

Public Hearing

Audience publique

Commissioners / Commissaires

The Honourable / L'honorable J. Michael MacDonald,
Chair / Président

Leanne J. Fitch (Ret. Police Chief, M.O.M)

Dr. Kim Stanton

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Appearances / Comparutions

Ms. Anna Mancini	Commission Counsel / Conseillère de la commission
Ms. Linda Hupman	Counsel / Conseillère
Mr. Joshua Bryson	Counsel / Conseiller
Ms. Jane Lenehan	Counsel / Conseillère
Ms. Nasha Nijhawan	Counsel / Conseillère

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Halifax, Nova Scotia

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, May 24th, 2022, at 9:43 a.m.

REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND: Good morning. The proceedings of the Mass Casualty Commission are now in session, with Commissioner Michael MacDonald, Commissioner Leanne Fitch, and Commissioner Kim Stanton presiding.

COMMISSIONER FITCH: Hello, and welcome. Bonjour, et bienvenue. It's a pleasure to be here in Truro with you all this morning. We join you from Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As we do every day, please join us in remembering those whose lives were taken or were harmed, their families, and all those affected by the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia.

Through our proceedings and ongoing investigations, we continue to make progress exploring what happened, as well as how and why it happened. Last week, we presented two more Foundational Documents that look into the actions of the RCMP Emergency Response Team, also referred to as ERT, and RCMP Operational Communications and Command decisions during the mass casualty. We also heard from five more RCMP members, who provided us with further context and insights into police operations during the mass casualty, including internal communications, communications with the public, and ERT's movements across the province.

To date, the Commission has shared 18 Foundational Documents and over 1,400 source material with the public, which are available on our website. We continue to learn new information by hearing from witnesses and roundtable members. Since proceedings began, we have heard from 26 witnesses, including multiple RCMP members who responded on April 18th and 19th, and we will continue to hear from more civilian and police witnesses in the coming weeks. This is in addition to the more than 215 witnesses we have interviewed as part of our independent investigation.

To date, we have publicly started to explore some of the broader issues that may have contributed to the mass casualty, including the use of emergency

1 alerting systems, access to police paraphernalia and firearms. Looking ahead in
2 coming weeks, we will be exploring issues, including the role of gender-based and
3 intimate partner violence, and prior interactions and relationships of the perpetrator with
4 the police and social services. This work helps us understand issues directly connected
5 to the mass casualty, and will ultimately help inform our findings and recommendations
6 in our final report.

7 Thank you.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Commissioner Fitch.

9 Yesterday, we released our decision regarding Rule 43
10 accommodation requests. The full decision is posted on the Commission's website.

11 Just a reminder that the purpose of accommodations is to enable
12 the Commission to hear from witnesses who have a bona fide wellness concerns or
13 privacy issues, while still ensuring we gather important information. This may include a
14 witness taking additional breaks during testimony, a support person accompanying
15 them, submitting a sworn affidavit, participating in a witness panel or providing
16 testimony virtually by video. Anyone who is subpoenaed to appear as a witness,
17 including civilians and first responders, can apply for accommodation. These requests
18 are not automatically granted. We, as Commissioners, decide if accommodations are
19 needed and to what extent the requests will be accommodated.

20 When accommodation requests are granted, there are some
21 important things for the public to know. First, we will not allow accommodations that
22 prevent the Commission from gathering necessary information. Accommodations are
23 designed to help the Commission in the public interest gather and hear critical
24 information. Accommodations are not designed to get in the way of that. Second,
25 Participant Counsel will continue to have opportunity to ask questions of witnesses,
26 unless there is a compelling reason to take a different approach. We want to make sure
27 that all important questions related to our mandate are asked and answered. And third,
28 all witness testimony heard by the Commission will be shared with the public.

1 We recently received accommodation requests on behalf of six
2 witnesses. One request was not granted, and two requests to appear as part of a
3 panel, in that case we decided we would grant that request having received no objection
4 from Participants. Since witness accommodation requests involve sensitive personal
5 information, we will not be sharing specific private information about the requests.

6 The remaining three requests were decided upon after considering
7 submissions from Participants. Staff Sergeant Al Carroll will be heard from tomorrow,
8 May 26th, by way of Zoom, a platform on which we have heard from others in our
9 proceedings to date. Similar to the process followed by -- for the previous 20-plus
10 witnesses, he will be asked questions by Commission Counsel and Participant Counsel.
11 Looking ahead, Sergeant Andy O'Brien and Staff Sergeant Brian Rehill will be heard
12 from as individual witnesses, also by way of Zoom.

13 In attendance for these sessions will be us, the Commissioners,
14 along with Commission Counsel, interested Participants and their counsel, and
15 accredited media. These sessions will be recorded and shared with the public on the
16 Commission's website. This format will allow us to get the best evidence by giving us
17 the flexibility to provide ample breaks and the availability of supports.

18 As we noted in our March 9th decision, being trauma-informed
19 does not mean not hearing from a person. It does mean thinking carefully about how
20 we hear from that person. A trauma-informed approach does not excuse someone from
21 testifying, but rather, seeks to create conditions that will ensure the ability to provide the
22 best evidence.

23 While Commission Counsel will be asking all the questions of these
24 two witnesses, once again, the questions will be developed in consultation with
25 Participant Counsel via submissions and caucus discussions. Like us, Commission
26 Counsel are independent and impartial as they carry out their work in our inquisitorial,
27 non-adversarial process.

28 You can read our full decision regarding Rule 43 accommodations

1 requests on our website.

2 And today, this morning, we will hear from Staff Sergeant Bruce
3 Briers, who served as the RCMP risk manager during the mass casualty; and therefore,
4 I would now ask Commission Counsel, Ms. Anna Mancini, to proceed. Thank you.

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners.
6 As you indicated, Chief Commissioner, I propose calling Staff Sergeant Bruce Briers to
7 the stand this morning please.

8 (SHORT PAUSE)

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, sir. And I'd just ask you could
10 remain standing, just briefly.

11 Madam Registrar, S/Sgt. Briers has indicated a preference to be
12 sworn. I wonder if you could undertake that process.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS, Sworn:**

14 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. Be seated,
15 please.

16 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. ANNA MANCINI:**

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, S/Sgt. Briers.

18 Just for the record, your last name is spelt B-r-i-e-r-s?

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** All right. Thank you very much.

21 S/Sgt. Briers, I'm going to start our discussion this morning just with
22 a few questions of introduction with yourself, specifically in relation to your background
23 with the RCMP.

24 So I understand that you joined the RCMP in 1990?

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And you were, at that time, stationed
27 in Newfoundland and Labrador?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah, Twillingate in

1 Newfoundland, the first post.

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Newfoundland for the first post?

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And I take it you were engaged in policing
5 quite isolated areas throughout that region?

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. So Twillingate's a limited -- it
7 was a limited-duration post. It's a rural area of Newfoundland in the central part, so...

8 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. And you were then
9 transferred to Whitecourt, Alberta in 1997?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. So I worked in Twillingate, then
11 Hopedale and Nain on the north coast of Labrador, then in 1997 I transferred from Nain
12 out to Whitecourt, Alberta.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And that was a continuation of
14 frontline General Duty policing work?

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And you then returned to southern
17 Labrador in 2000?

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, in 2000, I moved back to,
19 actually, northern Labrador; Nain, Labrador.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And then in 2002 I transferred. I got
22 promoted to southern Labrador, Cartwright. Both limited -- Nain is considered an
23 isolated post; Cartwright, it was isolated but they do have a road in when we moved
24 there, so...

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay, all right. And then, I take it, in 2004
26 you were transferred to Halifax?

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. So in 2004, I transferred back as
28 Corporal to Halifax Integrated Major Crime, the Sexual Assault Unit.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** All right. So that was part of the integrated
2 role with Halifax Regional Police.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And you were specifically focused in the
7 Sexual Assault Investigation Team, you indicated?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah.

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And I understand while you were
10 there, in 2005 you were promoted to Sergeant?

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Within the unit, yeah.

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's a ---

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And then in 2009, you became a polygraph
15 operator for H-Division; is that correct?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And did that involve travelling most
18 of the province, or was it particularly isolated to the Halifax region?

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No. So for that position, I travelled all
20 through Nova Scotia. We also covered PEI and then Nunavut, so we travelled there as
21 well.

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And then in 2016, you became the
23 Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Chester, Nova Scotia?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah, Lunenburg County.

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And then in fall of 2017, you were
26 promoted to Staff Sergeant and made a Risk Manager at the OCC?

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And you held that position until May

1 of 2021?

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, till last year.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And I understand you performed that
4 role on April 19th, 2020.

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And then May of 2021, you became
7 the NCO in charge of the Interview Assistance Team for H-Division.

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And that's where you're currently
10 based?

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, I work out of headquarters in
12 Dartmouth.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** In Dartmouth, okay.

14 And I understand that as part of your training that you engaged
15 with, with the RCMP, you partook in the Critical Incident Response course?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. I'm wondering if you can tell us a
18 little bit about what that course entails.

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I believe that was 2016. So it was a
20 five-day course that's put on by the Canadian Police College, but it was run in Halifax,
21 or it was run in Dartmouth; we did it out of our headquarters building.

22 And from my memory of that course, it was -- allowed you to
23 identify critical incidents, whether an active shooter, a non-active shooter, or a disaster
24 situation. And then set up -- take control and/or command of those situations until, if
25 necessary, it switched over to a Critical Incident Commander, and that would be setting
26 up perimeters, setting up safe zones for ambulances, interior/exterior perimeters. It
27 could be bringing extra resources. You know, supervising the resources that you had,
28 whatever that critical incident was, whatever the need was.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So you said this was 2016. Do you
2 know; was the course developed somewhat in response to the incident in Codiac, the
3 Moncton incident?

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I wouldn't know if it was created in
5 response to that, but it was done after that.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yeah. No, certainly. And can you -- I take it
7 that this course it's somewhat distinct from the Incident Commander course; is that
8 correct?

9 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I would say so. I don't have the Critical
10 Incident Commander course, so I don't know exactly what that entails. This is a five-
11 day course; I believe that's a lot longer than that -- or longer, I actually can't say a lot
12 longer.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But it's different. It's a different course.
15 This is kind of the initial response for supervisors in order to oversee something until -- if
16 necessary. So not all incidents go to a Critical Incident Commander situation, so...

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Gotcha.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- it could be an armed robbery that
19 you're overseeing, and people got away and you may just be overseeing that in relation
20 to the situation. If it was that, or a non-active situation where there's a hostage in a
21 house, it may be resolved before a Critical Incident Commander comes on the scene,
22 so...

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So it's a five-day course; the Critical
24 Incident Response course is essentially a five-day course about those initial response to
25 a critical incident, but it's distinct from being a Incident Commander. Have I got that
26 right?

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right, thank you. And can you tell

1 me; was this course a prerequisite or a requirement for you to take on the role of Risk
2 Manager?

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I can't say for sure if it was or not. I
4 had the course before I took that -- before I got that job, but I can't say for sure if it was
5 or not.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Well, perhaps at this stage, then, I'll
7 move, S/Sgt. Briers, to talking about that role of Risk Manager.

8 Are you aware of any specific courses or training that you had to
9 undertake in order to get that position or occupy that position?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** In order to do the position, to use it, you
11 have to be trained on CIIDS, so I did have some training, like hands-on training, not a
12 formal course or anything like that ---

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- with a previous Risk Manager that I
15 was replacing.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I sat with him a couple of days and
18 went through CIIDS, so that's the understanding of how the computer dispatch system
19 works in relation to that, so...

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay, all right. Any other training that you
21 recall being specific to that role of Risk Manager?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** The only thing I can really say is your
23 background experience. So your service, your time, you're working in many different
24 spots, having a broad range of training as well as file load, like major case management
25 in relation to understanding major files; homicides, sexual assaults. It would be more so
26 for, in my opinion, background and experience, working on your cases over the years,
27 so ---

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- because you got to understand the
2 policy procedures and...

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly.

4 Well, maybe I'll take a step back, then, and ask about general
5 understanding of the role of Risk Manager at the OCC. What is the job; what does it
6 entail?

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So the role of the Risk Manager at the
8 OCC, in my opinion, is in relation to supervising and overseeing frontline officers in the
9 course of their duties. Now, it's more labour intensive, I guess, when there's no
10 supervisors on but I still could play a role in supervision even if there are supervisors,
11 because it's not one area, it's the whole province, except for Halifax, of course, and
12 Cape Breton Regional where those police agencies take care of it, and the other
13 municipal police forces.

14 But wherever the RCMP is within the province, you'll act as a
15 supervisor when there's no supervisors around. You oversee whatever's happening in
16 relation to any type of incident. It could be a domestic call that the members are going
17 so you keep paying attention to those. There may even be a supervisor working but if
18 you know about the file, and you're looking after, then you may offer further direction,
19 supervision, even if there are supervisors working, but normally it's for after -- areas that
20 there's no supervisor work at the time. So it could be managing critical incidents like an
21 armed and barricaded at a house, it could be an armed robbery that you're coordinating,
22 bringing other resources in from neighbouring detachment areas. So if an armed
23 robbery happened in Colchester area and the suspect was believed to be on foot
24 somewhere, we may bring -- I may bring in members from Enfield, or Cumberland, or
25 Pictou County and move them in to bring extra resources in here to help them find that
26 individual or to supplement the need for the short period of time that they're involved in
27 something,

28 So you have -- and you coordinate -- if front line members needed

1 a police dog, we can arrange to have -- we do the calls on that to get it. If we -- they
2 need ground search and rescue activated, we'll find an Incident Commander for ground
3 search and rescue and then we'll start the process in place for getting the ground
4 search and rescue teams activated and moved.

5 If they needed a helicopter, then we can arrange to get a helicopter.
6 We can get approvals if it's ground search and rescue. We'll try to go through RCMP
7 aircraft first, and then if not, then we'll move over to DNR and see if they can assist.

8 So it's -- supervisor and a facilitator I guess would be the easiest
9 way to describe it, that you're able to help people that are on the work and if they need
10 something, whether it be an advice, whether it be an extra resource, whether it be in
11 support services in some way, policy advice, it kind of works in that. Or as an Incident
12 Commander in certain situations, until an Incident Commander is on scene. Like a
13 Detachment Incident Commander.

14 So there's times where, I'll use an example, if it's 2:00 o'clock in the
15 morning, an incident happens, a fish dispute down in Yarmouth or wherever and there's
16 maybe no supervisors working in Meteghan and Yarmouth or Barrington, I call out an
17 extra supervisor, update them on what's necessary for that file, and then they assume
18 control over that, and then I facilitate. If they need extra things, if they need more
19 resources, more people, whether it be a dog, ident, bomb disposal, whatever, then we
20 can facilitate that getting moved along, ERT, whatever is needed. So.

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So yeah, I understand there's a
22 component of supervising, a component of facilitating additional resources. So I
23 understand the Risk Manager role or position is carried out at -- physically at the OCC
24 centre? Is that correct?

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And so walk me through when you
27 arrive on your shift. How is it that you are brought up to speed, if you will, on various
28 situations, and how is it that you're alerted to an incident that you need to engage in

1 while you're acting as Risk Manager.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it all depends on the number of
3 people working that day. Normally, and I'll use this as an example, S/Sgt Rehill would
4 have been working nightshift, 1 day -- myself, dayshift. So there's usually a bit of
5 overlap there when you show up. So if I'm working, I'll use 7:00 p.m. as the example, I
6 get there a bit early, see if there's anything that needs to be passed on to me from the
7 other Risk Manager. If they're gone, then I'll, in all likelihood, have an email from them,
8 or a text message, or a phone call saying, "Here's what's the situation. There's nothing
9 on the go today," or, "Here's what you need to pay attention to."

10 When I get to the office, I sign in, check with the supervisor for the
11 OCC dispatchers and check to see if there's anything else that I might have missed or I
12 need to know about, sign on to the computer system, get my email open, or just get
13 everything organized for what I need in front of me, and then start reading files.

14 If I'm the first one on the daytime, I'll start back until the last person,
15 the last Risk Manager went off shift and I'll move forward, reviewing files.

16 One of the other things we have to do is so at the end of each day,
17 whatever time you finish in the next -- let's say if you finish at 7:00 a.m., before you
18 leave, there's a Risk Manager Report that goes out to the officers and supervisors of the
19 detachment areas, just as what happened. Kind of like a general report of incidents,
20 more serious incidents, like incidents like domestic assault, missing people, sexual
21 assaults. Anything that may garner -- sudden deaths. Anything that may garner media
22 attention, then we put that out so there's a bit of an awareness for the supervisor. So
23 they should be looking at those files the next day when they come in, and then the
24 management understands what's happened overnight.

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So that's why I go back and look
27 through the files. I'm looking for something that might be of note that I have to bring to
28 somebody's attention, or may have to follow up with a member that's working or a

1 supervisor that's on in an area. So if it's a weekend, there's a lot of areas that don't
2 have staff sergeants or sergeants. Most have corporals on. Not necessarily all. So I'll
3 go back and look to see who is working in the different areas. And I'll use Colchester as
4 an example. I'll see how many are working in Colchester County, if there's a supervisor
5 on, if there's a supervisor identified, then I'll look in Cumberland County, Pictou. I'll go
6 through the different districts, just to see what numbers are working for the shift that's
7 ahead, what supervisor is on, who is working on those areas, because when you know
8 people, you have a bit more comfort level with regards to whether I have to pay
9 attention to this area because there's nobody on working, or I may have to not worry
10 about certain areas because I know who is working. So that would happen.

11 And then I just get up to speed with where the files are and what I
12 need to look at.

13 How things come to my attention, so the dispatchers are set up
14 how the position was done here in Truro when we were in Truro. I'll use that as an
15 example because that's what we're talking about.

16 So the call takers are one side of the building with a hallway, and
17 the dispatchers are on the other side of the building. And the Risk Manager sits in the
18 corner of that side with the dispatchers.

19 So you can -- depending on how loud they're talking, you can hear
20 the call take, but the call take is where the incoming calls come in, whether 9-1-1, fire,
21 somebody calling for the police, and then they decide where it's going to go to. They
22 disseminate the files over to the dispatch side and each dispatcher has a zone that they
23 deal with.

24 So I don't, and I'll speak in myself, but it's probably for most Risk
25 Managers, I can't say for all, I don't listen to every call that comes in because there's, I
26 don't know how many radio channels, but there's a lot of radio channels and if I have all
27 mine turned up, then it's interfering for the dispatchers hearing what they need to hear.

28 So if I read a file, I think I've got to pay attention to it, I can pick up

1 my headset, put it on, and turn on that channel that I'm looking for. If it's Colchester, I
2 can turn on Colchester and listen to what's happening real time.

3 If I'm not looking for a specific file, I'm just there, I rely on the
4 dispatchers in order to tell me what I need to pay attention to, because they're listening
5 to all the channels in their own zones.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And so they're more switched on with
8 regards to what's happened in that area, and then they'll say if there's something in
9 Inverness I need to pay attention to, they'll say, "Bruce, listen, maybe you'll want to
10 listen to Inverness. I think there may be a high-speed pursuit." And then I'll pay -- I'll
11 turn on that channel, see who is the person involved, I'll find that member on the board,
12 find that member on the map, look for speeds, and then assess what's going on. Then I
13 can engage with that member on the radio channel because I'm on that, I know what's
14 happening with that.

15 So does that ---

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yeah, no.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- answer your question?

18 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly. And I am going to circle back to a
19 couple of things. You indicated reading files or reviewing files. And without getting too
20 technical, I suppose, is that what you're accessing through the CIIDS system?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, so in the system, when a
22 complaint comes in, and if I'm repeating myself, I don't know what you people have
23 already heard, but when a complaint comes in for police assistance, it's taken by the
24 call taker, put to the dispatcher, they create a CAD event. I'm not very good with
25 acronyms, there's -- I've got way too many things in the head here right now so I'm not
26 going to be able to tell you what all these mean.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** It's okay.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So they create a CAD event, and within

1 that CAD event is where the members are dispatched. And if I'm looking at a file, I can
2 enter notes into that CAD event in real time. If I'm giving direction, normally that's how
3 my notes would go on to a file. It wouldn't be on this backend.

4 So once the member's taken away from that file, they say, "Can
5 you send that to me? Clear me from that complaint?" They send that CAD event over
6 to PROS, which is the -- how we do our main action on our files. And then so -- but I
7 can't enter anything on the CAD event once it goes to PROS. So we'll put our notes
8 right into the CAD event, saying, "I talked to Jane -- Cst Jane Doe and I asked her to do
9 this." I'll make a note within that file, hit enter, and it stamps it onto that -- it puts it into
10 that event, and so the member could go back and -- the police officer could go back in
11 and read what I told them to do, or if you wanted to access that afterwards, you could
12 get that through the backend of PROS as well so.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And so you're able, when you arrive,
14 to look at the CAD log and ---

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- understand the notes that have come in
17 with respect to a complaint or a 9-1-1 call?

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah.

19 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And they normally go back 24 hours.
21 So once 24 hours passes, so it's 10:13 now, well, 9 o'clock yesterday, all those events
22 are off the system. They get taken off. They're switched over to PROS. So you can't --
23 I can't go back and enter anything on a CAD event even if the file's still open at nine
24 o'clock yesterday morning because it's not -- it doesn't show up on my event. I'd have
25 to go into PROS in order to put notes on that file.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So after 24 hours ---

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Four hours.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- it switches over to the ---

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, it just ---

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- PRO system.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- just wipes it off. It just only holds 24
4 hours.

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. Something else you
6 mentioned, you were talking about going through the districts and identifying which
7 supervisors are on in a different district, and you referred to looking at the board. And
8 I'm wondering if you can tell me what that means, or who's on the board, what that
9 terminology refers to.

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So if the member -- if the police officer
11 has MWS, the mobile work station in their car ---

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure, yeah.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- then they sign -- when they come on
14 shift, they're supposed to sign in and get that -- and identify themselves with their
15 vehicle, their radio, cell number, and their own name, if there's one person in the car. If
16 there's two people in a car, what equipment they have with them. So when they sign in,
17 they show up on a list of -- on one of the screens, because there's usually two or three
18 screens, one of the screens or part of one of the screens has the members, the vehicle
19 that they're attached to, the radio that they have, the area that they're working in. And
20 you can -- with CIIDS, you can organize your people in counties. So how I would -- I
21 don't know how you would do it anyway different. If you -- you can do it by car number,
22 if you were looking in sequential car number, you can move it that way as well, but I
23 would normally organize my -- the people that are working by district, and so I knew
24 who was working in Lunenburg County. I knew who was working in East Hants or
25 Enfield's area, and they would all be grouped together, so I could see the numbers that
26 are there, the cars that they have, radios, phone number. If I need to call them on cell, I
27 can get a hold of them that way. It's all supposed to be on the mapping system that's
28 part of CIIDS.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** That's -- so there'd be a screen that has
3 the actual files that are dispatch. There'd be a screen that shows the people that are
4 working in their vehicles and where they're working at. And then there'd be a map, and
5 then your email, or whatever else you had over onto the other side would have -- how I
6 normally set up my computers I work from.

7 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So that CIIDS system also allows
8 you to see the GPS locations of officer's vehicles, if their MWS is on?

9 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** As long as they're signed on.

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** All right. And is that CIIDS system, is that
13 unique to the risk manager's computer system, or is CIIDS something that would be
14 also available at, say, a detachment?

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** At detachment as well, yeah.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Now, when I was in Lunenburg, I'll use it
18 as example, the DAs, the district assistant there, they -- that worked in there, she had
19 access. I mean, I could have got taught on how to do it, but I didn't -- that wasn't part of
20 my role to understand that. It probably would have been a nice idea to understand how
21 it works. I did see it. So they can access it at detachments.

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. But you're saying your familiarity with
23 CIIDS came with your role as ---

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** When ---

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- risk manager?

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- when I moved out to risk manager.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** You needed it. You couldn't do the job

1 without understanding it so.

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly. So I understand you're able to
3 review CAD logs and information that's come in. Are you -- do you have an ability to
4 monitor 9-1-1 calls that come in live?

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So a risk manager isn't able to channel into
7 a 9-1-1 call?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Not that I'm aware of anyway.

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And when we were in Truro, I mean,
11 you could probably -- it would depend on what the nature on our side, the call -- how
12 loud the call taker was. I mean, there has been calls, I've heard from my chair, that
13 they've been yelling at a person to calm down, or whatever, so you can hear part of the
14 exchange, but I've never got into a 9-1-1 call.

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't know how you do it. If it's
17 possible, I'm not aware of it so.

18 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So in terms of you made some reference to
19 mapping, you have maps on your computer, what type of mapping system do you find
20 as a risk manager you're generally accessing?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** For sure, the one that's attached to the
22 MWS in order to see where the vehicles are at.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yeah.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I also use Google Maps and Pictometry,
25 use those very frequently.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. You were familiar -- you're familiar
27 with Pictometry?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, yeah.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And how do you find that functions in
2 the system? Is it effective?

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. Yeah, very effective. Now, I -- it
4 has its limitations because it's -- in some places it's no better than, if as good as Google
5 Maps in some areas. So the more rural you get, the more difficult it is for Pictometry to -
6 - it's -- the images aren't any better, may -- sometimes it'd be less. But if you were in
7 Truro here and you wanted to take a look at this building from outside, it's very good.
8 You can do measurements of the outside of the building, because this -- the number of
9 pictures that are available in Pictometry are part of that mapping process, from my
10 understanding of it. I was never formally taught on how to use Pictometry. It was a
11 learned action in the risk manager role because it was user-friendly, and it was useful.
12 Like, if you had a missing person, and I can send images to a member either on their
13 cell phone of the location of the lake, roads in and out, it was used all the -- I used it all
14 the time as a risk manager. Probably the first year I didn't use it as much as I -- once I
15 get familiar and comfortable with it, the more you're there, the more I turned to it. I
16 probably always powered it up whenever I came on shift because it was something I
17 almost regularly used and was a bit -- so if you needed it quickly, it was easier to have it
18 go through the password sequence in order to get in it and just have it as a backdrop to
19 one of the other -- on one of the other monitors, rather than have to try and pull it up so.
20 It has -- certain areas it was really good, other areas it was no better if as good as
21 Google Maps.

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And you found you used the both --
23 both systems interchangeably essentially?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. You had to switch back and forth

25 ---

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- often.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Often I'd search on Google Maps, and
2 then if I had an address, if I could figure out an address I'm looking at, I may switch over
3 to Pictometry to see if the image is better that way or not, and use it. If you're on search
4 on rescue it was really beneficial, or armed and barricaded in houses, it was very good
5 because you could see where people -- you could -- on an armed and barricaded, you
6 could actually plot the people on that Pictometry, where you put members, where you
7 put police officers, like, if you wanted to and you had time to do that so.

8 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So Pictometry has an interactive
9 function?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah.

11 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Got you.

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** You can put -- type on that, you can
13 screenshot it and send it out via -- so a lot of times with -- the problem with MWS is if I
14 send it to your MWS, it's fine if you stay in your car. But if you're out on foot or you're
15 going somewhere, then I have to send it to your cell phone, so it gets a bit more
16 problematic. Because if you have 10 members, I got to send 10 texts with the picture
17 attached, or 1 text if I get all the numbers in there. So depends how much time I have in
18 order to disseminate information. So but that often would be done where I'd send out
19 images via cell phones because you can get it that way as well, and they had it then.
20 Everybody has a working cell phone, whether it's a personal one or their work one on
21 them.

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Right. Okay.

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** The frontline members anyway.

24 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. You spoke a little bit about
25 the risk manager role of facilitating resources to a situation, and one of those that you
26 referenced was Air Services. You have experience calling out Air Services to critical
27 incidents?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, yeah.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Many times over the last -- or over the
3 three-and-a-half, four, almost four years I was there so.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And in your experience, was -- were
5 Air Services through the RCMP, through J-Division, usually available or can you
6 comment on that?

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I'd only be guessing. And so it'd be -- I
8 don't know if it would be fair to guess. Were there times I did get them? Yes. Were
9 there times I couldn't get them? Yes.

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** The number of time -- I couldn't even tell
12 you how many times I've actually utilized them. So it -- if I went back and someone
13 checked it, then you probably could figure it out, but I never -- I don't know. I -- and I'd
14 really be guessing in order to give you that number.

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** No, that's ---

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But there was times both ways that I --
17 they were -- came right away if they were available, and there's times that I had to look
18 for alternative sources, whether DNR, depending on the situation, whether it be drones,
19 sometimes we've reverted to that as well, or no service at all, depends on what the
20 situation was.

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So you were -- you had some
22 experience in learning that there was no Air Services available through RCMP and sort
23 of going about with contingency plans that you learned over the course of your time as a
24 risk manager?

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. Whatever -- whatever the
26 situation was and what the contingency plans could be.

27 I mean, there's certain situations that you didn't have any
28 contingency plans. I didn't go thinking I'm going to get the helicopter or a plane every

1 time I called there. I -- sometimes we had a schedule and we had a schedule sent to us
2 so we had a general idea. I can't remember towards the end of my time there last year
3 if the schedule was out as much or if I used it as much, so it -- it was -- you called, you
4 made -- because you needed to make that phone call first if they -- if you thought you
5 needed and if they were available, then we'd bring -- they'd come over no problem. If
6 they weren't either in the area or they were down because of maintenance or time,
7 hours and they weren't available.

8 So you had to -- with whatever you had. And so DNR may be the
9 secondary option, depending -- if it was a ground search and rescue, it was never an
10 issue because DNR, as long as they weren't involved with fires or whatever -- because
11 they weren't always available, either. I can't say I went from one and then the other one
12 was 100 percent available because each situation is different and those people have
13 other commitments that take precedent as well, so -- but when they were available, they
14 always assisted.

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

16 So I'm going to pick up on the other aspect. That's the facilitator
17 side of risk manager that I was asking about, but the supervisor side.

18 You indicated that you're essentially the supervisor when there's an
19 absence of supervision. At what point does the risk manager -- and tell me if this
20 question is not phrased properly, but at what point does the risk manager relinquish the
21 supervisory role of a critical incident?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** When there's an Incident Commander
23 on site.

24 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Okay.

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Or someone not -- I mean, it doesn't
26 have to be a Staff Sergeant or Inspector. It could be a Corporal that's highly trained,
27 very comfortable with being an Incident Commander and has trained in Incident
28 Command that would be Incident Commander on site. It doesn't necessarily be by

1 rank. The Corporal could be overseeing an incident where a Sergeant or a Staff
2 Sergeant's in there and they may have more experience, I guess, in that particular role.

3 It wouldn't be the normal case, but it could happen that way as well,
4 so.

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But as soon as an Incident
7 Commander's on site, then I'd switch back to facilitating and assisting with whatever
8 they need, whether it be information being passed on or whether it be in resources,
9 whatever. Helicopter, dog, ERT, whatever that was necessary from that.

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Did that answer that question?

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yeah. And I think where I want to go is sort
13 of this concept of so in a -- in general terms in a critical incident, I imagine as the risk
14 manager one of the first steps is contacting the supervisors of the members that are
15 involved in the critical incident; correct?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Depends on the incident.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So in -- like I've had armed and
19 barricaded, guns -- firearms being discharged that I haven't had time to contact a
20 supervisor. It's certainly high up on the list. It depends on what the safety level is at the
21 time and the luxury of being able to do that.

22 So it would be very close to the top, but it's not necessarily the first
23 thing because, again, depending on the situation, I may need somebody else to be
24 there. A dog could be moving, a police dog could be moving, other members coming in
25 that take precedence over worrying about getting Incident Commander on scene.

26 So each situation would be different, but certainly they would be --
27 once I kind of got the safety aspect done, then the -- then a supervisor from that area, if
28 you got them -- if you can get them, if they're available, that would be my next -- would

1 be high up on the list. Not necessarily the first thing, though.

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Does that ---

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yes. No, that's -- that's helpful. So ---

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Okay.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- at some stage if you're able to make
7 contact with a supervisor, a detachment supervisor or a district supervisor, and that
8 supervisor becomes engaged in the incident, at what -- I'm trying to understand the fluid
9 nature of a supervisor arriving on scene and engaging in the critical incident and what
10 the risk manager's role is when a supervisor has attended the scene.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So once an Incident Commander -- on-
12 site supervisor Incident Commander, whatever that is, whether -- if it's a Critical Incident
13 Commander. In this particular situation, once they're on scene, then they take over and
14 then we facilitate.

15 If it's an armed robbery, hostage-taking, whatever, then as soon as
16 we get a supervisor on scene as an Incident Commander, they take over the command
17 and control over that, in how I see this. And from that, then we go back to assisting,
18 facilitating, moving thing -- moving the other parts around, getting things in place that
19 that supervisor needs.

20 I may not -- they may not even ask or I may be thinking ahead of
21 them in relation to something that's happening, and I'll use an example. The example
22 would be the incident that happened in Bridgewater last -- two summers ago, I guess,
23 now, where the person was -- stabbed a police officer and then the next day the police
24 dog was stabbed by the suspect.

25 We also had a missing person lady from Kentville area, in the rural
26 area there, so I had a ground search and rescue situation going on with that, but I'm still
27 monitoring the Bridgewater-Lunenburg County incident.

28 So the supervisor on scene, a Staff Sergeant and a Sergeant, are

1 running that show at that stage because there isn't a Critical Incident Commander on
2 scene yet. There's one coming, but they're running that show. I know who they are and
3 they need something, I'll help them. But I also got to bring in a helicopter in order to
4 look for this missing lady involved in the missing person incident.

5 So in the course of that, the situation changed and the officer's dog
6 got stabbed and then he fled into the woods, so then we have to divert -- I diverted the
7 helicopter from the missing person individual with ground search and rescue still
8 activated, bring in another police dog in to the ground search and rescue incident, but
9 move the helicopter over to the other -- other one.

10 They never -- they may have been thinking to get a helicopter.
11 They didn't know there was a helicopter coming to the missing person incident until I
12 said, "Listen, there's a helicopter that's available if you need that in your area", and so
13 they took it.

14 So you're just -- you're moving parts around and you're moving
15 people around and things in order to try to make their job a little easier on what -- or
16 take some burden off them for trying to think too many steps ahead that way, so.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure. And that's -- you said something
18 interesting there to me, which is in that incident you have Sergeants and Staff
19 Sergeants who are sort of taking over the scene despite the fact that an Incident
20 Commander has not arrived on scene yet.

21 And I guess my question is, in that situation, who's the *ad hoc*
22 Incident Commander? Who's in charge? Is it the risk manager or is it those Sergeants
23 and Staff Sergeants who have attended the scene?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's them.

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** It's -- would be them.

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Whoever that would be, whether it be
27 the Sergeant or the Staff Sergeant, it would be those NCOs for that district.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So in your view, it would be possible

1 for a risk manager to step back from that *ad hoc* Incident Commander role once there's
2 appropriate supervision at the scene, even if that's not the Incident Commander proper.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** If they needed extra advice or if they
6 needed something, if I thought I saw something that was a problem, I'd make a phone
7 call to them and say, "Listen, here's" -- I may not go over the radio. I may call into them
8 individually, whoever I thought was -- whoever the person was I believed was running
9 that show. And then I'd call and say, "Listen, I just see this. If you want, I can move
10 some -- I can get some more resources in. You okay with that?"

11 So I'd offer advice in regards to things that I -- because I know --
12 they don't know who's working, necessarily, in Queens County, Kentville, Barrington,
13 Yarmouth, but if I think this is going to go on time, then it's better to bring -- start
14 bringing resources in. But I wouldn't do that without clearing that through one of them
15 beforehand because it's -- yeah, I can see what may be needed, but it doesn't
16 necessarily mean that's what they want at that stage, so I'll just offer advice if they want
17 it. If they want to take that advice, they would. If they didn't, then we'd wait until that
18 changed, I guess, because they're there.

19 I'm in Truro and they're in Bridgewater, so it's -- I got to leave it for
20 the people that know the area really well even though I worked in that county, but they
21 know it and they're there and they can see what's unfolding. They have the -- and they
22 know who's working in their area, so.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I know who's working in the
25 neighbouring areas, so it's ---

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly. And so then your role becomes
27 much more of that, as you said, facilitator role of recognizing where resources are and
28 moving them about?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** In my opinion, anyway.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

5 So perhaps what I'll do at this point is bring us to April 19th, ---

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

7 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- specifically, 2020.

8 And I wonder, Madam Registrar, if we could pull up paragraph 368
9 of the Command Decisions Foundation Document?

10 S/Sgt Briers, the paragraph, if you're able to see it, is in front of
11 you. There we go.

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And I'll ask you, sir, have you had a chance
14 to review this document, the -- we refer to it as the Command Decisions Foundational
15 Document?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, yeah. I have.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. So what I'm going to do is
18 sort of orient some of my questions based on the paragraphs in the document.

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** But I encourage you to elaborate on it,
21 expand on it, and very importantly, correct it if it's incorrect. So the paragraph that I
22 have here, 368:

23 "At approximately 6:00 a.m. on April 19, 2020, RM Rehill
24 phoned S/Sgt. Briers. S/Sgt. Briers was en route to the
25 OCC to take over the dayshift risk manager duties at 7:00
26 a.m. RM Rehill updated S/Sgt. Briers on the situation
27 and informed him that ERT was searching the Portapique
28 area 'door to door' for the perpetrator. While en route,

1 S/Sgt. Briers called the RCMP Halifax District watch
2 commander, Sgt. Wayne Sutherland, and requested he
3 check the Versadex database, used by HRP and Halifax
4 District RCMP, for any information on the perpetrator and
5 to forward any information to himself and RM Rehill.”

6 Does that accord with your memory of how April 19th started for
7 you?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And this was the first you'd heard of
10 an active shooter situation in Portapique area?

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, I got in my truck and I was told --
12 I received a phone call. And that was the first I heard about it.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. I'm interested in this
14 request you make of Sgt Sutherland with respect to the Versadex. Can you explain the
15 basis for making that request?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So the basis for it -- so I have -- I didn't
17 know who -- if Sgt Sutherland was working that day. I just had the phone number for
18 the on-duty watch commander. So the cellphone for the RCMP watch commander for
19 Halifax. When he told me that the person, the subject of this inquiry was from the
20 Halifax area, and I asked him had he checked it, he said he hadn't gotten that
21 information. Whatever the gist of what efforts they did to do that, I don't know.

22 Where I worked in the integrated environment, I used Versadex and
23 I knew if it -- it would just be nice to know what they had, if anything, on him on that
24 system.

25 So we have PROS, the Halifax Regional Municipality operates
26 under Versadex. Similar, but different database system for how they manage their files.

27 And so I wanted to know if -- what was there. So based on that,
28 because he -- S/Sgt Rehill didn't have that information, I thought well, it would be nice to

1 know if there's something there, that we should -- may bring some red flags.

2 So I phoned the risk -- the watch commander's phone, Sgt Wayne
3 Sutherland answered it. I supervised Wayne when I was in Lunenburg County, so I
4 knew Wayne well. I asked him about if he could check, and he was already aware of
5 the -- of this situation going on, the active shooter in Portapique. So I asked him about
6 the subject and he said that he would check him. And I asked him if he could send it
7 down.

8 So it -- you can save the Versadex file in an Adobe document, and I
9 knew that could be done, and it's easy to email. Rather than piecemeal copy it over to
10 another word document and send it to me. So I asked him to do it in that format so
11 when I got -- when I arrived at the OCC, I could have a chance to read it, if there's
12 anything in it. And I knew that Rehill would have it before -- probably before I even got
13 there, S/Sgt Rehill got it before me.

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. So you're -- you are not
15 able to access Versadex at the OCC?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And ---

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't know if they can now. But it
19 certainly couldn't up to May of 2021.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Okay. And so you were familiar with
21 this system as a result of your time where you were integrated with Halifax?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I used it when I worked in the Sexual
25 Assault Unit there.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. And do you recall, at this
27 time, as you're travelling into the OCC, if you had been advised with respect to any
28 vehicles that to be on the lookout for that the perpetrator might be operating?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, there was three vehicles that
2 S/Sgt Rehill told me to look out for. I think one was a Jeep Wrangler, I'd have to look at
3 my notes, a Ford pickup truck white in colour, and a white Mercedes.

4 So I should put out there, I live in Halifax area, and so I commute
5 for my shift. So where he was from the Dartmouth area, they didn't -- well S/Sgt. Rehill
6 said, "These vehicles aren't accounted for. Maybe keep an eye out for them on the
7 way." And so I'm taking the highway down from Halifax and still looking, looking for that
8 vehicle coming in the opposite -- one of these vehicles that matches or similar to this --
9 these descriptions going the other direction.

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. And you arrived at the
11 OCC around 7:00, or just prior to?

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Just around 7:00 a.m.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. And at that point, you meet
14 with S/Sgt Rehill?

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And can you tell us about what that
17 discussion entailed or?

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So he gave me a brief overview of what
19 he had known from overnight, what he had learned, like up to the time that I arrived
20 there, the number of people -- I don't know if he knew the number of people that were
21 killed at that stage, about certain houses that had been burned down, and that who was
22 in charge there, S West, S/Sgt Halliday, S/Sgt Carroll were there, and S/Sgt Addie
23 MacCallum, I believe, was on scene. And still trying to figure out whether he was -- the
24 subject was dead or whether he had gotten away from that location and -- and they're
25 still searching -- ERT was still searching for the suspect, as well as the vehicles and
26 trying to identify what they could. So.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And at that stage, were you able to
28 review the CAD log and review the file as it had unfolded over the night?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I probably did, to some degree. This
2 was information overload, so I had to kind of catch up to where I needed to be and
3 going through each CAD event, because there was multiple calls on that. It wasn't just
4 one CAD event. But I definitely powered up -- because once one person signs off, you
5 have to re-go through the rebooting the system back up and going in there.

6 So then I understood where the Portapique area was, because I'd
7 probably seen it, but I didn't know where Portapique was, you know, off the top of my
8 head. I had to go find that and identify what cars were over there, where I believed that
9 the Command Centre was set up at, and then try to get through the material that I had
10 to get through. So.

11 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So did I go through every CAD event
13 on that? No, I wouldn't have done that at that -- but I would have looked back at the file
14 just to see what was going on, because that would have happened, I don't know, about
15 after 10:00 p.m. So it was still accessible to go back and enter in.

16 I don't believe I entered many notes into that CAD event because
17 it's just a little bit time consuming. You have to go back -- you have to scroll back in
18 order to find that event, and then add to it. And then once you go out of that event, it
19 kind of brings you back to the present time. So it's 7:00 o'clock or 8:00 o'clock, I have
20 to go back looking through the way the screens are. It's not really big, but when time is
21 of the essence and you're trying to get up to speed on things, so I don't think I made
22 many notes within the actual CAD event, or CAD events, I should say. So.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Okay. And you were able to monitor
24 the radio at that point in terms of what was happening in ---

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, I would have had Colchester
26 Radio on at that stage.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

28 And Madam Registrar, if I could bring up paragraph 421?

1 So this is a paragraph:

2 "RM Briers overhear[s] the ERT plate check..."

3 So the ERT team is searching in Portapique for vehicles.

4 "...ERT plate check on the burnt Taurus at the
5 perpetrator's cottage. He queried the licence plate in the
6 RCMP database. The owner of the vehicle came back
7 as 'Berkshire Broman Ent.' RM Briers checked the
8 company on the Justice Enterprise Information Network
9 (JEIN) database for other vehicles registered to it. Later
10 in the hour, he sent [the] email to S/Sgts. Carroll,
11 MacCallum, Halliday, and Surette, listing his JEIN
12 findings..."

13 So without being too technical, and I appreciate that you have
14 worked us through different database systems, but can you tell me about JEIN, or the
15 Justice Enterprise Information Network?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So when you register your vehicles,
17 they show up in relation to that and they show up associated to your -- to the person
18 and/or in this particular case, the company.

19 I didn't actually run this on JEIN. I'll correct that.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It was actually -- if my memory serves
22 me right, it was my -- the supervisor on from the dispatch side that was adjacent to me,
23 he used -- he had JEIN open, so it's again one of those you need a password to get in,
24 and JEIN isn't something I use all the time. So when we were listening to what I say
25 can you run that on JEINs, because it didn't show up on CPIC, which is the other way to
26 check on these things, so he checked it in JEINs, and then he -- we started to make a
27 note of all the different vehicles that came back on that JEIN hit so.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And that'd be Mr. Green?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Brian -- I believe it's Brian Green that
2 did that for me so.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. And so is this sort of a
4 routine type of check that's conducted at the OCC?

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** For sure, JEIN, they run plates all the
6 time through JEIN just to see if there's anything that's -- that doesn't show up on CPIC
7 or attached to PROS or whatever so.

8 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And you may not be able to answer
9 this for me, but is there a reason why information that's on CPIC might show up on JEIN
10 and not show up on the other system and vice versa?

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Probably, but I can't answer that.

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure. Okay. Thank you.

13 All right. I think I'll move on, and I want to talk about your first
14 awareness that the perpetrator was operating a replica RCMP vehicle. And if I could,
15 I'm actually going to play an audio of a telephone call that took place at 7:22 a.m. And,
16 Madam Registrar, that's COMM Number 0058368.

17 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

18 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Do you recall having that conversation ---

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- with Ms. Brine? Yeah. And that ---

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I didn't know her last name until I saw
22 the command report there so.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure, yeah. But you do recall kind of the
24 substance of the conversation?

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** For sure, yeah.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. And this was obviously the
27 first time you'd heard information regarding use of a police vehicle?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I heard information earlier about, like,
3 when Staff Rehill went off about that he had several unmarked police cars that were --
4 that they thought were all accounted for, burned out there, like, former police cars. First
5 time I'd heard a fully marked police car.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

8 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And do you recall if Sergeant -- Staff
9 Sergeant Rehill advised you of that on your phone call, or when you got to the OCC?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** One or the other, or both. He might ---

11 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure.

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- have done it both ---

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- times so.

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** He would have known about that then
17 I'm assuming so.

18 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So, Madam Registrar, would we be
19 able to pull up paragraphs 427 to 429 of the Foundation Document?

20 So 427, this essentially is the call that we just listened to.

21 "...approximately 7:22 [...] -- [Risk Manager] Briers
22 received a call from Laura Brine, [the] (CPIC)
23 dispatcher at [...] Halifax IES. She advised that
24 Halifax IES had information that the perpetrator was
25 in a fully marked RCMP police car with the call sign
26 28B11.

27 While speaking with Laura Brine..."

28 And I think that's supposed to say Risk Manager Briers; would that

1 make sense?

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yes.

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Staff Rehill wouldn't have been there at
5 that time.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** I'll note that. Thank you.

7 "...received a call from Sgt. Sutherland, acting watch
8 commander for Halifax District RCMP. Risk Manager
9 Briers explained that he was "talking to CPIC" and
10 was trying to find out if the Halifax District RCMP had
11 a police vehicle with the sign 28-Bravo-11."

12 I'm wondering, Staff Sergeant Briers, what -- how -- what's your
13 process in terms of undertaking -- or what task are you undertaking in light of this
14 information you've received?

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So with that information, I mentioned
16 earlier about having the CIIDS screen. So one of the monitors you'd have the line of
17 vehicles or districts -- vehicles aligned by district. Then you'd have vehicles aligned by -
18 - you could -- and then beside that would be the police car number, which would be
19 identifiers 28-Bravo-11 in this particular case, the name of the person supposedly
20 operating that car, if there was an MWS system in it, and then the cell number and all
21 that. So I went into that system that should show what vehicles are on the board to see
22 if we had a 28-Bravo-11 signed in, which would have meant they had an MWS in their
23 system if they showed up there. So when I checked that, and stop me if I'm getting
24 ahead of myself here, but I checked that. There was no 28-Bravo-11 on that CIIDS
25 screen. So then with 28-Bravo-11, I can enter that into the CIIDS program and see if
26 that vehicle has an -- what they call is a -- and I'll use the -- or the ANI, is what we refer
27 to it as -- again, I have no idea what that -- right now is what that means, but it's an
28 identifier for that radio in order to -- that's to that vehicle. So the -- if that car had a radio

1 that was put in by the RCMP, it would have an ANI attached to that. So if that radio
2 came back, and it didn't, so when I enter 28-Bravo-11, there was no ANI that showed
3 up, no identifying radio number. If it had of had one, then at the risk manager desk, and
4 the supervisor has -- the OCC supervisor has the same, they can go in and disable that
5 radio through that ANI. So -- and I'll use an example. If a car, a police car's going into
6 the garage today to get service, the protocol is the member's supposed to call to
7 dispatch, say, "Listen, my car -- I'm just dropping my car off for dispatch -- or for at the
8 garage for work. Can you disable the radio?" So that would come over to the risk
9 manager, if there's one there at the desk, and we'd enter that on another database, and
10 we could disable, turn that radio off. So if somebody wanted to steal that car, or take
11 that car on a joyride from there, yes, there'd be a radio in there, but you can't use it. It's
12 only a piece of steel inside there with some electronics in it, unless I activate it, or the
13 risk manager activates it. So that's why I went looking for that. No car, no big deal, no
14 ANI. Okay. So there's a bit of -- it's probably not one of ours, but if it has 28-Bravo-11
15 on it, then it's an odd thing. Does that answer that?

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yes, yeah. And so your thought process on
17 this is a concern, number one, of identifying if it is a legitimate RCMP ---

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

19 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- police vehicle ---

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- and second, you're engaging in a
22 process of determining if there's access to a radio?

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, because that'd make a whole
24 different situation if he had access to one of our radios, and if he listened to all the
25 communications going on, on those -- on that encrypted channel so.

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It'd be a major problem if it was. And
28 that's why I asked Sgt Sutherland if he might have had it on their board, because I don't

1 know what their computer -- it's associated to whatever the system is that sends it over
2 to Versadex, IES, or whatever their system is. But so I can't access what cars are in the
3 Halifax area. I can only tell within the province, the ones in the province so.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So ---

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** He would have to do that on his end, to
6 check to see if that car would be one of theirs and/or if there's a radio attached to that
7 car, because they should be able to do the same thing that I can do so.

8 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** I see. Okay. All right. Thank you.

9 So I know that several moments later, at 7:29, in response to the
10 call that you had from Ms. Brine, you, yourself, make a call.

11 And, Madam Registrar, I wonder if we could pull up the call from
12 7:29? That's COMM-0058369.

13 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** You recall ---

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- that phone call?

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, yeah.

18 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So my first question, and perhaps it's
19 a little bit obvious, but why are you making the call? What's the purpose of this call, and
20 why to S/Sgt. Carroll?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I knew that S/Sgt. Carroll -- or I
22 believed, from what I was told, that S/Sgt. Carroll was at the Incident Command Centre,
23 and S/Sgt. Carroll's the District Commander for Colchester County. So it -- S/Sgt. West
24 is in charge but I can't call him with every piece of information because it's -- he, along
25 like myself at some point, you can only take in so much information. And so I was going
26 through someone that I knew that what I told him or asked him he should be privy to
27 because -- from that being there, and if he's not privy to, I want to make sure that
28 someone at the Command Centre knew what I was just told. It was a shock to me that

1 there was a marked unit that we didn't know. I believed it had to have been stol -- I
2 didn't know how anybody could get a marked unit, on that day. And so I was -- wanted
3 to make sure I wasn't missing something. Or if they had some information in Halifax,
4 that I wanted to make sure it got to the Command Centre where Al Carroll was at,
5 S/Sgt. Carroll was at.

6 Did that answer it? So he's in charge of Colchester County, so
7 rather than call S/Sgt. West with every piece of information, I'd go to someone that was
8 with him and his -- someone that should get the information, so it got to where it needed
9 to go, so...

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Or I'd get an answer from him saying,
12 yeah, confirming that they believed the car was burned, so I wasn't as worried as
13 originally from -- by that.

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So is that typical, sort of, in a critical
15 incident generally; information that comes in you wouldn't contact the incident
16 Commander directly, case by case?

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Well, case by case, and certainly the
18 amount of information coming in. Has there been times I've called the Critical Incident
19 Commander, or they're called me directly? For sure. But on this particular case, I didn't
20 think that would be fair to do to someone there, but I knew that what I would pass on --
21 he should be privy to what's happening there because he's in the room. I'm not in the
22 room, so I wanted to make sure if I -- that I was either giving him something that they
23 needed to know, or that I'd get something back saying am I missing something on this.
24 And when he said that, then I thought, okay, maybe they're got the vehicle there. But I
25 wanted to make sure it went to where it needed to go.

26 So case by case I've done both but it's making sure that information
27 -- so, again, that facilitating. If I get information and it has to go to someone, have to
28 make sure they get it and they either use it or don't use it. I can't fix that, but I can just

1 make sure it gets to where it needs to go. Vice versa, then, same to Halifax; once I talk
2 to Al -- Al Carroll, I would have had to get back to them in regards to that, so...

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay, and provide them an update.

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Same.

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And did you have an awareness that
6 -- at this time that you're making the phone call that Lisa Banfield was being
7 interviewed?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't -- no, I don't believe I knew that
9 she was -- she'd been found or had been spoken to. I don't believe I did at that stage.

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** There was a -- I'll give an example. So
12 there's a work cell phone that I have, then there's a Risk Manager cell phone that stays
13 at the Risk Manager table. So when I come to work, I usually don't use my own phone.
14 I usually stay with the Risk Manager cell phone because that's the one that the general
15 members know, and it's attached to the person because if they call my cell phone I may
16 be home tonight and -- or today and not working. So there's a continuity.

17 So I had a work phone, a work desk phone, and then a Risk
18 Manager phone, plus the radio, so there's a lot of information coming on. And it was
19 one of the phone -- one of the calls you played earlier where I'm talking to CPIC Laura
20 Brine, and Wayne calls, and my belief is he called me on a cell number, either my work
21 cell number or the Risk Manager's. I don't know which one, but I would have been -- so
22 there's multiple things happening. Those phones never stopped on that particular day,
23 so...

24 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly, okay.

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I can't -- I don't recall knowing that
26 she was out -- found by that stage, I don't believe I did.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

28 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** If you're changing topics, Ms.

1 Mancini, it might not be a bad time for a morning break?

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly, thank you. Yeah, I'm happy to
3 take a break.

4 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Staff Sergeant. We'll
5 take a 15-minute break.

6 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you.

7 Proceedings are now on break and will resume in 15 minutes.

8 --- Upon breaking at 10:59 a.m.

9 --- Upon resuming at 11:23 a.m.

10 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Welcome back.

11 The proceedings are again in session.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

13 Ms. Mancini, whenever you're ready?

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, Commissioner. I just ask for
15 S/Sgt. Briers to please return to the stand.

16 (SHORT PAUSE)

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS, Resumed:**

18 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Staff Sergeant.

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Thanks.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you.

21 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MS. ANNA MANCINI:**

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** S/Sgt. Briers, I'm going to move forward in
23 time to about 10 to 8:00, 7:49 a.m. on April 19th, and I understand at that time a
24 photograph of the replica cruiser was forwarded to your email at that stage. Does that
25 sound correct?

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It does, yes.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And that was forwarded to you by
28 Sgt. Sutherland from the Halifax District RCMP?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And to your knowledge, or your
3 recollection, this was the first time you saw that photograph of that replica cruiser?

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It was the first time, yeah.

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And I know shortly after that, about
6 five minutes after that email, you then received a call from OCC Commander Glen
7 Byrne, who was at the Command Post.

8 And Madam Registrar, I wonder if I could pull up -- this is a call
9 from 7:54 a.m., and the COMM number is 58370.

10 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK] ...**

11 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** You recall having that phone conversation?

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I recall talking to Glen Byrne at that
13 time. I didn't remember what the content was when I made my notes from that, but I do
14 ---

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- remember that phone call.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. Fair enough.

18 So it seems to me in the course of that call, you're under the
19 impression that those at the Command Post have not yet received any photograph of
20 the replica cruiser; would that be correct?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I -- yeah, I didn't know if they had it or
22 not. I wasn't aware that they had it at the Command Centre, so that was why I said, "Do
23 you have a copy of this? I'll send it to you if you need." But they already had it. I didn't
24 know that ---

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- so.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yeah, and that makes sense. You're ---

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't know where they got it from. I'm

1 not sure where they got it from.

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure. Okay. But you're essentially saying
3 you're going to pass the photo on to those at the Command Post?

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. My second question out of this
6 conversation is respect -- with respect to Mr. Byrne's request for dissemination of the
7 information. Can you elaborate on the task that you're undertaking there when you
8 agree to do that?

9 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So originally, we'd sent that out with the
10 picture attached to police agencies, specifically, for sure all the RCMP, MWSs and
11 such, around 8:02. And around 8:07, I believe, he -- so what he wants, and what he's
12 asked for, is that to go out to all -- picture of him, picture of the car to go out to all police
13 agencies in the province. So that would be HRP, Truro PD, New Glasgow, all RCMP,
14 any police agency, they had the same information. So that's what happened with that
15 picture. I cut that from the -- what I had, added it to an email, and then sent it off to the
16 dispatcher, and then asked her to send that out, because I wouldn't do that myself. It
17 would be sent. So they send that out as a BOLO on a CPIC message, and then here's
18 what you have for information in regards to that picture and such.

19 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So when you're crafting the BOLO, is
20 it the risk manager who's deciding on the wording, or dispatcher?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's the dispatcher that ---

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Dispatcher. Okay.

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

24 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** All right.

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** They do them all the time, so they don't
26 need any direction in regards to ---

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- crafting them so.

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And you -- do you recall specifically
2 engaging with any other police agencies in the province?

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, the other one I spoke to directly is
4 in relation to Truro PD, Truro Police Service. I don't know whether I initiated the call or
5 whether Corporal Cormier from Truro Police Services called, and he was put through to
6 me. I don't know how he got to me, whether I -- I'd be shocked that I phoned them. It
7 would have been too busy at that stage, but I believe he got put through to me for a
8 phone call, and we had a chat in regards. I told him about the car and pictures. I asked
9 him to send me his -- send me an email, so I knew when I sent him back the
10 information, it was going to him and not off into neverland. I wouldn't know if he got it or
11 not.

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So he did what I asked him to do. He
14 sent me an email. And just as a test email, and I sent him back a picture of the subject,
15 as well as the car.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So you provided the photo
17 electronically to the Truro ---

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Via email.

19 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** --- Police?

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Back to Corporal Cormier.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And aside from police agencies, is this
24 information being disseminated anywhere else from the OCC?

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So that went to DNR. It went to -- so it
26 went -- I'll start, I'll say it went from -- to J-Division, the risk manager in J-Division for
27 dissemination to wherever he felt -- or she felt -- it was a guy that particular morning,
28 would send it. Anybody that was at the border, part of that security team that was -- as

1 a result of COVID got that information. Cobequid Pass would have got that information.
2 DNR got that information, and every police agency in the province.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And is the ---

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Around 8:07 in the morning ---

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Around 8:07. Okay. And is this
6 dissemination of information through these methods, is this consistent with your role as
7 a risk manager at this stage?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Depends the situation. Dispatchers will
9 do this all on their own at times, with -- depending on what the situation is. If it's two
10 neighbouring spots, they may get a hold of the -- let's say it's Bridgewater, for example,
11 and Lunenburg County and Bridgewater, they may just call them directly and not even
12 ask for direction on that. But in this particular case, it was asked to me, and then I pass
13 it onto the dispatcher, and they then add the pictures that I sent to them and put it up
14 that way.

15 The other thing that was happening on this same timeframe, so if
16 you don't have MWS, then you can't get that picture in your car. So it was -- his picture
17 was also added to the PROS file, so anybody that has access to PROS could find that
18 picture if you searched his name, and I believe we also -- some time early in the
19 morning would have added the picture of the vehicle on his PROS profile in order so
20 that you could find those things if you were just looking, like, on the file itself.

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** All right. And I understand you also
22 broadcast information around this time to the members in the province?

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, so the dispatcher put all the radio
24 channels together, they combined all the different, say, Lunenburg, Colchester,
25 Cumberland, Cape Breton, any -- all of them, they put all the radio channels together
26 and just broadcast a ---

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Okay. So I'm going to move on ---

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- to put on their ---

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sorry.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- to put on their hard body armour.

3 Good.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. I am going to move on, and I'm going
5 to ask you about another phone call later in that morning around nine a.m., and we've
6 actually snipped the call. There's a middle portion that's -- it's fairly lengthy and we've
7 kind of removed the middle chunk of it. So I'm going to play the first portion of that call,
8 and forgive the -- my amateur splicing, but that's COMM-58371.

9 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So we paused the clip there. And,
11 again, it's a bit repetitive, but I'm wondering why it is that you're contacting Staff
12 Sergeant Carroll with this particular information?

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So in this particular case, I didn't know
14 at the time, because this came -- this request came from Constable Stevenson. So the
15 -- a dispatcher ---

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Take your time.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So a dispatcher mentioned it to me, so,
18 again, I -- it's not my call on whether that goes out or not, so I bring it to people that
19 need to make that call. My contact was Al Carroll. I comment in there that I didn't
20 remember calling Staff Sergeant McCallum first, but I must have. And Staff Sergeant
21 Carroll answered, and I wanted to make sure that was passed on. It came to me, so I
22 pass it on to the Critical Incident Command Centre. This is like any intelligence or any
23 suggestions or any questions, if I think it's something to look at I bring it forward. And
24 so, it wasn't my call to make it, so I brought it forward.

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So you're bringing a request forward
26 and it's -- I take it, your evidence is, it's not the Risk Manager's decision when it comes
27 to media releases?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I can make them, yes, yeah ---

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- depending on the situation.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But I'm not in charge of the situation at
5 that time.

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So ---

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it's not my call because I don't -- I
8 don't necessarily know what's happening, what they know, what the -- the Command
9 Centre. So could I have made that? Yes, I could have made it, but in my opinion, on
10 that day, and the way the situation is set up, it wouldn't be my call. There's lots of times
11 I make decisions and put out media releases in relation to something if there's a safety
12 concern in relation to roads or a -- and there's no media person on, I have the authority
13 to go into the -- to the media group email list, and I can send out a message to
14 everybody on the media list, any reporter, or any news system. So I can do that.

15 Do I have the authority to do it? For sure, I could do it on certain
16 situations, but it wasn't my call in this particular -- at that time, anyway, it wasn't my call.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And whose ---

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** In my opinion, I wouldn't have thought it
19 was my call.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure. And who -- whose call did you -- did
21 you perceive it to be?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** That's -- all those calls should go
23 through the Critical Incident Commander and Staff Sergeant Jeff West at that time.

24 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Okay. And I'm going to play the
25 second portion of that same phone call. It's still 58371, Madam Registrar.

26 **[BEGIN VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

27 **[END VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So you indicate in this call the

1 suggestion or possibility that the perpetrator's out of the area. What is it that at this
2 stage is leading you to think that, do you recall?

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Only because they haven't accounted
4 for him, that's -- and they'd been searching that area since late into the -- on the 18th. I
5 don't have any knowledge that he's out of that area at this stage, I just -- they haven't
6 found him.

7 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So is he dead? He could be dead there
9 somewhere and they just haven't found him, or whatever. My -- that's what I'm thinking.
10 I don't -- I don't know, though, for sure. That never came to me from anybody about --
11 that he was out of that area, just they haven't found him, so -- and they hadn't found that
12 vehicle.

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Certainly. Okay. And we've already
14 discussed this to a certain extent, but that portion of the discussion about moving
15 around resources, that's again that Facilitator/Risk Manager role that you're attempting
16 to execute there?

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. So if they need resources, if they
18 thought they needed people brought in, then I could do -- I could start doing that.

19 We all -- so I've got -- I'm looking at is, is I don't want to make those
20 calls in my -- and I would have been thinking at the time, I just can't bring people in.
21 Because this is an event -- this incident is going to last days now, because I know
22 there's a crime scenes, not just one, crime scenes, and there's -- that's labour intensive
23 for members for securing that after the fact. So if I just brought people in without
24 thinking about what's going to happen tonight or that night, the next day and days
25 afterwards for resourcing, based on the detachment needs, not just Colchester but
26 wherever we're going to bring these people from, these officers from in order to secure
27 that, and the work that still needed to be done with interviews and such, so I wouldn't
28 necessarily bring them in until I sought some direction on that.

1 I used the Bridgewater example before. Yeah, those guys are in
2 charge, but I'll say, "Okay. I have six people in Yarmouth. Do you want me to start
3 moving some people to your direction because it's going to take two hours to get from
4 Yarmouth?" So I'll try to be forward-thinking to facilitate things that they may not have
5 the time there to do. By that offer was, "Do you want -- do you think I should bring in
6 some more people in?" Now, could I have done it without them? Yes, I guess I could,
7 but I also need direction on that too because it's -- I'm thinking, as a major crime
8 investigator, there's a lot of work that follows up from these incidents, and it's going to
9 be labour intensive.

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right. Okay.
11 Madam Registrar, if we could turn to paragraph 508.
12 So this is following that call:

13 "As discussed in the RCMP Public
14 Communications...Foundational Document, at 9:08
15 a.m., S/Sgt. Carroll sent an email to RM Briers in
16 relation to the media release inquiry made by
17 Cst. Stevenson about the perpetrator's fully marked
18 replica RCMP cruiser. S/Sgt. Carroll's email said that
19 a decision had been made not to release the
20 information about the perpetrator's replica RCMP
21 cruiser to the media. It stated: 'Thought was given to
22 give release about [the] vehicle, but decision was
23 made not to.' RM Briers replied back to S/Sgt. Carroll
24 seven minutes later, stating: 'Very good. Kind of
25 figured they may not want to release.'"

26 I'll ask you first, were you privy to any of the discussions that were
27 had about a media release?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Not at the Incident ---

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- Command Centre, no.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Only -- I only knew what was happening
5 in the -- in the risk -- in the OCC. Like I wasn't privy to the calls or who that discussion
6 was with.

7 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Okay. And can you explain or
8 expand on what you mean in your response of, 'Kind of figured they may not want to
9 release'?"

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** That was my -- my belief at the time was
11 that if we let out that there's a police car we're chasing or looking for and there's a lot of
12 police cars down that, we may be chasing our tail for a bit of time. That was my
13 concern at -- by doing that. Is there positives to doing it? Yes, for sure, but is there --
14 there's lots of negatives.

15 And it was a very spot at the OCC that particular morning. I
16 compare it -- I've compared it since day one as like drinking from a fire hose, taking a
17 sip from a fire hose for information coming in. Because there's other things happening
18 in that province at the same time, 9-1-1 still continues, all the other things still happen.
19 And then if we had to go looking for a police car when there's a lot of marked police
20 cars, and you're only looking for 28-Bravo-11 on the side, that I knew of at the time as
21 the differentiator from one good car to the one bad car, it's a tough one to do for people
22 on the side of the road to pick up that. Hard for members even to do. So that was my
23 kind of concern on it at the time, so that's what my comment referred to.

24 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And had you expressed any of those
25 concerns to those at the Command Post, or had you ---

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

27 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** No? Okay.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I passed on the information that there

1 was a car that had this on it, and I passed on "Are you going to look in doing it?" If they
2 had have said yes, they're going to do it, it would have been done.

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. All right.

4 I wonder, Madam Registrar, if we can turn to paragraph 596.

5 Thank you.

6 So this indicates:

7 "RM Briers's notes for the period between 10:14...and
8 10:27 a.m. indicate that he was advised by
9 S/Sgt. Halliday that the perpetrator was believed to be
10 'out of the area,' and that RM Briers now had control
11 of mobilizing additional resources and allocating
12 members and patrol units to contain the perpetrator."

13 Do you recall getting that task from Staff Sergeant Halliday?

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I do. I think it was ---

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- by phone I think we spoke, I think.

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. By phone?

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I think.

19 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And what was your understanding of this
20 particular task? Is it -- and I guess what I'm wondering is, is the understanding that it's
21 roadblocks, that it's checkpoints? Is it -- what was your understanding at the time?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So my understanding at the time was
23 that I need to bring extra resources in, so bring more members in, police officers from
24 around other surrounding areas. So I had to do that, as well as trying to figure out
25 where to set up roadblocks and checkpoints in order to try to contain it. And this is a
26 very big area, so I knew I needed more people. That wasn't going to be done by just
27 the people that were there. We had a lot in the area, but it's a very big geographic area
28 with lots of roads to many different locations of this province, back roads, side roads.

1 And -- so that was my thought was I had to bring extra people in to get them on the
2 move, and then try to coordinate the people that were there in the meantime to take
3 over, you know, to do -- to try to find him, and/or set roadblocks up.

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And what was the strategy with
5 respect to roadblocks? How were -- how were you able to coordinate those members
6 that were in the area?

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It was a multi-task into the nth degree,
8 I'll say that, because it's -- first off, I had to make phone calls. You just can't get officers
9 without direct -- and the radios were busy. So I had to call up supervisors in order to
10 get, in say Kings, I remember Lunenburg provided members, Pictou, Antigonish, and
11 right down to Baddeck, Inverness County. So I had to make phone calls in order to do
12 that, in order to get people moving because that was important also because there's
13 timelines. From Inverness or from Baddeck, you're talking a couple, three hours, even
14 at decent speed, like to get there. So I had to figure out that, as well as try to figure out
15 where we were going to look at doing that.

16 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. So you're -- as I understand it, you're
17 doing, essentially, two major tasks, one being bringing in additional resources from
18 elsewhere.

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And as we've discussed, that's fairly
21 consistent with the Risk Manager role. Is that fair?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah.

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** The second task about coordinating these
24 roadblocks and staging the members, is that also something that's consistent with the
25 Risk Manager role in your experience?

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Have I done it? Yes, for sure, in
27 regards to certain situations with major accidents, cordoning off areas in regards to that.
28 It's labour intensive because you have to really be thinking ahead. And when you're

1 behind -- the problem with this is that we're -- we were behind the eight ball, and so
2 you're trying to catch up to what of an individual that knows what they're planning on
3 doing, and we don't have a clue, and there's a lot of areas. So trying to figure out where
4 to best station people in relation to where he was last seen in the Debert area as
5 opposed to -- and where he's going. Because is he going to Halifax or is he going to
6 somewhere else outside of that area? Because -- and there's a lot of different routes
7 from there. So it's not a simple task to set up roadblocks at the same as you're doing
8 the other, both, but it -- we tried it -- I tried it as best I could in regards to that.

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And I guess I'm wondering about if
10 you can comment on the efficacy of the Risk Manager, who's at the OCC at a separate
11 location from the Command Post, taking on this role when there's that physical distance
12 or separation between the Incident Commander and the Risk Manager. Do you have
13 any comment or thoughts on how that operated?

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** At the time, I had no comment on it.

15 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It was my task that I was given, and this
17 was not a day to start figuring out what, you know, what was the protocols and what
18 was supposed to happen and would happen or what may happen. So I can't -- in
19 hindsight looking back, yeah, I'd probably look at it a little bit differently. I wish I had
20 have started bringing people in at nine o'clock and started getting sections cordoned off
21 and do that. Did I know that then? No.

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it would be tough for me to comment
24 on something now because we've had two plus years to think about all the different
25 scenarios that could have unfolded from that, as opposed to what I was -- what I was --
26 this is what was given to me, and there was no -- it wasn't the day to discuss options in
27 regards to that. I moved the people around that I could do at the time.

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Sure. And -- I appreciate not wanting to

1 look back and sort of comment on with hindsight, but moving forward, have you thought
2 or, and you may not, but have you thought about a way that this road closure operation
3 task could be undertaken, if there's ways that that roll -- that task can be rolled out in a
4 better or more improved manner?

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Well, I know what we do -- what they've
6 started doing since just before I left as the Risk Manager, is if there is an incident like
7 where there's a Critical Incident Command brought at the same time, we bring in a
8 second Risk Manager to assist with moving that around. I'll even go back around nine
9 o'clock, my boss, Inspector Rodier, suggested bringing in someone else in at he time. I
10 didn't know what I didn't know then, and I always have regretted about not doing that.
11 But we do that now moving forward.

12 Because there's too many other things happening at the same time.
13 And will we ever have another one of these? Lord knows; hopefully not. It was a
14 terrible tragedy that doesn't happen in this country. But it's one of those things that now
15 with an extra person you can probably share some of that information.

16 At one point, Staff Sergeant Ettinger did come in and break -- and
17 help me with that, but there's logistic problems in trying to do that with two people
18 working from the workstation. So there's a better system now set up. Will it always
19 work perfectly? Never, no.

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** You've got humans there.

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So tell me a little bit about that when Risk
23 Manager Ettinger arrived sort of as a second Risk Manager on the scene?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, yeah.

25 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. And what were some of the practical
26 problems that you guys encountered, and what were some of the benefits in having him
27 there?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I'll go back. So Staff

1 Sergeant Ettinger was not the -- was not a -- he was a Risk Manager at one time, then
2 he left and went in charge of East Hants District. So he was the Supervisor and the
3 District Commander for East Hants at the time, but he called and offered his services. If
4 he -- so at that stage, we were getting -- it was really busy. Like it was busy all morning,
5 but it was really busy then, trying to get resources and figure out where -- where to put
6 people. So I said, "Yes, please do." So he lives in the area, so he dropped by within 10
7 or 15-minutes and then started assisting me.

8 So the way the OCC in Truro was set up, I told you the call-takers
9 are one side, dispatch is on this side. So we both worked from the same -- had to work
10 from the same desk. I say, "had to". He could have probably worked from another
11 workstation, but it would have been a distance away. So again, you're not directly
12 working with each other, there's a bit of -- you either have to really pay attention to all
13 the other commotion and listen to someone from another distance, or -- and there's a
14 disconnect because you're not beside each other.

15 So we worked beside each other, but again, there is one desk
16 phone, and the desk phone has the headset into it, and the desk phone also is
17 connected to the radio. So one of the problems we did encounter was if we did -- if --
18 when somebody brought a splitter over so you could have both two headsets plugged
19 into the same phone, the difficulty with that is that, and we encountered, was that if two
20 people are at the same workstation, if the phone rings and then you want to talk to
21 someone at the same time, only one person -- if somebody's on the phone you can't talk
22 on the radio at the same time because you're on the same splitter. So there's -- I don't
23 know which one takes precedence but you can't go through it. Or you think you're
24 talking on the radio and you're going over the phone because of the way that the splitter
25 worked. So that was one of the issues, and there was lots of phone calls being made
26 and received at that stage.

27 And then your other problem is that you're sharing the same
28 workstation with regards to trying to figure out moving people around, looking for

1 members that you want to bring in from other areas. And so it just gets complicated on
2 the same workstation.

3 With the new building and a new set up, you can work adjacent to
4 each other or directly opposite of each other so that you would have -- you can still
5 same -- see the same material on your computer screen, but you're able to have a
6 conversation as opposed to trying to yell or share the time to the radio. And that's what
7 happened with regards to that.

8 So there was one point I believe he took over the radio because he
9 had -- and then I took over figuring where we're going to move people at and trying to
10 get ahead of where we needed to be on the mapping process with the cars that we had
11 and cars that we had -- knew were coming in from Halifax and/or the surrounding area.

12 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Did that answer that question? I'm ---

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Yeah, yeah, thanks. I -- I'll have just one
15 final question for you, Staff Sergeant Briers, and that's, again, sort of a forward-looking
16 question, which is your thoughts with respect to communications between Command
17 Post and OCC, and whether there were difficulties on the 19th. We've heard some of
18 the audio clips of phone calls, but whether there are -- whether you have thoughts as to
19 if there were difficulties and how they could be improved.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure, there's always ways to improve
21 them. The problem is, is if you -- if you -- you can get too much information, too, from --
22 and not everything I need to know as a Risk Manager at the Dispatch Centre. And not
23 everything I may find out I need to give to the Critical Incident Commander.

24 Is there ways to improve it? Probably. Ways to simply improve it?
25 I don't know. I can't really speak of that off the top of my head.

26 So in most situations, there's a sharing of information, but I don't
27 necessarily need to know everything that's happened on every critical incident because
28 it's being managed elsewhere.

1 As the Risk Manager, we would normally come in and facilitate,
2 move things around, assist whatever they needed to that -- on that side. That's how we
3 see this job; that's how it's -- I've done in all sorts of different situations. So do I need to
4 know everything they know? Not necessarily, but I do need to know what -- certain
5 things, like -- that need to come out to me, especially if they need something.

6 If it's all being managed within the confines of a small area, no big
7 deal. But if it's starting to -- going to get out and creep into other areas, then the more
8 that somebody else has information on that, the easier it is to deal with it. At least stay
9 a little bit ahead of it.

10 You don't know what the people we're chasing are going to do.
11 They do. So we're always going to be a little bit behind but the more you can kind of
12 pre-think what's happening, that's the only way I can suggest to answer that.

13 So I think -- I don't know if I can answer it any better than that.

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** No, I appreciate that.

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's a tough question because this is a
16 very unique situation that I've never encountered in my 32 years on the Force, hopefully
17 never -- I won't in my -- in the time remaining, I hope. And it's -- again, we make sure
18 we try to bring that information to where it needs to get to. Do I need to know
19 everything that they do? I don't necessarily, not on every situation. Certain things I do
20 and the quicker he can make those decisions on -- it's easier for us to bring things in
21 that we need, so...

22 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Okay. Well, thank you, sir. Those are my
23 questions for you. I know my friends will have some questions.

24 Although, perhaps, Commissioners, if we broke for lunch now that
25 would afford us an opportunity to conduct a caucus over the lunch hour.

26 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yes, thank you, Ms. Mancini.
27 And thank you again, Staff Sergeant.

28 The process we'll be following is that you've just given your

1 testimony proper, which we appreciate very much. And we'll break until 1:15, at which
2 time Ms. Mancini will meet with counsel for the Participants and determine if there are
3 further questions for you. And, if so, who'll be asking them.

4 So if you could return, then, at 1:15, we'd appreciate it.

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Will do.

6 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

7 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you.

8 The proceedings are now on break and will resume at 1:15.

9 --- Upon breaking at 11:59 a.m.

10 --- Upon resuming at 1:42 p.m.

11 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Welcome back.

12 The proceedings are again in session.

13 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Ms. Mancini?

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

15 I understand that some of the Participant Counsel do have some
16 different areas of questioning, so I believe -- I can't recall which order people are asking
17 questions in, but I would ask if S/Sgt. Briers could return, and I know that there's been
18 some discussion in ensuring that there's not too much crossover.

19 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS, Resumed:**

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you. And I believe it's going to be
22 Ms. Hupman who's going to be speaking first.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

24 Thank you, S/Sgt. Briers, and my apologies for keeping you
25 waiting, and to everyone here for keeping them waiting longer than we expected over
26 the lunch hour.

27 Staff Sergeant, as I mentioned before we broke, our -- or
28 Commission Counsel had met with Counsel for the Participants and there are some

1 more questions for you.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

3 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And they will be asked by
4 several counsel for the Participants, and beginning with Ms. Hupman, if you don't mind,
5 and the various counsel, if they don't mind identifying their retainer as well, it would be
6 greatly appreciated.

7 So Ms. Hupman.

8 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Yes, thank you, Chief Commissioner.

9 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. LINDA HUPMAN:**

10 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Good afternoon, S/Sgt. Briers.

11 My name is Linda Hupman. With my colleague, Steve Topshee
12 and James Russell from Burchell MacDougall, we represent the family of Jolene Oliver,
13 Aaron Tuck and Emily Tuck, and the family of Lillian Campbell. I just have a couple of
14 areas to go back to from your testimony this morning, just for some additional follow-up
15 information.

16 This morning you were talking about the use of Pictometry, and that
17 you were very familiar and had used that quite extensively apparently.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I used it a fair amount, yes, yeah.

19 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Yes.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Almost every shift.

21 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Is that right? So that is -- I also was --
22 picked up on the fact that you said you basically were self-taught on it, so it wasn't
23 something that was rolled out, and people were given training on, or that kind of thing?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I'm not sure when Pictometry was given
25 to the RCMP as a tool to use. My memory of it, and I'm just going from memory of it,
26 there was a course that was taught when it first was rolled out. It was given to us back
27 in not -- that time SCEU members and GIS, so people that were street crime
28 enforcement and such.

1 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right, okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And I remember officers going in to do
3 that course. I don't know if I was the NCO in charge of -- like, the Ops NCO in charge of
4 Lunenburg at that time, or it was just shortly before 2016. But there was a course, and I
5 haven't had the course in it so.

6 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay. So in terms of its accessibility or its
7 availability to broadly around -- in parts of the province, was it in every detachment; do
8 you know? Is it something that every detachment would have access to and use, or
9 was there any commonality in using that tool?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** You know, I can't speak for every
11 detachment because I wouldn't know that. I don't know who would, but I can't. I would
12 say it was available in a lot of detachments. And how often it was used, I'd have no
13 clue. My memory from working in Lunenburg, when I worked detachment in Lunenburg,
14 Lunenburg County, the SKEU members often use it, and we did use it on occasion for
15 search warrants and stuff like that, just to get a different view of properties.

16 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right. Okay.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But I never used it myself when I was in
18 Lunenburg. I just recall it being used by members there.

19 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Not everybody had access to it because
21 you have to have a password.

22 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And you have to have a username and
24 password, but whoever got the course, wherever that was distributed back in the day
25 when it -- the course was taught would have had a username and password that went
26 with that program so.

27 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Do you know -- was that a program or a
28 software, however it's marketed, or, I guess, or available that could be used on cell

1 phones as well as computers at desktops? Was it available on cell phones?

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it's not a -- I should clarify. I said
3 program, but I didn't mean to say that. So it's a online site. So if I search Google, it'd
4 be something similar. I have to go into a login process through Pictometry ---

5 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- and then enter my username and
7 password.

8 On my work phone -- I'm just trying to think. So the phone I have
9 now is a Samsung S9. It's -- and there's two sides of this phone. And I say two sides,
10 so I want to make this more -- if I'm not answering your question, just cut me off, please.
11 So my phone now, if I want to access my work email ---

12 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- I have to go into a certain side of my
14 phone to do that. It's a protected side. So my work email those are there. In order to --
15 for my phone I'm using now, I can go onto an unprotected side, and I can go into
16 Google Maps, and I -- I've never done it on my work phone.

17 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I have done it on a tablet. So if it can
19 work on a tablet, I'd say it can work on your cell phone.

20 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't recall when I got my newest
22 phone, but the phone before that was a Blackberry, and in all likelihood, I wouldn't have
23 been able to do it on Blackberry because it didn't have those two sides to the phone.

24 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Does that make sense?

26 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Sure, yeah.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And so the protection software that's on
28 our work side of our cell phones won't allow me to do a lot of things easily ---

1 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** M'hm.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- because of the -- just the nature of
3 the protection that's on there. But on my other side of my current phone, I can do that.
4 My personal phone, I don't doubt I can probably get into Pictometry on my personal
5 phone.

6 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't know what would have been in
8 2020 for everybody had at that time, whether it would have been available or not. Not --
9 I can't answer that.

10 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Does that make sense?

12 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Yeah, it makes sense, and I guess what I'm
13 thinking is that -- or what it's sounding like, from what you're describing, is that it's
14 available through the internet, but something you would log into and have to have a
15 password, so therefore ---

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

17 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- if your phone was able to access the
18 internet, then presumably, it would be same as you can access Google Maps or
19 whatever on the phone.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. So as a risk manager, we had
21 two usernames and two -- and the same password. So, let's say if -- let's say two of us
22 were working, one was on another computer, he could log in underneath that username
23 and password, but I can't log in with that same username. So I'm assuming they gave
24 us two just because if there was anybody else was using at the time, somebody else ---

25 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- could get into it, but it's just the same
27 username, password. I don't have it specifically for me. It's ---

28 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- for that position, and I'm -- I believe
2 and whoever would have passed it out back in the time, it probably went with the
3 positions that were there so.

4 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Sure. Okay. Thank you. I think that
5 should -- that covers my queries on that topic.

6 But having talked now about phones and your work phone and so
7 on, it brings me to my next topic, which is to talk about in your statement to the Mass
8 Casualty Commission -- and, Madam Registrar, 35921 was Staff Sergeant Brier's
9 statement. I just want to go to the page of your statement where page 38, about more
10 than halfway down the page I think, there you were talking, and this caught my
11 attention, you were talking about having your personal cell, a work cell, then you have
12 your risk manager cell, and there's a desk phone. And the -- somewhere down about
13 the middle of the page where it starts,

14 "...I'm jumping ahead here, but I want to make sure
15 you understand [...] if I want to send a text with
16 pictures..."

17 That section.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

19 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** It seems you're describing, like, what
20 seems to be a very cumbersome process, that if you need to send a text, you couldn't
21 do that from the risk manager phone because it didn't have data; is that correct? Like,
22 you had to use your other phone, and then it -- it just seemed like a very cumbersome
23 process there for ---

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't ---

25 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- disseminating the picture and -- through
26 text or email.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It was cumbersome. So I'm not a
28 hundred percent positive, but my recollection is that there was no -- I couldn't go search

1 anything on that risk manager cell phone.

2 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So if I wanted to search something, I'd
4 either have to do it on my work phone, very rarely did it on my personal phone because
5 I had a work phone, or I'd do it on the computer. Now, if I did it on the computer, I had a
6 -- so on my work cell now, and again, I -- so 2020, if I had that same -- I must have had
7 that same phone then based on what I just -- like, how I explained that, I'd have to send
8 -- so my work phone has a personal email address, a gmail address ---

9 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** M'hm.

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- and a work email address. In order
11 to send a text message out to someone, I had to send it to my gmail address from --
12 let's say I wanted to send it from the computer ---

13 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- I'd send it to my gmail address on my
15 work phone, and then I could disseminate it via text from my work phone to wherever. I
16 couldn't send it to -- my memory is I couldn't send it to my work phone, like, as if it was
17 an email. I -- if I could send -- so if I had my work phone and my risk manager phone, I
18 could send a text between the two of them with a picture, but I couldn't send an email to
19 my risk manager cell phone. Did I make that more -- I know I did. Sorry.

20 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** You just ---

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's ---

22 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** I think what you illustrated ---

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

24 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- is it was a very complex and
25 cumbersome process to be dealing with sending emails with pictures, or text with
26 pictures, and getting it out. And I'm just wondering, is there not a better way, an easier
27 way or more efficient way to be able to work that out? It just sounded like it was very
28 complex, more than what it -- one would think it would need to be in this day and age.

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it's a case-by-case situation. If
2 people are in their cars and they have MWS, I can send a picture to your vehicle. I can
3 send it to a whole section of vehicles. So if you are working in Colchester County, and I
4 want to put a picture up of a person, a vehicle, an area, a map area, I can send it via
5 MW -- via the MWS system in your computer. I shouldn't say send it. I put it on a
6 bulletin board and you can go retrieve it from the bulletin board. Anybody that I give
7 access to, so I can open that up to Colchester County, I can open it up to Colchester
8 and Cumberland. I can send it divisionally.

9 It all depends what the nature of the picture or what I'm -- who's
10 maybe involved in that.

11 The hiccup is there that you have to have MWS and you have to be
12 told to go there and get it and you have to be in your car. If you're not in your car, it's of
13 no use to you because you don't have it.

14 So that's where it gets into more complicated because of sending it
15 to someone's phone so that they have it out on the side of the road or if they're not in a
16 vehicle that has MWS.

17 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Is it cumbersome? Yes.

19 How to fix it? Because of the nature of privacy and stuff, I don't
20 know how it's so simple to fix. I'm certainly not the tech person to tell you how to fix that
21 because I can do those things, but I don't know all the workings behind it.

22 But I know -- so our work side of our cell phones is -- it's much
23 more protected because of the emails that's attached to that. If you didn't have work
24 email on your phone, you could do the same thing with anything.

25 The data to the risk manager phone, I -- it never had data, like
26 search data, because I guess we all had phones. And it was never maybe forward
27 thinking as to how all six could be beneficial to use it, and it was an older phone. But
28 each situation's different.

1 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Fair to say, though, that if the risk manager
2 phone had data and the capabilities that your other work phone had, that it -- you might
3 have had a more of a one-step process in terms of doing thing.

4 Do you know if that's an area where -- where anybody is looking
5 into making things move more seamlessly?

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't. I don't know that.

7 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Would you think that it would be beneficial
8 for that to be looked into?

9 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** For having data on the risk manager
10 phone?

11 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Yeah. And other means of simplifying this
12 process of disseminating this kind of information.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, for sure. It's -- in this day and
14 age, it's -- technology is the easiest way to move things around and it's used all the time
15 like to ---

16 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** And speaking ---

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- like we send pictures all the time via
18 -- via that.

19 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** And in terms of technology and technology
20 issues, for example, at the OCC when it was here in Truro and in your new location --
21 the new location, is there an on-duty or on-site IT person to help you when you run into
22 issues with your technology?

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Nobody on site 24/7. There would be
24 somebody on call that you might be able to get a hold of, depending on what the
25 situation was.

26 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I guess if it was really urgent, you
28 probably can get someone in, but it wouldn't be -- not 24/7, no. Not to my knowledge,

1 anyway.

2 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Other than on call, like go through a
4 central help desk as -- and ask for tech service on whatever the issue is, yeah.

5 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right. So tech -- RCMP tech service
6 person.

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

8 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right. Okay.

9 And just one other area that came up after I had -- we had
10 caucused and I had gone over some notes. And you may not be aware of this or be
11 able to address it, but are you aware whether detachments in Nova Scotia moved to
12 having anyone designated as a threat assessment coordinator?

13 I believe that's something that came out of the Mayerthorpe inquiry,
14 and I just wondered whether that had taken place and whether, in your role as risk
15 manager, if you knew anything about that.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I wasn't -- I'm not aware of that, no.

17 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay. And those are my questions,
18 Commissioner.

19 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Ms. Hupman.
20 Mr. Bryson?

21 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:**

22 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Good afternoon, Staff Sergeant Briers.
23 I'm Josh Bryson.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Good afternoon.

25 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** I represent the family of Peter and Joy
26 Bond. They resided in Portapique on Cobequid Court.

27 So my friend's questions to you about dissemination of information,
28 that's really a good place for me to sort of pick it up, so I'm going to look at just the

1 different gaps in terms of the flow of information that occurred through the night and
2 perhaps discuss what, if any, changes can be made to help mitigate against that.

3 So first, I just want to talk about the cop car, the perpetrator's cop
4 car. So did I hear your evidence correctly that you didn't know that he was operating a
5 marked car until the 7:27 call from HRP?

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

7 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. So you weren't aware of the
8 information that was conveyed in the 10:01 call from Ms. Blair that -- about an RCMP
9 car in the yard.

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Are you talking 10:01 p.m. or a.m.?

11 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Sorry, 10:01 p.m. the night before.

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** That wasn't part of your briefing.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Now, for me to go back and tell you
15 everything that was told to me in that briefing, that'd be very difficult.

16 I don't recall that. I recall the fact that he had what they believed to
17 be unmarked police cars in that -- in that area, but I don't -- I don't recall anybody ever
18 telling me about a marked police car.

19 It was actually quite a shock to me, if my memory serves me right,
20 at 7:27 when I heard that.

21 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Right. So it's probably fair to say that
22 what you recalled is the shock of hearing for the first time that he could be in a marked
23 police car.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

25 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. So did anyone update you on the
26 fact that there was actually a shooting victim that survived an attempt on his life and that
27 of his partner's life on Orchard Drive and that this person had actually firsthand contact
28 with the perpetrator?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Something tells me I do -- I did know
2 about that. I can't say exactly what I -- what I was told about it, but I do recall that.

3 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. And I -- because I was surprised
4 to hear from Staff Sergeant West that he didn't actually hear about that until 6:00 or
5 6:30 the next morning, on the 19th. So this is an interaction that occurred at 10:28 p.m.
6 on Orchard Beach Drive, and he didn't hear about it until the next morning at 6:00, 6:30.
7 So that's why I was -- I was asking you if you heard about that.

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Understand, I didn't arrive to the office
9 until 7:00.

10 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yes, sorry. You ---

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I didn't work the night before. I
12 didn't hear about it then. I would have heard about it after I got to work at 7:00 ---

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- if I was -- and I'm just going -- I
15 believe I was told about somebody surviving it.

16 I do recall that ---

17 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- but it wouldn't have been before I
19 arrived at the office anyway.

20 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Right. It wasn't part of your 6:00 a.m.
21 briefing on the phone when you were on the road and on the phone with Staff Sergeant
22 Rehill?

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No, it was a very brief call. They gave
24 me the details of what they had and they -- and that they were looking for three
25 vehicles. We chatted about Versadex and I said I'd look into it and ---

26 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- and then I just kept going, so.

28 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. Did you have your radio on while

1 you were making the commute out to the OCC?

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** My radio in the vehicle?

3 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** In the comms channel. Like the
4 Colchester comms and ---

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't have a work car, so I was driving
6 in my personal vehicle in there, so I never had a radio in my car to drive in.

7 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So no portable radio, either, to ---

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

9 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. So the information that you relied
10 on to sort of get up to speed was Rehill's briefing and the CAD logs? Is that the written
11 record of information obtained throughout the night? Is that ---

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Whatever's typed in there is the written
13 record.

14 I don't know if Staff Sergeant Rehill would have typed everything he
15 did with regards to that. Like it all depends what you entered in there.

16 I can tell you when I got in at 7:00, if you found anything of mine
17 written into that CAD log, I'd say okay, I did that, but it wasn't very much.

18 Most of my notes are very rarely done or done on handwritten
19 notes, scribbling pages, because I didn't have the luxury to go back and type into that
20 CAD log.

21 So I don't know what else would have been in there or what might
22 not have been in there because I -- there was a lot to take in when I got in at 7:00 a.m.
23 and there was a lot to kind of catch up to, so I might have went back and read it, but I
24 don't know what -- if everything was entered in there as it would normally happen in
25 most files, so.

26 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yes. And we do have the CAD activity
27 logs that we can look at.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Okay.

1 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So I guess my question is, just so I have
2 a better understanding of what you knew arriving at work and after looking at whatever
3 written reports were available, so it would be -- what would be available to you as a risk
4 manager, would be your oral, your oral briefing from the previous risk manager and then
5 the CAD logs that ---

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, correct. Yeah.

7 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So ---

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** That would be the normal -- that would
9 be the normal process, yeah, CAD logs and -- and if the dispatchers had any other
10 comments that they wanted to bring forward to me, so.

11 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** And how would they bring those
12 comments forward to you?

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Just tell me or they might send internal
14 messages. You can do that.

15 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah, okay.

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But that early in the day, everybody
17 would have been changing at the same time and some people would have been there
18 carried over from the night, and so it would have been probably by verbal, if anything
19 like that was exchanged.

20 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Right.

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** In the most cases, it would be verbal
22 they'd send it on to me, so.

23 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So with respect -- I'll go back to the
24 police car, the cop car that the perpetrator was operating, so that was a later reveal for
25 you, that he was operating a police car.

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

27 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** I just want to ask you -- I want to go back
28 to one of your comments about the fact that the call sign was -- I think you said the only

1 distinguishable trait about the vehicle and, as such, it would look like many of the other
2 cars on the road and it may cause some panic if you just issued an alert or a notice
3 about the ---

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** That was my belief, yes.

5 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. That's a fair -- now, I'm just --
6 because -- I'm just wondering because we did hear like some evidence from Constable
7 Fahie, for example, that look at the same 727 picture and was able to observe a push
8 bar sticking out at the end. Did anyone talk about a push bar on the vehicle and that
9 that may be a distinctive feature of the vehicle?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I've listened -- I shouldn't say I've
11 listened -- I've never listened to any of my recordings or any of the transcripts. I've read
12 the transcripts of the police logs.

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Take your time, sir. If you want to grab
14 some water too.

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** This is a point of issue for me. There
16 was two people, two officers, that had mentioned that. I've asked DOJ lawyers, I've
17 asked NPF lawyers how they know it. They spotted it -- and when I listened back -- I'm
18 sorry. When I read back on the transcripts, there's two officers that commented about
19 that push bar. The ones on the Colchester. I think it was somewhere around the
20 Wentworth shooting. And there's another member later on at East Hants that
21 mentioned it. I didn't hear it either time. I wish I -- this is one of those regrets. If that
22 had have been pointed out, told to me, then we could have done an all-radio broadcast,
23 gave members a heads up, because if we had any cars, and I don't think we do, on the
24 road, we could have pulled them off. We could have -- and it would have made a big
25 difference because Cst MacDonald would have had a heads up when he drove on to
26 that vehicle and he saw the push bar in Wentworth.

27 And from that point forward, we don't know how things could have
28 changed, because it only takes one difference. I have to live with that. And I've lived

1 with it for two plus years. There's other members that have had to live with that same
2 thing for two plus years. It's not an easy thing to have to -- I didn't know it. I didn't see
3 it. I'm not blaming anybody, they might not -- they might have been wrong too. It might
4 not have been a push bar, the other way, we might have been looking for something
5 that wasn't there. It was. But I wish -- if that hadn't been known, we could have put an
6 announcement out there in regards to this and "Everybody, make sure you're looking for
7 -- the vehicle you're looking for has a push bar on the front."

8 And Cst MacDonald, he saw the vehicle travel past him, but he
9 didn't catch it until he passed him and then the guy smiled at him, is what I remember
10 reading in that transcript. Well you could see this black bar from the front very clearly
11 and he would have had as long as the long of sight as to give him a heads up to kind of
12 register it, figure out what's going on, and from that point decide how to engage. It
13 wasn't heard.

14 Two people did say it.

15 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much, Staff
16 Sergeant. I'm just going to leave it this way with you, if you feel like you want a break,
17 just let us know.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No. That's fine. No thank you. I'm
19 sorry.

20 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** No. No need to be sorry. You
21 just -- if you want a break, then you can have it, and if you want to keep going, ---

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No, no.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- you can keep going, ---

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I'm fine.

25 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- Mr. Briers.

26 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Thank you, Staff Sergeant for your
27 candor and I'm very sorry for your loss.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No. No. It's -- I live with that every

1 day, sir.

2 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** But just so you know where I'm coming
3 from, ---

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

5 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** --- where I'm coming from is my concern
6 that if there was an active shooter in Nova Scotia tomorrow, I don't know what systems
7 are in place to make sure that the information that's obtained early on, and that there's
8 continuity in the flow of that information. So that's really what I'm trying to get at, is I'm
9 just picking different pieces of information that didn't seem to make its way through the
10 chain.

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

12 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Like for example, the Lisa Banfield, the
13 fact that she emerged from the woods at 6:30 and unfortunately you weren't even
14 apprised of that until 7:30? Is that ---

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Might even have been a little later than
16 that.

17 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Might even have been later. So that's an
18 hour you as Risk Manager are not even aware of that important detail.

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

20 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So what I want to do is I just want to
21 bring up a CAD file ---

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

23 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** --- for -- I'll use Glenholme sorry, I
24 won't say the address. We'll keep that protected for their privacy. But it's a Glenholme
25 address. It's where the perpetrator was observed at roughly 9:50 that morning. And
26 that's part of the exchange. And I'm going to look at just the content that is noted in the
27 CAD files and -- to see what you, as a Risk Manager, are actually seeing.

28 So and just to back up though, like I understand from your earlier

1 comments that, for example, you're not hearing the 9-1-1 calls, Staff Sergeant, ---

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

3 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** --- are you, when the calls are coming

4 in?

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** They're on a different side of the suite.

6 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. When it was at its old location,

7 but that's since changed?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. So the way the set up is now, if
9 you haven't seen it, let's use this as an example. That side of the row would be call
10 take. The Risk Manager would sit where the T.V. monitors are and then this side, the
11 whole section is dispatch. And there's -- call take is divided on the first -- the tables
12 over there, and then dispatch. And the Risk Manager and the supervisor for the OCC
13 kind of sit up on a podium above those two areas and you can -- with T.V. screens and
14 such around. So it's I guess good and bad. I mean, sometimes there's too much
15 chatter when you have a whole bunch of -- 9-1-1 can get very erratic and very crazy.
16 So sometimes it can be a bit problematic, but overall, you have a better understanding
17 of -- you can hear the calls coming in, because you hear one side of the conversation,
18 not both sides, but one side. So you almost have like a preview of where the file is
19 going to go and what's necessary on that file. So does that make sense?

20 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah, it does. Thank you. And just so
21 I'll start there at the call taking process. So I understand from other evidence that there
22 is a way you can actually listen to the entry of the 9-1-1 call, but what I'm hearing is that
23 it's just not something that's normally done?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I've never listened to a -- not in three
25 and a half/four -- almost four years. I never ever listened to them. I could go over there
26 and sit with them and -- but I've never done that, no.

27 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Would it be the technology or would it
28 just be -- so why would that be the case?

1 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's above my understanding.

2 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay.

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It's not my knowledge, based on that.

4 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. And I'm just wondering, like, in a
5 case where, for example, if someone is wondering about whether it's a mental health
6 call, if it may help to be able to go back and listen to the actual 9-1-1 call?

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Oh, can you listen to it?

8 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yes.

9 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Oh, yes, there is a means to go back
10 and replay them, yes. All those lines are recorded, so there is a means to go back and
11 do it. I don't have access -- I don't have the codes to do it, but I could ask one of the
12 dispatchers, the supervisor, to go back and play it. Yes, for sure.

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I misunderstood you there. My
15 apologies.

16 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. That's fine. So what I'm
17 suggesting is perhaps it would be helpful, as part of what recommendations participants
18 may make to the Commissioners for their consideration, that perhaps listening to 9-1-1
19 calls, having the ease of use, ease of access, when issues such as mental health are
20 being questioned, to be able to go back and listen, conveniently, easily, to the 9-1-1
21 call? Would that -- do you think that would be something of assistance?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** As long as time avails itself, you know.

23 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Right.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So if you look at what would have been
25 -- I'll use the night before. I wasn't there, so I have no idea exactly what went on, but I
26 can just imagine, it would be a very busy time for myself or S/Sgt Rehill to go over and
27 start listening to 9-1-1 calls when there's a lot of other things that have to be done.

28 Now, is it important to do? Yeah, it would be good to get it kind of

1 straightened away and look at that, but in the big scheme of things -- and I'm just going
2 -- I'm also being the Devil's advocate of what you're saying, is you also have the time
3 and luxury to do that. It still takes you away from doing other things, and if you're there
4 by yourself, then it's -- then it can be a problem.

5 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** I guess my point is that it might help
6 alleviate some concerns, for example, that it's a nuisance call as opposed to a real call
7 requiring police assistance. That was my thought.

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, and the dispatchers and call-
9 takers, and I say dispatch because that's how they call themselves, but they can -- they
10 can go in and access those things and they often go back in and listen to it to see if they
11 missed something and play it. So it can be done. I didn't do it. I normally relied on
12 others to do that for me because you had to have -- unless it's used and it's something
13 all the time, it's something that you're uncomfortable with, so it was easier to get one of
14 the supervisors or whoever was on that call-taker/dispatch channel to go back and play
15 it to you. It would be -- I have -- I have done that before, so -- on recordings to see if I
16 could pick out a name or a phone number or whatever the circumstances are, so... But
17 it is important to understand that and the information coming in, for sure.

18 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay.

19 So Madam Registrar, if we can pull 36244. And what we're -- just
20 please protect the parts that don't compromise the occupants' privacy.

21 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** And Commissioners,
22 that hasn't been marked as an exhibit.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

24 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. Yeah, so just above the subject
25 line. So this is the Glenholme, Highway 4 CAD report that was created. So with this,
26 and I'm just using this as an example because you were on as Risk Manager at the
27 time, and just to get a better sense of how information is being collected and
28 disseminated. So this is what you're receiving by way of information from the call-taker

1 or dispatch?

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, it wouldn't look -- it wouldn't look
3 like that on the CAD screen, but probably -- that's what they're covering off when they
4 do these -- these complaints come in.

5 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. So for example, we know just in --
6 because we have the benefit also of looking at the 9-1-1 tapes as well. So we know
7 from the 9-1-1 tapes that it wasn't just subject, a complaint, and a marked car in her
8 yard, but that there was information about the fact that the person, the subject, was
9 actually in a police uniform, and there were further, what I would suggest, relevant
10 particulars. So was that -- so I'm just confirming, the information that you're obtaining ---

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I would have -- I would have heard that
12 he had a uniform on in a marked vehicle at that -- on that call. So ---

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay.

14 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- I remember that on the radio, the
15 radio dispatch.

16 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Oh, you would have heard that from the
17 COMMs itself?

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** From the COMMs, yeah.

19 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay, I'd have to look at the COMMs. I
20 don't know if the -- if the uniform part was in the COMMs itself.

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And I'm -- maybe I'm wrong too on that,
22 but I remember hearing about the -- like the car, the marked vehicle, like he had a gun
23 with him. I want to say there was a -- COMM -- my memory is that there was mention of
24 a uniform, but I'm not 100-percent sure.

25 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Okay. So here -- here's my point. So
26 let's say you go off shift, next Risk Manager assumes control, this is one of a hundred
27 details that, let's say, you don't update the Risk Manager on this particular incident.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

1 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So the Risk Manager goes and sees the
2 CAD file and sees, "subject, a complaint, in marked car in her yard", and if the Risk
3 Manager didn't have the COMMs on, wouldn't have known the other information about
4 what you're suggesting you heard, which is the uniform and so on. So my question is is
5 there ways to improve the written record to help the dissemination of information?

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I -- I'd have to see. This does not look
7 like a normal CAD event to me, how this is laid out, sir. So I don't -- I -- I'd have -- if this
8 is, this doesn't look how I would normally see it with the classification, name, subject. If
9 there was information like that, it should be passed on mouth-to-mouth or written down
10 in regards to something on that.

11 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** In the CAD file? Written down in the
12 CAD file?

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** In -- now, again, it all goes to time. So if
14 it's not written -- if -- normally, the dispatcher is constantly typing into these CAD events.
15 So the initial reception of that document or that call, especially in this particular case,
16 because of the nature of the gunshot just before this, or a murder just before this, so
17 they're getting that call over to dispatch in order to get members moving on that -- on
18 that story.

19 But they can still add -- I can still type into that CAD event real time
20 as it's going through the course of being dispatched. And so I would hope that they
21 would continue to update that within that CAD event or via word of mouth through the
22 dispatcher, the call-taker tell the dispatcher he's also got a uniform and that would be
23 handed off.

24 The dispatchers are exceptionally well at typing. They're very good
25 typists and they can keep up to that. I'm not the greatest typist, so I'm a pecking -- a
26 hunt and peck on -- in some ways, but I'm quick. But these ladies and guys are very
27 quick with regards to it and they normally update the file religiously as part of their
28 training. So if that's the only thing typed on there, I'd be -- I'm surprised I wouldn't see

1 more updates after that fact. So it should be updated on there, and the dispatchers are
2 normally very good at updating it. It's not the -- not necessarily the Risk Managers that
3 would update that, that would be their role as they're going through, they're listening,
4 and they're typing and they're listening.

5 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah.

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. Is there a better way to do it than
7 that? No, I -- it's like real time typing on the file. I'm saying I won't go back to the
8 10 o'clock one and start entering notes on it because it's labour intensive to go back to
9 10 o'clock, add up the CAD. I can go into the PROS event and a supp report and add
10 that right in there right away, like a supplementary report I should say, and I can do that,
11 but to go back and add typing as I'm going, it -- it's just not conducive to making things
12 flow and still receive any information that's coming in at the same time this is coming in.

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So how do you make sure that your
14 successor has the same information that you have if it's not written down?

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Well, I wouldn't rely on the whole CAD
16 event as my gospel. I'd make sure that that was passed on. If I was looking for a guy
17 with a marked vehicle in uniform, whoever replaced me would be told "We're looking for
18 a guy with a marked -- a marked vehicle and a uniform on, a police uniform."

19 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** So through oral communications then?

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. Or email if it -- or like it -- if it
21 were me, I -- I mean, nobody's going to leave the office if this is on the go in regards
22 until you have a conversation about it. So this information, I would never leave without
23 making sure somebody had that information if it was me working in -- as a Risk
24 Manager to that. The CAD event is a -- is a great thing to have for information, but it --
25 it's not everything. I mean, you still have to -- we're in the dispatch centre, we don't see
26 everything that happens out on the road either. So you're only told what you're told. It
27 doesn't mean that members out on the road in their police cars don't have more
28 information that we're just not privy to because they may not have said it on the radio or

1 told anybody. So that's -- you're always going to have that little disconnect in things, but
2 the way that the dispatchers enter this information on a CAD event is they normally
3 enter pretty everything the person's saying, they type it in as they're going with it in
4 relation to that. So I don't know if that helps to answer that or not, but ---

5 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yes, that's fine. Thanks.

6 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- that's kind of my understanding of it.

7 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Thanks. And I'll move on. Thank you for
8 your -- for your answers on that. A question just about you had indicated, I believe, that
9 this is the first time you've seen a patch applied to the COMMs channels?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

11 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Oh no?

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** All channels patched together.

13 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Sorry, that's what I mean, all channels
14 patched together. And my question is simply how did it work? How did you find the
15 patching worked for -- to -- as a response to a mass casualty event?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So we -- anytime working as a Risk
17 Manager it happens all the time where you might patch East Hants and Colchester
18 because they're working on a common thing, either in the border of East Hants or the
19 border of Colchester County. So it happens all the time with detachments. The -- doing
20 it, the whole geographic province, I've never seen it. I'm saying they can do it, yes, but
21 it's -- it worked well, but you can't leave it open like that all the time because of too many
22 people then have an access to a radio channel then. So -- yeah.

23 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. Okay, and finally, my final
24 question is just about seeing containment after, after this mass casualty event. So
25 would that still be -- would seeing containment after a mass casualty event be an
26 objective?

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** You're asking me in relation to that?

28 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yes, yes, seeing containment of a -- of a

1 site, of a crime scene after?

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I don't know if that's for me to answer in
3 relation to that. Like seeing containment is important in every -- in every incident, so it's
4 -- but is that something that -- who is looking at? Is it I'm looking at or is it someone
5 else?

6 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. Well, perhaps, I'll just give you
7 some actual facts and I'll tell you exactly what the concern is of the -- of the Bond family.

8 So on April 19th, after this event, roughly three o'clock, we received
9 a photograph from someone that was able to drive down Brown Loop, so 3:00 p.m. on
10 the 19th, this was before the Bonds were discovered on Cobequid Court, and I provided
11 them to the Commission, but they could drive down Brown Loop and actually took a
12 picture of the blueberry field road, which would be the way to access Cobequid Court.
13 So the family was very concerned that this, to them, meant that there was not scene
14 containment before their parents were actually discovered. So that's why I had a
15 general question to you about scene containment, and perhaps if you have knowledge
16 about scene containment after this event in Portapique itself, you could use that
17 knowledge to answer this question.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. It wasn't my responsibility for
19 scene containment in relation to this file, so I can't answer that question for you. I
20 wouldn't know what was happening in Portapique for scene containment.

21 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Who would that question be for do you
22 think?

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Whoever was at Portapique and
24 supervising that site. I mean, everybody was assigned different locations, I'm assuming
25 from that, but, again, I'd never had any involvement with scene containment. I'd move
26 people around and bring them -- send them to areas, but it wasn't my responsibility to
27 oversee scene containment. Could be Major Crime or whatever.

28 **MR. JOSHUA BRYSON:** Yeah. Thank you very much for your

1 time.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No problem.

3 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Mr. Bryson.

4 Ms. Lenehan?

5 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. JANE LENEHAN:**

6 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Good afternoon, Staff Sergeant Rehill --
7 sorry, Briers. My name is Jane Lenehan and I represent the Goulet family. I just have
8 two questions. And it might help to refer to your statement, page 57. So I think down
9 the bottom half of the page, please.

10 So I just want to ask you about Versadex and PROS. So they're
11 both police records management software; correct?

12 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

13 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** And do I understand it correctly that we use
14 two in the province? We use PROS outside of HRM and Versadex is HRP and Halifax
15 RCMP; is that correct?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And there's another version of Versadex
17 down in Cape Breton Regional Police Services area. I don't think it's called Versadex.
18 It's -- but it's another version of a Versadex program. I don't know if it's Prime or ---

19 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** All right.

20 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- someone else can correct me on
21 that, but I ---

22 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** So we have three software programs for
23 police ---

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** To my knowledge, yeah.

25 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** --- okay, in this province. So you seem to
26 be expressing some frustration in your interview that as a risk manager you don't have
27 access to both. You have to call Halifax and get them to access Versadex?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So you can -- and I think I probably said

1 this in this interview. You can get certain parts of Versadex, if I search a name, I can
2 get certain parts of a file. I can't get the whole file. It's the same as them. If HRP or
3 RCMP in the city that doesn't have PROS, they could search a name. They'll get the
4 front end of a file, but they won't get all the details and the connectors to that file. You
5 have to call and ask for that information. So, yes, since I got there in 2017, I was an
6 advocate to have Versadex to my -- no, how do I answer -- to get Versadex on the risk
7 manager's computer. Reason being is that it's a great database that people that do
8 crimes in Halifax don't stay in Halifax. They travel, and vice versa. So I don't see why
9 we wouldn't have access to that database, which has pictures, records of people. They
10 have connectors of individuals. Because in the risk manager role, knowledge is very
11 beneficial. And so the more information you have, the -- why wouldn't you have it?
12 That's -- it's totally logical in this day and age that we wouldn't operate either on the
13 same system or have access to the other system directly so.

14 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** So for the purposes of this Commission
15 then, is the ideal solution that the risk managers can access both, or that we just have
16 one system that everybody uses?

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Well, I can't answer that second part of
18 that right there because that's -- now I know -- see, I've been gone since May, so I can't
19 say definitively. I know it was being moved ahead with getting Versadex provided to the
20 risk managers. I just can't say if we have it -- they have it yet. But I was a proponent of
21 getting it since I got on that unit in 2017 because I could see the value for it. There's --
22 it's a good program, easy to use, and it gives you lots of people that you can check on,
23 and you can check on real time. I don't have to make a phone call. I don't have to wait
24 for someone to get back to me with the information.

25 So that -- but the second part of that, go to one program that
26 everybody -- that's -- I can't answer that. They didn't do it in the first place, so I'm not
27 sure what's going to change that down the road but ---

28 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** I'm just wondering, from a user's

1 perspective, do you think it would be better just to have one system in the province? I'm
2 not asking you as a decision maker. I'm just saying, if you had your ideal situation as a
3 risk manager, would there be one system?

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

5 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Okay. The other question I wanted to ask
6 you relates to the comment that you've made a number of times both in your statement,
7 and I was referring to about the middle of the page on page 43. And you mentioned it
8 again today, that on April 19th, 2020, as a risk manager, you felt that it was, like, drinking
9 through a firehose ---

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

11 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** --- in terms of the information coming in, I
12 assume, about this entire incident.

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah. From start of getting to the call to
14 once I got to the office, the phones and the radios never stopped ringing. I've had -- I
15 had times I had three phones ringing, the work phone, the desk phone, and my risk
16 manager cell phone. So it's -- yeah, it was a busy day.

17 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** It sounds like it was quite chaotic.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, yeah.

19 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** So two years on, after what I'm sure has
20 been an awful lot of reflection, do you have any suggestions or solutions in terms of
21 better information dissemination and flow to the people who needed it? I know that's a
22 big question, so ---

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, it is a big question. I feel like I
24 provided the information that I got in a timely manner to the people that needed that
25 information. I can't speak for others because I wasn't there. It's easy to judge as to
26 things -- why stuff -- maybe information didn't get shared. I use an example. There was
27 internal messages that were sent to me that I never had the opportunity to read. So
28 within the CIIDS system, there's an email that's outside, that's outside of, but there's

1 also internal messages that I had internal messages sent to me that I never had the
2 luxury to go read until post-him being killed. And some of them would have been
3 beneficial to know beforehand, and some of them would have been of no consequence.
4 But I can tell you, the biggest thing that is if people have information, it's too late to call
5 after the bad incident happens. You somehow got to figure out how to get the courage
6 to call before this guy got on the go. Because there's lots of things that people want to
7 tell us once he started killing everybody, but some of those things would have been nice
8 to know the day before, two days before, a week before, when he took \$500,000 out of
9 his account, and people were concerned.

10 Now, is it -- I'm judging again, but it's easy for me to say that for
11 people that are close to that fellow that unless somebody does something with him, that
12 he's going to cause some problems for them, and so that's the dilemma that they would
13 be in. So it's not easy to get bad people off the street that are really, truly bad
14 individuals unless they really do bad things, they get themselves in a lot of trouble. And
15 so when they get out, they're going to cause problems for them. So I imagine a lot of
16 people didn't say anything because of that fear, but that's where it starts. It starts from
17 day one from the people that knew what he had and didn't do anything about it.

18 And we talked about earlier about the police car. I didn't think it
19 was possible for someone to acquire a fully marked police car. That took a long time to
20 register that with me, to figure out that that even was possible. I didn't know how it
21 could happen. But I can tell you, I worked in the police force for 32 years in Halifax. I
22 can count on -- in the last 18 years, less than 5 times I took a police car out, a marked
23 unit. I don't want them in my yard. For people to know he had a marked car and not tell
24 anybody, that's huge. And most of my neighbours don't know what I do for a living
25 unless they know me. So why would you want a police car? Like -- so I'm going off
26 topic for you, but ---

27 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** No, that's okay.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- the information starts from well

1 before the police got involved.

2 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** And ---

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** And then if the Critical Incident
4 Command -- my job is to make sure they have the information they have to make for the
5 decisions they're going to do. And so not everything has to come back to the risk
6 manager unless it's coming back to me to do something on that. So that's -- well, is
7 there a way to fix that? No, because we got humans involved in this process and
8 there's no way to easily convey information. This particular case, we are close to where
9 the OCC was, but it could be in Cheticamp the next time, and so we're a long distance
10 away. You have to rely on the people that are down that way to kind of make the
11 decisions on those things, and hopefully the information that's necessary for if I need to
12 help them with something, it's there...

13 Doe that answer it, I guess, or...?

14 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** I think so.

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Way off the script, but sorry. I
16 apologize.

17 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** That's all right. Thank you.

18 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Ms. Lenehan.
19 Ms. Mancini?

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, Commissioner MacDonald. I
21 believe there is one question of re-direct from NPF.

22 However, just as one housekeeping note, I think I should ask to
23 mark and tender the document that was put to S/Sgt. Briers by my friend Mr. Bryson.
24 That was COMM0036244. I wonder if we could exhibit that?

25 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That will be Exhibit
26 1623.

27 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 1623:**

28 (COMM0036244) CAD event, PDF

1 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you.

2 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

3 Ms. Nijhawan?

4 (SHORT PAUSE)

5 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I'm sorry for the logistics there.

6 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:**

7 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** S/Sgt. Briers, my friend Mr. Bryson
8 asked you a question about the CAD log in respect of a particular incident, and I believe
9 that you told him that the document you saw on the screen didn't resemble what you
10 would have seen at the time. It's just something that I would like to clear up, so I'm
11 going to ask the Registrar to bring forward the COMM number 3717. And I've forgotten
12 the exhibit number; she already just told me. I'm sorry, Madam Registrar.

13 One four seven one; Exhibit 1471.

14 (SHORT PAUSE)

15 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I'm wondering if we can, Madam, just
16 scroll right to the top of this document. I think there's something visible above that.

17 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Excuse me,
18 Commissioners. I believe there's an address that shouldn't be shown on the screen ---

19 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Oh, I'm sorry.

20 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** --- on the top.

21 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** That's the reason, okay. My apologies.

22 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** So just taking a look at this document,
23 S/Sgt. Briers, is this more -- does this more closely resemble the type of information that
24 you would see yourself?

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Not really.

26 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it -- I'm assuming, and I -- this looks
28 like it came off the PROS side of the CAD event.

1 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So there would be -- it kind of explains
3 that -- how this vehicle, 2Alpha3, was dispatched at such and such. But there's a
4 running narrative that you can put within that.

5 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Yeah.

6 So, Madam Registrar, can I ask you to scroll to the very end of the
7 document on page 5?

8 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** There, okay.

9 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** It's an issue again with the address. If
10 we start at the bottom of page 4, I think it's okay.

11 I'm sorry; I didn't anticipate this issue. This is on the -- all through,
12 okay.

13 Well, I'm not sure. This is an exhibit; it's on the website. It's been
14 exhibited in this format. I'm not sure what the...

15 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay. Go ahead, Ms.
16 Nijhahawan.

17 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I'm just looking for some direction as to
18 how to deal with this issue. I'm looking on my screen at the version of the document
19 that's currently posted on the Commission website

20 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** It's -- you're looking at a public-
21 facing document?

22 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I am.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay. Go right ahead, then.

24 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** But I'd like to show the witness the
25 document, I suppose is the issue.

26 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yes.

27 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

28 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah.

1 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I may do that?
2 Thank you, Madam Registrar. Starting from page 5. Thank you.
3 So does this resemble the running narrative that you've just
4 mentioned?

5 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. Yeah.

6 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** And I understand that there's different
7 components to the narrative that we see. I believe -- and you can correct me if I'm
8 wrong -- that we're looking at, it runs up in chronological order. So there's a timestamp
9 at the beginning?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, on the CAD it runs the other
11 direction, but this is a PROS -- the backend of the PROS file that would show how the
12 event unfolded.

13 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** So with respect to the call -- there were
14 two calls, I understand, from Glenholme. Does that -- is that what you remember?

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** My memory is that there was two. I
16 think they created two CAD events, if my -- if that sounds right too, ---

17 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- now that you mention it.

19 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** So there would have been two call
20 takers receiving that information on the two calls?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I can't say for sure that, but possibly
22 there would be two call takers, yes, there would be. It depended on if they called the
23 same -- if they called at the same time there would -- definitely would be. They may not
24 know the other person's taking the call.

25 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** And is the call taker's name, what we
26 see there under "User"?

27 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes, so that would be dispatcher, I
28 believe, Sherry Doiron.

1 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

2 And if we scroll up, Madam Registrar, ---

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** S. Doiron is the user there, yeah.

4 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I start to see here, if I'm looking -- I just
5 like to see the whole -- the bottom half of the page, Madam Registrar, just from the
6 bottom. Yeah, thank you so much.

7 If we start from the bottom, we see Ms. Doiron's name, and then we
8 see Ms. Dill's name. Is that the dispatcher?

9 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes. So Tara Dill was the dispatcher
10 on that particular morning yeah.

11 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay. And as we move up, I see
12 another user at 9:50:59, N-J-o-y-c.

13 I'm sorry, Madam Registrar, can you stop scrolling? I'll just deal
14 with what's on the screen. Thanks so much.

15 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So I'm terrible with names.

16 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But I believe that's Nathan Joyce.

18 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Okay.

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** But is a different -- if it is -- now, I
20 believe he was on dispatch because he would have been a newer dispatcher, if I'm
21 correct with the name there. I don't know last names very well. There's a lot of people
22 to remember here, so...

23 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** And as I'm looking at this document, I
24 believe you told my friend that you had heard about a police uniform at some point
25 during this event?

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

27 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** And I'm looking here at 9:50:59.

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

1 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** Is that the information that would have
2 been available to you at the time?

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** It would have been what had been
4 broadcast over the radio in regards to that.

5 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** And that's, "SOC dressed in police
6 outfit"?

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah.

8 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** And is this -- is this what would be
9 available to you as a Risk Manager, this narrative, in respect of the Glenholme call?

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** If I was to read it, but I remember
11 hearing this at the time so it wouldn't have been necessary to go back and read it
12 afterwards. So that side, it's in the dispatch so it's right across from me. Like, the
13 person that's dealing with that is right across from me at the table, so...

14 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** I believe the question that was asked to
15 you by my friend was about what would be available to the next Risk Manager in
16 respect of this call, if they had to call it up.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

18 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** So the document that you had looked at
19 with Mr. Bryson wasn't what would have been available to you, but is this the
20 information -- you're saying this is on the PROS side, but the same information ---

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

22 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** --- would have been available in the
23 CAD?

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- whatever's typed in on the CAD side
25 goes over to PROS at the other -- when it's transferred over, so...

26 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** So just so I'm clear, you were asked
27 earlier what information would have been available in respect of this call to the next Risk
28 Manager; how that information would be transmitted. Fair to say that this information

1 would be available ---

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** For sure, to go back and read it, yes.

3 **MS. NASHA NIJHAWAN:** --- to the -- thank you very much.

4 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

5 Ms. Mancini?

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, Commissioners. Those are the
7 questions for this witness today. That would conclude witness's participation.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

9 Commissioner Fitch?

10 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you.

11 And thank you, S/Sgt. Briers. Really appreciate you sharing with us
12 today, and I know that there's a lot of pain points in your recall of the events, so we
13 really appreciate your work.

14 Some of the questions I have are just points of clarification from
15 what I heard today, and some of them I'll be asking you just kind of with the forward-
16 looking lens, things that you might be able to help us think about going forward, in terms
17 of improvements and recommendations.

18 I understood from earlier going into the Risk Manager's job, that
19 there was no formal training for that particular role?

20 There isn't a course you have to take ---

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No.

22 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- to pass or ---

23 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Not that I'm aware of.

24 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** But I understand though accumulation
25 of courses over your career, your experience, would position you for risk manager?

26 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Now I think some asked me was that
27 ICIR course, that initial critical Incident Response, that may be a prerequisite to there.
28 I'm not 100 percent sure.

1 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** I already had it, so it wasn't something I
3 needed to acquire.

4 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Great. Thank you. And I ask this just
5 with the forward-looking lens. When you transitioned into that role, was there any type
6 of job shadowing with a predecessor to kind of get you accustomed to that?

7 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** There was. I was -- I said a couple
8 days, but it was probably three or four days I worked a block of shifts with him in relation
9 -- well, the person I was replacing. So it worked out well because it is -- the longer
10 you're there, the better you get at that particular job, because it's -- you understand the
11 systems, you understand the policies that you can access, so where to find things. And
12 knowing where to find things is huge to help the members on the front line, so.

13 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you. You'd mentioned,
14 and these are a little scattered back and forth based on the questions so bear with me
15 as I go from one topic to another. You had mentioned at one point that you usually do
16 some form of an end of shift report that goes out to supervisors that they can share with
17 members on the road and can also go to managers?

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct.

19 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Is there a specific -- and you may have
20 already answered this, but is there a specific form or report? Or is, you know, more
21 informal by way of email, phone call, verbal face-to-face in passing?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No, so it's an email. So it's a PDF
23 document. We call it the Risk Manager Shift Report. So it would cover the period of
24 that day. So from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. the next day, or depending on what time the
25 risk manager went off. And it's sent via email to all upper management, all district line
26 officers, like anybody for, let's say, the superintendent that's in charge of Colchester
27 County, the inspector, the two DANCOs, the two District NCOs, as well as every NCO --
28 I say NC -- sergeant or staff sergeant.

1 I usually -- so if I knew -- for me, I don't know if it's a process, but if
2 I saw Cpl John Smith was working in Colchester on Friday night and I was doing the
3 report on Saturday morning at 7:00 before I went home, I would include Cpl John Smith
4 on that Risk Management Report because it's him that I'm directly reporting on, if it's a
5 file that came in to Colchester County on that night. So I try to include the corporals into
6 that report as well.

7 It goes to Media, it goes to -- there's a lot of people that get that file
8 -- that report. Now, Halifax Watch Commanders have access to that report. Many of
9 the supervisors out of Halifax as well. Not all supervisors out of Halifax would get it,
10 probably. Media. Polygraph section gets it now. Fed sections that deal with -- I
11 shouldn't say fed sections. Provincial sections like ICE, Child Porn, they wouldn't --
12 they -- some of them would get that report. If it's anything contained within the file that's
13 relevant to a certain section, they often were included in that report because at least
14 they'd have a forward -- a little bit of a heads up that there was something coming to
15 them or they may want to have involvement in.

16 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. And is that a standard practice
17 across the province with all Risk Managers or is that your own personal ---

18 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** No, everybody, every day, at the end of
19 the shift, a Risk Manager shift report goes out.

20 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So that would serve as a form of a
21 briefing?

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Correct, yeah.

23 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** On certain files. Like so domestics had
25 to go on there, missing persons, sudden deaths, and then other files of significance,
26 sexual assaults, if there was an armed robbery, that would go on there, just something
27 that may garner some press. Serious motor vehicle accident where there's a fatal and
28 roads were closed.

1 It wasn't everything that happened over night, but it was, like, a
2 good snapshot of the more serious things ---

3 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

4 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- that can be problematic, so.

5 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you. I understood you to say that
6 as a risk manager, you fill a number of roles, mentoring advice, resources, and fill in
7 when there's an absence of supervisor on the road, a road supervisor out in the field.
8 And I'm asking you for an estimation, which I'm not sure is fair or not. So in your best
9 recollection, is it often that the members don't have a road supervisor and that that
10 responsibility falls to the Risk Manager?

11 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So by -- are we talking Monday to
12 Friday 8:00 to 4:00 or are we talking every other time other than that? Or all the time?
13 So it's a tough question to answer because of the logistics.

14 So with the district policing, so I'll use -- let's use Lunenberg as an
15 example. Lunenberg has a staff sergeant, two sergeants, and if everything is up to
16 strength, four corporals. So each watch has a corporal.

17 Now, if the corporal's off for vacation, more often than not, one of
18 the senior members or the constables there would be told that they're the team leader,
19 the acting supervisor for that area.

20 So that -- let's say on a Friday night you have, or a Saturday night,
21 you have -- normally there would be a corporal and five or six constables in the
22 Lunenberg County. There may be five or six constables and no corporal, but one of
23 them is acting as a team lead.

24 So does that mean I have to get involved as a Risk Manager in
25 everything they're dealing with? No. They can handle whatever they need to handle
26 and if they have a question, they can ask for a direction on it. Or if I hear of something
27 that's happening, I'll listen and see if there's something I need to get involved in. We
28 don't normally step in unless there's something that's -- maybe some direction may be

1 needed added to it or they call for direction.

2 So did you ask me how often -- man, that's a tough question. So
3 the district concept, it's a lot less likely to happen because Yarmouth has supervisor.
4 But it all depends on how many supervisors. Like, I'll say New Minas, very rarely do
5 they not have some corporal on in the night time, like a supervisor. But in Meteghan,
6 there's a sergeant and a corporal and they're not working 24/7. So there's often that
7 you have nobody as a supervisor there. So they may call, or they may go to Yarmouth
8 County and ask for direction if there's a supervisor working there. They may not
9 necessarily come to the Risk Manager for further direction on something. So it's way
10 too complicated of a file. We don't often -- we don't have to get involved in everything
11 that's going on. We just get involved if there's a need to get involved in something
12 that's happening to it.

13 And it's another safeguard for the members because we take the
14 responsibility off them. Once we're told about it, we inherit it. And so we can protect
15 them to some degree. If we make the bad decision, then it's not ultimately them. It
16 happens to one of us. So.

17 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Just on this topic, when you have
18 somebody in an acting position, to your knowledge, do they have any type of training or
19 prerequisite that they need to fill an acting role? Or is it just kind of based on seniority,
20 experience?

21 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, it all depends. Each case is
22 different. Some officers that are constables have 30 years service ---

23 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** M'hm.

24 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- and have been around the block a
25 long time. So having chevrons, or having corporal, sergeant, or staff sergeant doesn't
26 make you the ultimately -- the real knowledge person. There's lots of constables that
27 have that ability as well.

28 And that's why I said when I went on to look at the board ---

1 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** M'hm.

2 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** --- on that CAD screen, I could see who
3 was working. It doesn't take long to figure out, because I -- with polygraph, the luxury is
4 I travel the province a lot, as polygraph. And now as a Risk Manager I don't travel
5 anymore, but I know people because -- and you can see how things unfold, and so you
6 have a little better confidence. There's lots of constables that I've worked and oversaw
7 as a Risk Manager that they don't need my help and guiding along that. but if they do,
8 then they can ask for it, or I can offer it if I think it's needed. So.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you. Spring boarding from a
10 question from Ms. Lenehan, one that I had written down, is relative to Versadex and
11 PROS, and I think you alluded to it in your answer, that the RCMP can access some of
12 the VERSADEX files with HRP, ---

13 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

14 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- but it only gets you so far into the file,
15 so would that be through the Police Information Portal?

16 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, that PIP portal. So I can even
17 access -- so in B.C., they have Prime as -- it's a Versadex program, to some degree, but
18 so it's a little different, but I can access -- if I run a name, I can get parts of it, but it's a
19 very -- you could see parts of the initial part of the file but you don't see the file. You
20 don't see the connectors.

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** You don't see all the other information
23 that you can glean from it if you had the file. And no different if HRP wants -- or if you
24 don't have -- if you're not an integrated unit where they don't have both computers, like,
25 or both systems, then you only can get one as well. They'd be in the same hoop that
26 they can get some of the file, but you can't get pictures. You can't get everything else
27 that's associated to that. It doesn't give you a full picture of that individual if you ---

28 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So that extra step that you took in

1 picking up the phone and calling is a huge benefit in a circumstance like that, to get that
2 ---

3 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** In that particular day, it probably didn't
4 mean anything because the information wasn't that beneficial, and it was way after the
5 fact. There was one of the files that was in there that you could tell there's an issue.
6 Like, it was an HRP parking file, and, like, it was bizarre. It's bizarre behaviour. One
7 normal human doesn't do that, and a businessperson type of thing. The file that I read,
8 that I'm referring to.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

10 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** So it -- would it have changed the
11 course of anything? Probably not. But I'm a firm believer, if there's information out
12 there, it should be at the person's hand that can best use it. In that particular role as a
13 risk manager, like, I like to have more information, especially when you get to pictures,
14 like, because they have access to pictures that we wouldn't have, and they -- and vice
15 versa because of PROS. They don't exchange that. And you can't get that on a PIP so.

16 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you.

17 The next question I have, and I'm sorry to ask you to revisit an
18 obvious ---

19 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Sure.

20 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- pain point for you, but I couldn't quite
21 hear your answer when you were talking about the push bar.

22 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yes.

23 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And unless it was captured on the
24 transcript or my fellow Commissioners heard it, what I thought I heard you say was that
25 there were two officers that had mentioned it, and had it been broadcast or shared, any
26 other car in the province with a push bar could have been pulled off. Did I hear that
27 correctly?

28 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Yeah, so -- and this is from reading the

1 transcripts after the fact this time last year, give or take. There was a member in
2 Colchester that I remember hearing talk about it on that channel, and a while later, it
3 was around the time that he would have already been out of Wentworth Debert, I heard
4 another east -- I shouldn't say that. I read another East Hants member talking about it.
5 And if somebody had -- if that had of been commented, if I had of known that, I said, I
6 could have had an all-channel broadcast and said, "If anybody has a vehicle that has a
7 push bar on it" -- I don't think we do. If we do, it'd be -- like, literally one or two. They'd
8 have to be old Crown Vics, and I'm talking the big, big vehicles, so there may be a
9 highway car somewhere that -- but we could easily have that removed from the road, if I
10 had of known that at the time. This was, again, not at the time. I had no knowledge of
11 the push bar. I didn't see that in that picture. But people that saw that vehicle knew the
12 -- there was a push bar, but it was never conveyed to me. And if it had of been, I wish I
13 had of done that. It'd have changed a lot.

14 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you. And I appreciate you
15 going back over that ground for us.

16 That's all the questions I have for you. Thank you.

17 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Thank you.

18 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Commissioner Stanton has no
19 questions and I have no questions for you, but I do want to thank you, you know, Staff
20 Sergeant Briers. We're dealing with difficult work, and that involves very difficult
21 conversations, and with the goal of making Nova Scotians and Canadians safer. So it's
22 very much appreciated that you came here today and gave us the information you gave
23 us because it's all part of the important work we're doing and we appreciate that. So
24 thank you again, and you're free to go, sir.

25 **S/SGT. BRUCE BRIERS:** Thank you.

26 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** So, some closing remarks. We
27 thank again Staff Sergeant Briers, appreciate him speaking with us today about these
28 details and answering our questions. Thank you, Participants. Thank you, Participant's

1 Counsel, and to our Commission Counsel for assisting is today as we heard from Staff
2 Sergeant Briers.

3 We note that some Participant's Counsel chose not to participate
4 today and that's unfortunate, because we would have valued their input as we have on
5 every other day of proceedings.

6 We just heard from yet another senior RCMP witness, as we have
7 heard from many. For two witnesses, Staff -- or Sergeant O'Brien and Staff Sergeant
8 Rehill, we have made accommodations, but we will still hear from them, get the
9 information we require, and make it publicly available.

10 As we said this morning, in attendance for this testimony will be us
11 as Commissioners, along with Commission Counsel, Participants, and their Counsel
12 who choose to attend, and accredited media. We are committed to our work and
13 getting all the information. We are here to make recommendations to help prevent
14 future mass casualties and we must continue that very important work. We will continue
15 to hear from additional senior RCMP officers involved in making command decisions in
16 addition to those already scheduled for this week. We will continue to hear from civilian
17 and institutional witnesses as needed, to provide more clarity about what happened and
18 why, and to continue to hear submissions from Participants about additional witnesses.

19 Tomorrow, we will hear from Staff Sergeant Al Carroll, the District
20 Commander for Colchester County, who will provide additional clarity around command
21 decisions during the mass casualty.

22 As always, a recording of today's proceedings will be available on
23 our website. So we offer thank you to everyone, and we will see you here tomorrow at
24 9:30. Thank you.

25 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. The
26 proceedings are adjourned until May the 26th, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

27 --- Upon adjourning at 3:02 p.m.

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CERTIFICATION

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I, Sandrine Marineau-Lupien, a certified court reporter, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate transcription of my notes/records to the best of my skill and ability, and I so swear.

Je, Sandrine Marineau-Lupien, une sténographe officiel, certifie que les pages ci-hautes sont une transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et je le jure.



Sandrine Marineau-Lupien