We all still
21 struggle to comprehend the reality of what happened. We
22 often say that we feel emotionally numb and know that
23 this is a coping mechanism to temporarily shield us from
24 the unbearable grief.

25 Daily battles with feelings of guilt consume us. We

1 all still question what we could have done differently,
2 despite knowing that we did all we could as a family to
3 help Terry. This overwhelming sense of responsibility
4 has led to severe emotional distress for all of us.

5 The nature of Terry's death and the circumstances
6 surrounding it has meant a lack of closure for us all as
7 a family as we were unable to say properly goodbye.

8 We now know that the journey of grief we're all in
9 is unique and complex. It often leads to prolonged
10 sadness, difficulty functioning and severe emotional
11 pain. His son, who was only 16 years old when he lost
12 his dad, is still trying to process what happened and is
13 struggling to come to terms with it, often feeling in
14 a surreal situation. Now, at 21 years old, he should
15 not be having to navigate these unimaginable feelings
16 and emotional distress. He is starting to realise that
17 these feelings will stay with him for the rest of his
18 life and won't get any easier to deal with. We feel so
19 very sad for his son. He has countless happy memories
20 with his dad, but he has lost future years of love and
21 support from his dad, and to feel that wonderful life
22 that they could have had together has been cruelly taken
23 way from them.

24 Thankfully we take solace in the fact that we're
25 very close as a family and try our best to support each

1 other through this tragic and totally avoidable
2 devastation. This close family relationship and all the
3 memories we have made since Terry's passing should
4 include him.

5 This is something we will never get over.

6 MR GRIFFIN: Could you put up the remaining photo, please.

7 (Photograph shown)

8 Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Daisy, thank you very much for reading that to
10 us, and thank you both very much for letting us hear
11 about your son. Thank you.

12 MR GRIFFIN: Chair, there may be a short pause just as we
13 rearrange things for our next account.

14 (Pause)

15 The final commemorative account we'll hear today is
16 by Ann Marsh. It's about her husband, Sacha Marsh, and
17 it will be read by Ann's legal representative,
18 Agata Usewicz, and Ann is present here today as well.
19 Could you put up the photograph, please.

20 (Photograph shown)

21 Statement by Ann Marsh about Sacha Marsh

22 MS USEWICZ: Thank you.

23 My husband Sacha was born in Brentwood. His parent
24 separated fairly early in his life, resulting in him
25 living with his mum. He had a half brother and a half

1 sister from his father. He remained in contact with his
2 father throughout his life. Sacha's mum was and still
3 is a hairdresser. She was a working mum and so Sacha
4 spent a lot of his time with his grandparents, Peggy and
5 Bernard, and also his aunty and cousin. As Sacha was
6 an only child, he enjoyed doing things solo, such as
7 making aircraft models, doing Lego. He was into very
8 creative things.

9 Sacha was never diagnosed as neurodiverse, but
10 during this process of creating this commemorative
11 statement, I could see in his school records that this
12 was glaringly obvious. Sacha attended secondary school
13 less and less, despite having the intelligence to
14 achieve. One teacher wrote in his report that he was
15 the most gifted physics pupil he had taught.

16 After school he went off to become a mechanic. He
17 completed the course and became a qualified mechanic.
18 He also worked at a couple of other local companies.

19 We met in 1995. I had a computer and Sacha
20 gravitated towards it, and from that moment he attended
21 evening school, three to six hours a week, and he
22 received his computer certificates. From then on he
23 continued to complete computer courses over many years
24 and ended up becoming an IT manager in the City for
25 a finance company. One of his most challenging courses

1 he passed was to become a qualified Cisco professional.
2 The books he had to plough through to achieve this was
3 amazing, especially with the fact that he was
4 neurodiverse.

5 He enjoyed his career and travelled to Ireland,
6 Canada and Malaysia. I believe that due to Sacha's
7 difficult school life, most likely due to the lack of
8 proper support, he was always concerned about losing his
9 job. He would have imposter syndrome and didn't always
10 feel confident about his abilities, but he was so
11 capable.

12 Sacha's work ethic continued throughout his illness
13 and he showed sheer motivation and determination to get
14 better. He wished to overcome what was happening to
15 him.

16 Sacha and I met in 1995. I was working in the City,
17 and would work in a bar in the evenings. Generally,
18 when people would come up to me at the bar and ask me
19 out on a date, I would say no. With Sacha this was no
20 different. I said no the first time he asked me out.
21 He came to the bar again and he asked me out again, but
22 I was not paying attention and so I said no again.
23 After I had said no I couldn't believe I had rejected
24 him because I actually did want to go out on a date with
25 him. We had a mutual friend who told him to ask me out

1 again, and he asked, and I said yes. The third time was
2 a charm, and we went out on that date.

3 I was working in the City at the time and I had my
4 own flat. Sacha moved in with me and we discussed our
5 five-year plan. I actually fell pregnant in 1997 with
6 my eldest son, which sped things up a bit. We bought
7 a house which was rundown at the time and we moved in
8 a month before our first son was born in September 1997.

9 I went back to work three to four months after
10 giving birth to our second son, but -- sorry, to my son,
11 but reduced my working days to three days. Sacha at the
12 time was working five days in IT, but he wasn't
13 a manager at that point.

14 We got engaged on Christmas Day, and we married in
15 March 1999. We got married in Las Vegas at Graceland
16 Chapel. In August 2000 our second son was born, and
17 then in April 2004 our third son came along. Sacha also
18 had a daughter from a previous relationship.

19 Sacha was an amazing father and husband. He was
20 always doing what he could, he was very much a family
21 man and we did a lot together as a family.

22 On my 40th, he surprised me with a meal and then we
23 also went for a surprise weekend away. He was always so
24 thoughtful with getting gifts. He bought me earrings
25 and put them on a teddy bear for me. There was one time

1 when he created an amazing pyramid where I had to pull
2 two cotton strings for it to open and the gift was then
3 inside.

4 When he was on a business trip to Canada near
5 Christmas time, he asked me what I wanted, so I asked
6 for some trainers, but he also got -- he got them and
7 also put a diamond necklace and earrings hidden inside
8 the trainers.

9 He was so creative, and was always building things.
10 He promised the boys that he would build them a den, so
11 when he built our summer house, he built an upstairs den
12 on the top for them to play in.

13 Sacha had a wide circle of friends. He was so
14 funny, and a crazy dancer. When Sacha was younger, he
15 was good at swimming and gymnastics. He was also into
16 motocross and cars. There was a time we bought the kids
17 a trampoline and he built it the night before so as to
18 surprise the boys the next morning, and then to test it
19 he bounced and did some somersaults. Sacha was also
20 into weight training when that was a big thing.

21 We travelled a fair bit. We went to Menorca as
22 a family and we stayed in a villa there. For a couple
23 of years my parents came with us to help with the boys,
24 and we also went to Rhodes.

25 When the family grew up, we drove to France. We

1 would load the car up with all the gear. Sacha, being
2 the IT person, would get there -- when we would get
3 there and he would have laptop set up, film set up,
4 internet and everything, despite the fact we were
5 camping.

6 It was in France that Sacha first became ill. As
7 I have been going through the documents to prepare this
8 commemorative statement, I've realised how badly Sacha
9 was failed. It's exactly the same things that Sacha was
10 suffering from that other people are also suffering
11 from, and it's likely that the same errors are still
12 occurring.

13 I have been suffering from trauma and shock since
14 Sacha passed, the lack of care and lack of service from
15 the Health Department, combined with the willingness of
16 Sacha wanting to get better, stays with me. Sacha would
17 plead with me to get help and we were on waiting lists.
18 However, Sacha was treated as if his illness wasn't
19 important and didn't require emergency treatment.

20 When Sacha died, the immediate impact was
21 a horrendous practical one, as we were completely
22 without income. At the time I was a registered
23 childminder, so I couldn't take care of other children
24 because I needed to look after my own children. They
25 were obviously in shock too. One of my sons is so

1 traumatised he was unable to speak in the house, and
2 thereafter he couldn't even bear to hear anyone speak
3 about his dad.

4 I had to claim sickness benefits for a while, but
5 I was told that I would have to go to London for
6 in-person assessments. I was still too traumatised to
7 travel to London or go on a train, and despite
8 requesting an assessment elsewhere and explaining why,
9 this was refused, so the sickness benefits were stopped.

10 To me this experience is typical of large
11 organisations, be it government or health service, that
12 show a lack of understanding and empathy or seeing
13 people as individuals with individual circumstances.

14 This happened while Sacha was ill, and it also
15 happened a couple of years ago. I requested the
16 recording from Sacha's inquest. The Coroner had ordered
17 that they be kept for 15 years until the children were
18 older. At first the Coroner's Office denied the
19 existence of the recordings until I had email proof, and
20 then finally they admitted that they are lost. The
21 reason? They had moved offices and "it happens".
22 Another example of lack of care and empathy. It is as
23 if Sacha was not important to them, even after his
24 death.

25 The process of trying to get Sacha help and get

1 support was so traumatic and stressful for him and for
2 all the family. I have had some counselling after Sacha
3 passed away but after a while it got too much, as it is
4 traumatic speaking out about it again and again. One
5 thing that really stays with me is that the medication
6 that Sacha was put on, it took the essence and soul out
7 of him. His spark was removed and no one cared to
8 listen. Sacha battled his illness with determination
9 and to the best of his ability.

10 For our children, it was horrendous losing their
11 father. They were extremely upset. The impact is still
12 ongoing for them to this day. One of our sons is so
13 traumatised that he still doesn't attend family events
14 very well.

15 The children wrote Sacha letters to put in his
16 coffin. The eldest son wrote:

17 "At least you won't be suffering any more."

18 Our eldest son had taken on a lot of responsibility
19 while Sacha was ill. He would sit with Sacha when he
20 was hearing things. Our middle son simple wrote "I love
21 you", and our youngest drew a bottle of milk on his
22 letter.

23 Everything happened so quickly, all within
24 a six-month period. Whilst all family events are
25 difficult for us, Christmas is a particularly hard time

1 of year. The impact is forever. We will continue to
2 miss Sacha and his loving, caring personality. He was
3 the most amazing soul, and he has left a deep void in
4 our family.

5 MR GRIFFIN: Could you put up the remaining photographs,
6 please.

7 (Photographs shown)

8 That's the last photograph.

9 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you very much indeed for
10 letting us hear about Sacha, and for sharing some very
11 lovely photographs. Thank you.

12 MR GRIFFIN: That's the last account for today, so we return
13 tomorrow at 10 am.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, and thank you to everybody who's
15 given us a commemorative account today. Tomorrow at --
16 sorry, what time did you say?

17 MR GRIFFIN: 10 am.

18 THE CHAIR: 10 am, thank you.

19 (3.36 pm)

20 (The hearing adjourned until 10 am
21 on Tuesday, 24 September 2024)

22

23

24

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