OPUS₂

MBR Acres Limited & Others v Free the MBR Beagles & Others

Day 8

May 5, 2023

Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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1	Friday, 5 May 2023	1	Q. So it says here that you've worked at the site for about
2	(10.30 am)	2	ten years, correct?
3	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Ms Bolton.	3	A. That is correct, yes.
4	MS BOLTON: My Lord, good morning. My Lord, I believe we	4	Q. And MBR bought the site in 2017 and you were working
5	need to go into private.	5	here before that, when it was previously owned by
6	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Yes. Right. I'm sorry, for the two	6	Harlan?
7	people at the back of the court, for about five minutes	7	A. Yes, I was.
8	I just need you to leave court. You can come back	8	Q. So you were there during the transition period,
9	immediately after that, all right? Thank you very much.	9	what's — it's been referred to as the transition
10	(Hearing in private)	10	period?
11	MS BOLTON: My Lord, we're just logging in LiveNote but I'm	11	A. That's correct, I was.
12	calling Employee G. Just so your Lordship knows, that's	12	Q. While we're dealing with that period, I gather from
13	at page 1521 in the bundle and Employee G is [redacted].	13	a number of witnesses that, in that transition period,
14	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you very much. Can you activate	14	there was a process called the transition where because
15	the screen, please?	15	Marshalls are a different company to the other
16	EMPLOYEE G (sworn)	16	companies, they had to make room for the new product and
17	Examination—in—chief by MS BOLTON	17	there was euthanasia of the old stock of dogs; is that
18	MS BOLTON: [Employee G], good morning. There should be	18	correct?
19	a document in front of you and it should be at page 1523	19	MS BOLTON: My Lord, you did say to Mr Curtin yesterday this
20	and it should say "First witness statement of	20	wasn't relevant and that's not what other witnesses have
21	Employee G".	21	said.
22	A. Yes, I've got that.	22	MR CURTIN: It's just to skirt round what I'm going to ask
23	Q. If you could please turn through to page 1544. Can you	23	him about, "Are you a puppy killer", that's all.
24	can just turn through the pages of the document until	24	MS BOLTON: There's been repeated attempts to ask this
25	you get to page 1544, please.	25	question, my Lord. We would say it's not relevant and
23	you get to page 1511, please.	2.5	question, my cord. We would say it s not relevant and
	1		3
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you're not protesting at the Wyton site, because you

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25 A. Yes.

- 1 don't know which employees were there back in the day
- 2 when Harlan were there. You're not protesting and
- 3 calling them puppy killers for what happened in
- 4 2012/2013 because you don't know which of the employees
- were there at that time. Your protest message is 5
- directed to them because of their current activities on 6
- 7 the site. It's as simple as that really.
- MR CURTIN: Okay. 8
- 9 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Isn't it?
- 10 MR CURTIN: To me it is an issue back then, that there was
- 11 on my case a mass killing by -- it's as if the potato
- 12 factory was taken over, new owners, and they got rid of 13
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I understand that but your protest 14
- 15 message at the current site is not directed at historic
- 16 acts, and because you don't know which of the employees
- 17 were there --

2.1

- 18 MR CURTIN: Correct
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Your message directed at the current 19
- 20 employees is because of their current employment on the
- site by MBR and what they do at that site. That's what 22 your message is about. So what you seem to be doing is
- 2.3 trying opportunistically to get in other evidence that
- 2.4 relates to earlier incidents of when dogs were killed.
- That's way away from the issue that you're dealing with

- 1 in these proceedings.
- 2 MR CURTIN: I understand. I understand the ruling and it
- 3 was an attempt by me to slightly explore the guidelines,
- just so I can say to him when you are called -- but this
- 5 man, I would call $\,--\,$ you know the line of questioning
- I'm going to call --6
- 7 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I know.
- MR CURTIN: And it has the same bearing whatever he does. 8
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Yes. 9
- 10 MR CURTIN: Let's deal with the topic now then, seeing as
- 11 we're on it. So you're a man with an extensive
 - experience in the animal experiments industry, yes?
- 13 A. Within the animal care industry.
- Q. Yes. So part of this evidence, we've heard about a lot 14
- 15 of shouting and name—calling. In the evidence against
- 16 me, I'll be pointing you to some videos, "Shame on you"
- and "Puppy killer". How does that feel for you, for 17
- 18 someone to be shouting "Shame on you" and "Puppy
- 19 killer "?

12

- 2.0 A. I'd say it was rather unpleasant, wouldn't you?
- 21 Q. I'd agree. No one wants to be called a puppy killer.
- 2.2 Are you a puppy killer?
- 23 A. No, I'm an animal care technician.
- 24 Q. Do you work for a company that does kill puppies?
- A. I wouldn't say they kill them, no

- 1 Q. What would you say then?
- A. Occasionally, under welfare grounds, they may need to be
- 3 euthanised.

7

- 4 Q. Only under welfare grounds?
- 5 A. As far as I'm -- ves.
- Q. That's what you're saying. You just said it. What goes 6
 - on inside MBR and other establishments where dogs go to
- 8 is not the issue here. The issue here is the right to
- 9 protest. So I'm unable to explore the last comment you
- 10 make, "Only on welfare grounds". Let's go to what I do
- 11 know, let's talk about -- are you aware that this
- 12 company holds a bleeding licence?
- 13 A. I am aware of that, yes.
- Q. And are you aware part of this project licence involves 14
- 15 procedures called the terminal bleeding procedure?
- 16 A. I'm aware of that, ves.
- 17 Q. So you said -- so let's -- so there's a clue in the
- 18 name, isn't there, "terminal"?
- 19 A. There is, ves.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.$ So a dog or a puppy goes in the room, it's the 20
- 2.1 procedures room here, does it -- if it's going to be
- 22 subjected to the terminal bleeding procedure, does the
- 2.3 dog come back out of that room?
- 2.4 A. The dogs do not come back from the terminal bleed, no.
- 2.5 Q. So when I asked you does this company kill puppies, you

- 1 said it does occasionally, only on welfare grounds,
- 2. would you like to change that answer?
- 3 A. They do it on welfare grounds but, yes, as part of the
- procedure for terminal bleed, the dog would be
- 5
- 6 Q. I need to push this a bit more. I put it to you that
- 7 Marshalls, the company you're -- well, you're employees
- 8 of MBR Acres, they're in business to sell $\,--\,$ two main
- 9 businesses. One, to sell dogs to laboratories, the
- 10 other is to sell dogs' blood. Is that your
- 11 understanding?
- 12 A. As a company, they do sell dogs' blood, yes.
- 13 Q. And isn't that the reason why -- isn't the reason why
- 14 the terminal bleeding procedure is carried out is in
- 15 order for Marshalls to sell the blood?
- 16 A. It is
- 17 Q. So tell me about the "only welfare grounds". I don't
- 18 understand your answer. Do you want to change your
- 19 answer? Only on welfare grounds generally but we do
- 2.0 have a bleeding licence and animals are euthanised as 2.1
- 2.2 a better answer?
- 23 Obviously not a better answer, no, but they are
- 2.4 euthanised on welfare grounds and as part of the
- 25 terminal bleed.

8

a result of that, for business purposes; would that be

1	MR CURTIN: Your Honour, can I ask for your assistance here	1	MS BOLTON: We'll find the part of the transcript, my Lord.
2	so I can move on? Because I'm not satisfied with the	2	To explain, because this is something that hasn't
3	answer as such. There's an incongruous $$ could you	3	been explored, there is something called blood dogs and
4	help me? Because I feel I'm going to get, "Mr Curtin,	4	they do not die. They give bloods which could help with
5	sit down" if I ——	5	other dogs, and that's normally how blood would be sold.
6	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: No, carry on. Let's see what Ms Bolton	6	That's —
7	wants to object to first .	7	MR CURTIN: Normally, if there was one $$
8	MS BOLTON: My Lord, that's exactly the answer that	8	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay, don't talk over each other.
9	Mr Curtin has been given before. There's no ambiguity	9	MR CURTIN: I apologise.
10	in that. It's really not relevant to what we're dealing	10	MS BOLTON: I just want to make this clear so it might help.
11	with. And he's now asking for the court to help him on	11	That's what the witnesses have been trying to explain to
12	questioning on something that, one, isn't relevant and,	12	Mr Curtin when they say it's welfare grounds, because
13	two, that's the exact answer he's been given before.	13	the only time it would be taken differently is where the
14	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I'm slightly $$ I don't necessarily	14	animal is going to be euthanised on welfare grounds
15	myself understand that dogs are only killed on welfare	15	anyway.
16	grounds but yet dogs do die as a result of the terminal	16	MR CURTIN: No.
17	bleeding procedure.	17	MS BOLTON: That's the point. Because they don't need to
18	MS BOLTON: Yes, and as other witnesses have explained,	18	otherwise. They can take it from a live dog.
19	that's the only time they're subject to that procedure.	19	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right.
20	That's the only time that happens. Because if you	20	MR CURTIN: My Lord, if I may?
21	recall, one of the witnesses explained that otherwise	21	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I can't answer that now because I need
22	the blood is taken from a live dog and the dog is kept	22	to see what Mr Hardy said. Okay?
23	alive. That's the only time it happens. That's been	23	MR CURTIN: Okay.
24	two witnesses' evidence already.	24	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You're not going to pursue this any
25	I don't know if Mr Curtin is not understanding or if	25	further. That is what the $$ we need to look at the
	9		11
1	he's trying to get a different answer, I'm not sure, but	1	evidence. Ask other questions of this witness.
2	that's been explored and that's what they've been	2	MR CURTIN: We can ask this man.
3	explaining. That's the point.	3	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I now understand his $$ well,
4	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Well, it's not altogether clear to me.	4	Employee G, you may have heard what's been being
5	Is the position that the dogs that are subject to	5	discussed here. Can you help me with explaining your
6	terminal bleeding would $$ are to be put down on welfare	6	answer that dogs are only euthanised on welfare grounds?
7	grounds in any event?	7	Am I to understand from that that your evidence is that
8	MS BOLTON: Yes.	8	where a dog is euthanised and blood is taken from them,
9	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right.	9	that's essentially for dogs that were going to be
10	MR CURTIN: This is a whole $$ that's a whole new $$	10	euthanised anyway?
11	MS BOLTON: That's exactly what Mr Hardy explained.	11	A. Generally that is the case, yes. We will always try and
12	MR CURTIN: You're entering stuff that I'm not going to be	12	select a dog that has underlying issues.
13	able to explore.	13	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: When you say "generally"
14	MS BOLTON: That's exactly what Mr Hardy was explaining.	14	A. It is not always the case.
15	MR CURTIN: No, it wasn't. That's not my understanding at	15	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: It is not
16	all .	16	A. It is not always the case.
17	MS BOLTON: It's in the transcript.	17	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Right, so it isn't. So there
18	MR CURTIN: No, this is new.	18	are occasions on which healthy dogs are euthanised for
19	MS BOLTON: It's not new and that's what this witness is	19	the purposes of collecting blood?
20	saying as well.	20	A. That is correct.
21	MR CURTIN: So they're going to put them down for veterinary	21	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right.
22	reasons and while we're at it —— that's not the bleeding	22	MR CURTIN: Thank you. We got there.
23	business, no. Animals are specially selected —	23	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: That's not what you just told me.

25

 $24\,$ $\,$ MS BOLTON: My Lord, that was my understanding of Mr Hardy

and Ms Pressick's evidence.

24

25

MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Find me the part of the transcript of

Mr Hardy's evidence.

- 1 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: It wasn't my understanding of their 2
- 3 MS BOLTON: Apologies, my Lord. That was my understanding.
- 4 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right.
- MR CURTIN: So let's keep it simple --5
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: There was a real risk there, Ms Bolton,
- of you misleading Mr Curtin and if I'd accepted your
- 8 submission and said that that was the end of the matter,
- 9 we wouldn't have clarified that issue.
- 10 MS BOLTON: My Lord, as I said to you, that was my
 - understanding of the witnesses' evidence that both
- 12 Mr Hardy and Ms Pressick were saving. If I've
- 13 misunderstood, I do apologise. There was no intention
- to mislead the court. I'm very, very sorry. That's not 14
- 15 been my understanding of the procedure. So I do
- 16 apologise.

- 17 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. You are counsel for MBR Acres,
- 18 I'm surprised that you are not fully aware of all this.
- 19 MS BOLTON: That's not been my understanding of the
- 20 position. That's all I can say, my Lord.
- 21 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Okay, Mr Curtin.
- 2.2 MR CURTIN: So when you hear "Shame on you" and "Puppy
- 2.3 killer", it's not pleasant and it's not nice, that's
- 2.4 what you said, yes?
- 25 A. That is what I said, yes.

13

- 1 Q. Have I asked you already, a straightforward question,
- are you a puppy killer? 2
- 3 A. I euthanise dogs when I need to.
- Q. Okay. Do you understand the amount of controversy 5
- involved in your business?
- 6 A. I understand that people have different opinions on it,
- 7 yes, and some people have strong beliefs.
- 8 Q. For example, are you aware that there was yet another
- 9 national paper news headline, a Daily Mirror headline
- 10 about the company that you work for importing dogs into 11 this country; are you aware of that, yesterday?
- 12 A. I did see the article, yes.
- 13 Q. And throughout your ten years, have you had occasion to
- look at the media and see stories not just about your 14
- 15 company but about the general topic of animal
- 16 experimentation and how controversial it is?
- 17 A. I have seen articles .
- 18 Q. Sorry, that was me, I apologise. I talked over you.
- 19 What was the last response?
- 2.0 A. I said I have seen some articles.
- 2.1 Q. So do you accept then there are a significant amount of
- 2.2 people in this country who take massive exception to the
- 23 business carried out by MBR? You understand that, yes? 2.4 A. I understand there's a great deal of people that might
- 25 have strong beliefs on it either way.

- Q. Yes, so either way, correct. So do you understand how,
- if someone wanted to express those strongly held beliefs
- 3 against animal experiments and against the breeding of
- 4 dogs at your site, that they would want to display that
- 5 perhaps by standing at the gates with banners, shouting
- "Shame on you" and "Puppy killer"? Do you understand 6 7 the scenario so far that I'm painting?
- 8 A. I understand that some people may want to express their
- 9 opinions in some form or another, yes.
- 10 Q. Do you see it as a good thing that people are able to 11 express their wishes — their views, sorry?
- 12 Everybody has a right to express their own views, ves.
- 13 Q. And if someone took exception to this company, for them
- 14 to be standing at the gates shouting, as you go in and
- 15 out of work, "Shame on you, puppy killers", you find
- 16 that acceptable, do you?
- 17 A. I'm not sure I find intimidating people outside of their
- 18 legal workplace acceptable, no.
- 19 Q. I didn't ask that, did I? I asked about the people
- 20 standing at the gates protesting, shouting "Shame on
- 21 you" and "Puppy killer". I didn't ask about whether you
- 22 think it's okay for workers from MBR to be harassed,
- 23 I asked you about people shouting slogans and
- 2.4 protesting.
- 25 Yes, people can find shouting at themselves intimidating

- 1 though, wouldn't you say?
- 2 Q. I don't know. We'll go on to that, we'll explore that
- 3 with you. There could be a whole variety of responses
- to protestors being shouted at. Okay -- I mean
- 5 protestors shouting.
- 6 Like many witnesses in this case from MBR, you have
- 7 this generic term. Paragraph 6, the last sentence, "the 8
- protestors"; paragraph 7, "the protestors"; paragraph 8, 9 "the protestors". It's understandable but you use
- 10 a generic term, is that correct, to cast a wide net over
- 11 people who are expressing their wishes against
- 12 vivisection? You lump them together as protestors, it's
- 13 understandable that you do, but I'm just asking you --
- 14 we're just going to explore this ever so slightly . Is
- 15 that correct?
- 16 A. No, I'm more referring to the people outside of our
- 17 site, not protestors as a whole.
- 18 Q. Okay, so what's your idea of these protestors? Are they
- 19 a special kind of people? When you refer throughout
- 2.0 your statement to protestors, anyone can go outside the
- 21 site, can't they? It could be anybody. What do you
- 2.2 mean by the term? I'm just asking you.
- 23 Could you rephrase the question for me? 2.4 Okay. Is it as simple as this then, because you talk
- 25 about the protestors -- in a minute we'll come -- for

- example, you just said about the harassment and alarm 2 and the distress maybe caused by a particular action of
- 3 a certain kind of protestor. Do you have an idea of
- 4 people standing at the gates shouting "Shame on you" and
- "Puppy killer", and then there's people who would maybe 5
- shout and scream some aggressive things, "I'm going to 6
- get you", "You monsters", "We're coming for you", and 7
- 8 then there's other people who perhaps physically attack
- 9 the cars, try to open the doors or break the windows.
- 10 Do you lump them all together as the protestors? $\ensuremath{\text{I}}\xspace$ in the largest results of the protestors of the protestor of 11 just asking.
- 12 A. I should think I do. ves. because I don't pick them out 13
- Q. Yes. I'm just exploring it. It's understandable why 14 15 you do that.
- 16 You talk about hiding your identity in paragraph 7 17 and 8, ves?
- 18 A. I do. ves.
- 19 Q. So we've gathered you've worked in this industry for ten
- 20 years, you're aware of the level of controversy, you're
- 2.1 aware of yet another Daily Mirror article coming out 22 just yesterday. When you worked for Harlan, before MBR
- 2.3 took over, were you ever given guidance from the company
- 2.4 or did you in fact do it yourself without any guidance,
- 25 did you hide your identity in some ways before

- 1 Camp Beagle? For example, you're -- a party situation,
- someone says "Where do you work?" and rather than say 2
- 3 "I work breeding beagles for experiments", you could
- give answers -- different answers, "I am a kennel
- 5 assistant" or perhaps not even -- make up a job. So
- 6 before Camp Beagle, were there other incidences, seeing
- as you've been involved so long in the industry, where 8 you hid your identity?
- 9 A. Before Camp Beagle, no, not so much.
- 10 Q. Not so much but some?
- 11 A. I probably had referred to myself as a kennel assistant 12 before.
- 13 Q. Because the controversy about animal experiments didn't start with Camp Beagle, did it? It's been going on for 14
- 15 decades: that's right, isn't it?
- 16 A. Yes. it has.
- 17 Q. Paragraphs 10 and 11 and 12, they talk of the convoy,
- 18 setting up a convoy, a convoy of workers, yes?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 2.0 Q. Was it a matter of choice by the management and the 2.1 workers to arrange these convoys?
- 2.2 A. It was management's plan.
- 23 Q. Paragraph 13 you talk about:
- 2.4 "The daily drums, loudhailers and shouting was
- 25 intended to harass us, and it did".

18

- Is that your statement?
- 2 A. Yes, I believe it is.
- 3 Q. Would you accept that there's -- if that is your reading
- 4 of why people were there, would you accept there are
- 5 other readings into why people might be outside the
- gates with loudhailers and drums, such as classic 6
- 7 protesting, they're drawing attention, they want people
- to look at them, they want to be noticed because they 8
- feel there's a burning issue. Would you agree with 10 that? This may be your understanding but do you
- 11 understand that there's other reasons why people might
- 12 go and protest other than the one you've stated here?
- 13 It depends who it's aimed at. If it's aimed at myself
- 14 being shouted at, then no, not so much
- 15 ${\sf Q}.\ {\sf Do}$ you take it -- when you drive in and out of work and
- 16 you say you've been shouted at, yes?
- 17 A. Yes

9

- 18 Q. Say, for example, when you used to come in a convoy.
- 19 when you would be able to -- would it be the case that
- 20 it was only you that was shouted at?
- 2.1 A. No, I believe everybody in the convoy was shouted at.
- 2.2 Q. So why did you take it personally?
- 2.3 A. Because some of the insults thrown were quite personal.
- 2.4 You haven't -- I'm not sure what statements you refer
- 25 to. But is it your case, because I'm defending myself,

19

- 1 that Mr Curtin has shouted personal things at you?
- 2. A. Would you like me to -- or would you like to point me in
- 3 the direction of where I've said that in my statement?
- Q. No, I'm saying it's not in your statement.
- 5 A. No it's not.
- 6 Q. Apart from "Shame on you", but I'm shouting -- there's
- 7 nothing in your statement to say that $I\,{}^{\prime}\text{ve}$ singled you
- 8 out for any particular personal abuse, is there?
- 9 A. No, there's nothing about you in my statement saying 10
- 11 Q. So would you accept in my case, if you were to hear
- 12 "Shame on you", it's a generic comment meant for all the
- 13 workers and not just for your ears?
- 14 A. I believe you're shouting at all of the workers, yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Paragraph 16. If I can take you to paragraph 13
- 16 first of all, I'm sorry. You talk about driving in:
- 17 $^{\prime\prime}\,\text{lt}\,$ was also a very distracting and stressful
- 18 environment to drive through and made driving safely
- 19 very difficult ."
- 2.0 A. Yes
- 21 Q. I'm agreeing with you there. To drive through or to
- 2.2 drive past some protestors is going to be distracting,
- 23
- 2.4 A. Yes.
- 2.5 Q. And paragraph 16:

- 1 " ... it was never easy or pleasant ... " 2 Again, I'm agreeing with you that there's people 3 shouting "Shame on you", this is -- other witnesses have 4 talked of their terror but you talk of "never easy", "not pleasant" and "distracting". Is that an accurate 5 way how you feel rather than being terrorised by people 6 shouting? You just don't like it. Is that correct?
- A. I think it was a risk to people in the road. That's 8 9 what I've said in my statement.
- 10 Q. Okay. 16:

11 "Having protestors, sometimes as many as a hundred, 12 who clearly hate you ...

That's a strong comment, isn't it?

14

13

- 15 Q. And whilst I understand someone shouting "Shame on you" and "Puppy killer". I can understand you'd come to the 16 conclusion that these people hate you, but I ask you 17 18 to -- can you see a scenario where someone could be 19 shouting at you without hate? You don't know, this is 2.0 your guess that these people hate you. It's not a --
- 2.1 I can understand how you come to the conclusion but 22 that's just your opinion, isn't it, that they hate you?
- 2.3 A. It's my opinion, yes.
- 2.4 Q. You talked in paragraph 17 about the fact that sometimes protestors bring their dogs and sometimes the dogs are

- 1 in the driveway and this causes you to feel unsettled, 2
- 3 A. Yes, I've said that.
- Q. Again, I would agree with you. I've witnessed the same 5 myself.

Right. Paragraph 18:

"In the early days the police warned the MBR staff that this tactic might be used by the protestors."

9 "This tactic" being that the protestors want to be 10 hit by a car, correct?

11

6

7

8

- 12 Q. Can I ask you when that was told to you by the police?
- 13 A. It came down through our lines of management.
- 14 I couldn't give you an exact date, no.
- 15 Q. So it wasn't the police, it was the management. Did the 16 management tell you that the police had told them?
- 17 A. That's what I remember, yes.
- 18 Q. Do you ever recall -- other witnesses have --
- 19 a presentation given by the police when they came to the 2.0 site to address the workers regarding their safety and
- 21 that of perhaps some extreme behaviour that was possible
- from protestors; do you remember such a meeting?
- 23 A. I remember the meeting but I don't think I was present 2.4 for it
- Q. So you're aware that the meeting took -- do you remember

- 1 the anti-terrorist police even? Would that ring a bell 2
- 3 A. I remember there was one scheduled but I don't believe 4 I went to it
- 5 Q. Do you know why -- why didn't you go to it?
- A. I believe I wasn't present on the day. 6
- 7 Q. Okay. I take exception to this, I've never heard it
- myself and in fact I've had a friend who was killed 8
- 9 whilst protesting. So the idea that protestors want to
- 10 be hit I put to you is a scandalous piece of gossip.
- 11 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Mr Curtin, the witness is simply 12 repeating in this part of his witness statement what he
- 13 was told by the police.
- MR CURTIN: Okay 14 15 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You don't need to take issue with it.
- MR CURTIN: Okay. 16
- 17 Paragraph 19, you talk about how you're becoming 18 frustrated about the fact that you have to cover up --19 that you cover up your face a lot whilst at work?
- 20 A. Yes
- 21 Q. It's inconvenient and uncomfortable et cetera?
- 2.2 A. It is, yes.
- 2.3 Q. But are you aware of -- you do accept that there are
- 2.4 a large section of people that are opposed to
- 25 vivisection, animal experiments, and you do accept that

- 1 they're going to exercise their right to protest? And
- they're also -- do you accept they're also going to 2
- 3 investigate -- they're going to carry out investigations
- into your company, such as what this company does, which
- 5 would involve perhaps filming the site?
- 6 A. I can understand they might want to try to find stuff 7 out about the site, yes.
- 8 Q. And to give livestreams from the camp. To fly the
- 9 drones. So to capture what protestors would see as
- 10 a crime scene on camera, you accept that, don't you,
- 11 that people are going to be filming?
- 12 A. I don't accept that it's a crime scene, no.
- 13 Q. No, sorry, that was my words. But you accept the fact
- that people in the course of their protesting are going 14
- 15 to resort to using cameras?

2.0

- 16 A. I don't see why it's necessary to film staff, no.
- 17 Q. But I'm not talking about individual workers, I'm
- 18 talking about the workplace. If I wanted to do some
- 19 filming and make a documentary about MBR Acres, the fact that there would be some people, some workers going
- 2.1 about their business, do you think that's a bad thing?
- 2.2 People shouldn't be allowed to do it?
- 23 I don't think the staff should be allowed to be filmed 24 personally, no.
- 2.5 Q. Okay, and the fact that you cover up, I put it to you

22

- 1 that fundamentally that's your choice to do that?
- 2 A. It is, yes.
- 3 Q. Have you been told to do it by the management?
- 4 A. Been recommended.
- 5 Q. And it's something that you do, that you've chosen to
- do, that's correct, isn't it? That's what you just 6 7
- 8 A. That is correct, yes.
- 9 Q. The bottom of paragraph 19, you talk about:
- 10 "... Dave Manning was harassed in public when he was 11 with his family."
- 12 Yes?
- 13 A. He was, ves.
- Q. I've heard of this incident a number of times during the 14 15 case of this evidence -- this trial, and I was aware of
- the incident around the time. I put it to you that it 16 17
- was a -- that's happened once, as far as I know, with 18 workers from outside -- forget -- we'll perhaps come to
- 19 the criminal attacks on people's houses, but the fact of
- 2.0 a worker walking down the street, being confronted by
- 2.1 a protestor, I know it happened once and this trial has
- 22 heard about it but are you aware of other incidences?
- 2.3 A. That's the only one I'm aware of.
- 2.4 Q. I put it to you it happened locally in the streets of
- 25 Huntingdon and we don't know the situation but it could

- 1 have just been a coincidence, couldn't it, that the
- 2 protestors are in this area, Dave Manning lives in the
- 3 area I presume, and it was just a coincidence. Is that
- possible, that it was just a coincidence? Not the
- 5 coincidence that they should follow(?) him but the
- coincidence that they met and then there was some 6
- 7 shouting. Sorry to waffle on, I'm not good at this, but
- 8 $\mbox{I\,{\sc 'm}}$ just -- you've already accepted it, that it
- 9 happened. I put to you it happened once, and the actual
- 10 fact that they met, is it possible that it was
- 11 a coincidence? Neither of us know actually.
- 12 A. I wouldn't like to say as I don't know.
- 13 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.$ No. Now we go on to paragraph 21 and it deals with
- a demonstration on 13 July which, as far as the history 14
- 15 of the camp, it's quite early days, isn't it? The camp
- 16 is like two weeks old, I would put to you, at this time.
- 17 The camp began at July, would you accept that, the start
- 18 of July?
- 19 A. I think it started before that, didn't it?
- 2.0 Q. Pardon?
- 2.1 A. I believe it started before that.
- 2.2 Q. I think it's not really contested, the very, very end
- of July -- June, sorry, start of July. I don't think 2.3
- 2.4 it's too contested. Anyway a couple of weeks old, the
- 25 camp, yes?

26

- A. Sorry, I missed that bit.
- Q. I'm just asking you to accept that the camp -- we've
- 3 been there now for 22 months, this was in the first
- 4 couple of weeks?
- 5 A. Yes

7

9

11

- Q. Okay. Let's go to the video. I don't intend to show 6
 - the whole video because I don't really contravene your
- evidence, but if we can just show the video. It's video 8
 - number 46. One minute and six seconds.
- 10 Before we play it, I'm defending myself, I have your
 - witness statement in front of me and it's just that my
- 12 name is on your statement. Before I ask you the
- 13 questions, did you make this statement of your own free
- 14 will and volition?
- 15 A. I did. ves.
- 16 Q. Were you guided while you made the statement?
- 17 A. We had some guidance on the -- how to express our
- 18 wording.
- Q. And the introduction of my name, is that by you or was 19
- 20 that under guidance from the claimants' solicitor?
- 2.1 A. That would have been me.
- 22 Q. Did you know my name?
- 2.3 A. I did. ves.
- 2.4 Q. We'll come back to this in a moment. We'll come back to
- 25 this after we've dealt with this issue at some point,

27

- 1 about how you knew my name.
- 2 Right, so, let's watch the video for maybe 30
 - seconds, from there.

(Video played)

- 5 Can we stop? There's a person with a camouflage
- 6 jacket with his back to us, he's just out of sight. 7
- Are you saying that person is me? Is that the one you 8
 - identified? If it is, I would accept it. That is me.
- 9 Α. Yes

3

16

17

23

- 10 Q. I've got a loudhailer, yes?
- 11 Can't see it at the moment but, yes, I should think
- 12
- Q. And I think, if my memory -- as far as the megaphone, 13
- 14 there's not much mega in it, it's a very, very small
- 15 little megaphone. But it's a kind of megaphone, ves.
 - But let's watch.

(Video played)

- 18 Okay. If we could stop there. I have no need to 19 show the entire video because, as far as your statement 2.0
- goes, that incident there that I'm standing at the side 21 of the road with a megaphone shouting, I can -- as to
- 2.2 what I shouted -- if we can play a bit more, please.
 - (Video played)

2.4 Okay, if you stop there. So that incident there,

25 that's the only time in your statement you've mentioned

- 1 me and I'd like to perhaps -- I don't need to show any
- 2 more of the video. The rest of the video shows the
- 3 workers coming in with various comments being made.
- 4 Mr Curtin features no more in this video, otherwise you
- would have put it in there; is that correct? The fact 5
- 6 that I'm shouting on the verge at the top of the road
- 7 with a megaphone, that's the entirety of your evidence

A. I just said that you're present in the bell mouth of the

- against me, isn't it? If you look at the statement. 8
- 10 access road, if you're referring to paragraph 22.
- 11 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.$ Okay. But even that, even me just standing there at the 12 road with a megaphone, that's unpleasant for you.
- 13 isn't it? My being there --
- 14 A. Distracting
- 15 $Q. \ --$ is unpleasant for you, yes?
- A. Distracting. 16
- Q. Distracting. What about unpleasant? Someone greeting 17
- 18 you as you go into work, "Shame on you", for example?
- 19 A. If that's what you said, then yes.
- Q. Let's go on to a similar incident, 13 July. This will 20
- 2.1 be the same day, so that's what happened when you went
- 22 into work. Now let's see what happens when you came out
- 2.3 of work. The reason again we need to go through this is
- 2.4 because vou've mentioned me.
- Ah, okay, before we do that actually -- forgive me

- 1 if I ever do this, go off on a few tangents, but $--\ {\rm so}$
- you were able to say -- if we watch the rest of that 2
- 3 video, there's comments being made to you that you may
- take issue with but you've put me in the statement. So
- 5 there I was -- and I didn't say that I was saying "Shame
- on you", but I was just there with a megaphone shouting 6
- something. You haven't said anything specifically . But
- 8 why did you choose to put me in the statement in the
- 9 first place?
- 10 A. I put anybody in there that I could recognise.
- 11 Q. And how was it, just a few weeks into the campaign, how 12 was it you were able to recognise me?
- 13 A. Because I'd probably seen some live videos.
- Q. Okay. So did you used to -- like other workers, you're 14
- not the first person at all in fact, I think nearly 15
- 16 every worker so far has agreed that they've followed the
- 17 camp in some way. So did you used to watch the social
- 18 media sites?
- 19 A. I did, yes.
- 2.0 Q. Okay. Since then -- when did you make this statement?
- 21 Do vou remember?
- 2.2 A. I don't remember off the top of my head, no.
- 23 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: January 2023.
- 24 MS BOLTON: It's on the screen.
- MR CURTIN: So you made this in January 2023. Since that

30

1 time, since this early time when you already knew my

- 2 identity and you've explained in a very simple way how,
- 3 what else do you know about Mr Curtin since that time? 4 Have you gained, as far as you're concerned, any more
- 5 knowledge about Mr Curtin?
- A. I've heard a few things. 6
- 7 Q. Could you tell the court about those few things? And
- 8 don't be timid.
- 9 A. No, I'm not. I've heard that you've got a history of
- 10 being arrested, protesting.
- 11 Q. Arrested for?
- 12 A. For various protesting things.
- 13 Q. Anything else?
- 14 A. I believe there was a grave desecration, wasn't there?
- 15
- 16 Q. You believe there was a grave desecration. What do you
- 17 know — what's your understanding of this grave
- 18 desecration?
- 19 A. That's just something I've heard. It could well be
- 20
- 21 Q. How did it make you feel when someone said that to you
- 22 or told you? Or did someone tell you that or did you
- 2.3 research that yourself?
- 2.4 A. Somebody told me that.
- 2.5 Q. In the -- if I can call it the canteen gossip, very

- 1 understandable, we're all human beings. I can't imagine
- 2 being in a workplace where you wouldn't chat to each
- 3 other about this and that and I can't imagine living in
- a world where you had this daily protest and you don't
- 5 chat. Do you chat with other workers about the
- 6 activists?
- 7 A. There's been chat about the activists, yes.
- 8 Q. Have you ever been aware of a Facebook site called
- 9 Connie Jurtin?
- 10 A. I might have seen a post or two but could not remember
- 11 any of it.
- 12 And your memory of that -- because my name is
- 13 John Curtin and there's a site called Connie Jurtin, try
- and remember what you might -- if you can give the court 14
- 15 as much information of what you might remember about
- 16 them. You said you might have seen a few posts. If you
- 17 could give the court some information it would be
- 18 helpful about what you know, about what you remember
- 19 about the Connie Jurtin.
- 2.0 A. I just remember it was seen to be a site that was giving
- 21 the opposite side of views you might have had, or not
 - necessarily opposite views to you but they didn't seem

32

- 23 to like you very much, as far as I'm aware.
- 2.4 No, they didn't. So do you remember things like
- 2.5 allegations that I was a thief, that I was stealing

2.2

Opus 2

transcripts@opus2.com 020 4518 8448

(Video played)

money from the camp, that I was a cult leader, a bully,

2		even as far as things like being a sex predator; does	2		If you could stop there. Did you notice $$ you can
3		that refresh your memory at all?	3		just see $$ if you look at the $$ there's a woman
4	A.	Now you've said it, there was probably some stuff about	4		bending towards the car and there's a man with
5		that.	5		a baseball cap. If you just look through them, in the
6	Q.	About all the things I've just said? The thief $$	6		distance there's Mr Curtin with a megaphone, yes?
7	A.	I don't remember the sex predator one, thankfully,	7	A.	Yes.
8		but	8	Q.	I feel no need to play the video any more. Between me
9	Q.	Thief, bully, sex predator, how about those three?	9		and you, we can go through your statement and if I could
10	A.	No, I remember the thief and the bully.	10		help you, on the megaphone, and that is me, I think
11	Q.	Okay, good. Well, not good.	11		there's one megaphone there, "Are you going to go home
12		Having this information about me, what effect did it	12		and have a shower? You will never wash this place off.
13		have on you, if you were to look at Mr Curtin, what sort	13		You will never wash this stink away". Then I can hear
14		of $$ from the things you've heard, how would that make	14		myself saying at some point, "When you were at school
15		you feel about me?	15		did you want to be a puppy killer? What do you say when
16	A.	It would make me think that you're some kind of	16		people ask you where you work? Where did you stay?
17		disturbed person.	17		Where do you work? What do you tell them? You'll never
18	Q.	A what person?	18		wash this place off".
19	A.	A disturbed person.	19		In fact we should watch the video. Let's watch it
20	Q.	Disturbed.	20		because I ask you to listen out for these type of
21	A.	Possibly somebody with issues.	21		phrases ——
22	Q.	Do you think I've got issues?	22	A.	Can you direct me to the paragraph I should be looking
23	A.	I wouldn't like to say. I don't know you.	23		at, please?
24		You wouldn't like to say, but do you think?	24	Q.	It's paragraphs 25, 26 and 27, and let's just watch the
25	A.	I think it would take a disturbed person to desecrate	25		video but I ask you to look out for the way that
		33			35
1		a grave, if that is what happened.	1		Mr Curtin uses repeated terms, the same sort of terms,
2	Q.	Because you don't know, do you?	2		"You'll never wash this place away", for example. Yes,
3		I don't know, no, I didn't research it.	3		so each car —— let's watch the video and I'll ask you
4		But I might have done?	4		some questions.
5		You might have done.	5		(Video played)
6		Let's show a little bit of the video. Again, Mr Curtin	6		Okay, can we stop there? Now, we can see two police
7	·	was on the right side with the megaphone, 3.56.12.	7		officers there talking to a protestor, can't we?
8	MF	R JUSTICE NICKLIN: Video 24, or perhaps not.	8	Α.	Yes.
9		(Video played)	9	Q.	So the police $$ that man is standing in front of a car,
10	MF	R CURTIN: If we could stop the scene there, before we	10	•	the first car, and the policeman doesn't appear to be
11		start . Two weeks into the camp, you can see the police	11		grabbing hold of him or making any attempts at this
12		officer, can't you, on the left? Security guard on the	12		point to remove him, does he?
13		right, couple of security guards and protestors	13	Α.	Not at this point, no.
14		assembled on the drive and in front of the gate, yes?	14		Would this — you've seen this before. Would this
15	Α.	Yes, that's correct.	15	•	surprise you? Would you expect the policeman to perhaps
16		So 3.56.12 —— let's just play it .	16		take a stronger hand?
17	٦.	(Video played)	17	Α.	I thought they might, yes.
18		Stop there. If we're looking at the video now,	18		I put it to you that what you're seeing here is the
19		there's a person with —— I don't know if you can see it,	19	٦.	police facilitating two things: one, a protest, a lawful
20		it's just gone out of shot, did you see the person with	20		protest and, two, the passage of the workers out of the
21		the megaphone that's standing just the other side of the	21		site. That protest in this case definitely seems to
22		car? The side away from the tent. Did you see?	22		involve some obstruction of the highway, not stopping
23	А	My picture is quite small so —	23		the cars but some slowing down of the cars so they can
24		6 BOLTON: Replay it.	24		see your banners. Would you accept that scene?
25		R CURTIN: Yes, we'll just go back and replay it.	25	A.	I believe the cars are stopped at some point.
		34			36

1	Q.	Okay, let's carry on.	1		treatment, some shouting, some level of obstruction and
2		(Video played)	2		then on their way, and the police and the protestors
3		Stop there. "Look at all the support we're getting,	3		seem to be accommodated to this? I just ask you to have
4		no one loves a dog killer". Did you hear that?	4		that in your mind as we watch the video further.
5	Α.	Yes, I heard it.	5		(Video played)
6	Q.	Good, okay. Carry on.	6		Can you stop there? Could you take it back
7		(Video played)	7		a second? Mr Curtin there in the background with the
8		Stop there. So one car has most definitely been	8		small megaphone, yes?
9		slowed down —— not by me, I should add, but by other	9	Α.	Yes.
10		protestors. Is that right?	10	Q.	Okay. Play a bit more.
11	Α.	By the protestors, yes.	11		(Video played)
12		Well, I'm asking you —— I'm saying it's not me that's	12		Stop there. Did you see the protestor gesture
13	•	blocking the car there.	13		towards the car, "Come forward"?
14	Α.	I didn't see you in the way that time, no.	14	Α.	Yes.
15		Good. I'm asking you to look now, this is another car,	15		Okay, carry on.
16	۷.	so again I would ask you to listen out for perhaps	16	۷.	(Video played)
17		a sort of similar behaviour towards this car that the	17		Shall we stop there? That's the security guard,
18		other cars get. There's nothing special treatment this	18		Dave Manning, he's pointing something out to the police
19			19		
		car is going to get, including what I say on the		۸	to get them to stop banging on the cars. Yes?
20		megaphone. Okay, watch the video.	20	Α.	I don't know what he was pointing out but he was
21		(Video played)	21	_	pointing at something, yes.
22		Okay, stop there. There's Mr Curtin on the right	22		He said —— I heard him say "Stop banging at the cars".
23		with a small megaphone. Correct?	23		Right, okay.
24		Yes.	24	Q.	I think he's addressing —— I think he's addressing the
25	Q.	Addressing the car. Then would you accept that the	25		police. But the security guards aren't complaining to
		37			39
1		police seem quite relaxed? On one —— if you just look	1		the police, are they? "Get these protestors out the
2		at this, on one level, it's "Oh, dear, there's a problem	2		way". There seems to be what I would describe $$
3		here" but if you look at the body language of the	3		I would describe this as a ritual . Do you understand
4		police, they're not quite $$ they don't seem to be	4		what I mean by how I could describe this? It appears
5		reacting to a serious public order situation, do they?	5		to be a kind of ritual, a kind of agreement between
6	Α.	Not at the moment, no.	6		everybody there really, and some understanding of what's
7	Q.	Okay, if we carry on.	7		happening; would you agree with that?
8		(Video played)	8	Α.	I don't think there was any kind of agreement between
9		Stop there. Did you hear "You know the rules",	9		us, no.
10		did you hear that?	10	Q.	Okay, between the police and the protestors, you don't
11	Α.	I didn't but if you say that's what was said	11		know but there may be, yes?
12		Yes, if you listen —— if you watch this a bit more,	12	Α.	I wouldn't know.
13	•	there seems to be some —— I don't know, I'll ask you at	13		Okay. Let's watch the video.
14		the end, some sort of agreement between the protestors	14	٩.	(Video played)
15		and the police that when this man $$ I don't know if	15		Stop there. It's difficult to pick up but the
16		it's made clear but I'll put it in your head first, that	16		protestor said something to the car driver about,
17		there seems to be some kind of unwritten rule that, as	17		"You've got to gesture and once you do that, once you
18		far as the protestor in the white T—shirt, he's going to	18		ask me to move out the way, I will. That's the law".
19		block each car and when the car driver asks him to move			
			19 20		This protestor seems to be telling everybody what the
20		out the way, he will move. This seems to be kind of			law is . If we could carry on.
21		sanctioned by the police. Let's watch the video, I'd	21		(Video played)
22		ask you to have that in mind.	22		So, again, stop there. The same protestor stands in
23		(Video played)	23		front, seems to be waiting for the driver to make some
24		Stop there. So it's another car. So would you	24		sort of sign to him to move out the way, then he'll move
25		accept that each car seems to be getting a similar	25		out the way. I'm just suggesting that this is what's

1	happening, I'll ask you further questions at the end of	1	I think he may be incorrect there, but I don't want to
2	the video. Do you want to carry on?	2	tell you which one he is just because of 40 years of $$
3	(Video played)	3	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Don't worry.
4	Can you stop there? "He hasn't asked me to move	4	MS BOLTON: Can we show a bit more video because I think
5	yet". So there does seem to be some acceptance from the	5	there's a few people who look very similar.
6	police that this man, this is the way he's going to	6	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: All right, show a bit more.
7	protest and, as far as the police are concerned, they	7	(Video played)
8	don't seem to feel any necessity to make arrests or	8	MS BOLTON: Pause there, please.
9	change the situation, does it?	9	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Pause there.
10	A. It might be not in their power at the time, no. I don't	10	MS BOLTON: We've gone too far.
11	know, I'm not a law student.	11	(Video played)
12	Q. Okay, correct, carry on.	12	MS BOLTON: If you could pause here.
13	(Video played)	13	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Pause there.
14	So, stop there. There's a man now talking to the	14	A. Oh, sorry.
15	protestor [sic], that would be the same man that	15	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: So you have two men there, one in
16	obstructed some of the cars and he seems to be having	16	a grey T-shirt and a black baseball cap and then beyond
17	a chat to the police officers; is that correct?	17	him, standing to his left, you might ——
18	A. It looks like it, yes.	18	A. My apologies.
19	Q. So I invite you to accept my suggestion that there's	19	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Go on.
20	a kind of formalised ritual even taking place there. It	20	A. My screen is quite small here. It's Sam Morley in the
21	doesn't seem to be a free—for—all.	21	grey T—shirt there I believe.
22	A. It seemed like the protestors were controlling the	22	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Do you know the person in the
23	situation.	23	white T-shirt?
24	Q. I'll just take you to one point in paragraph 27. The	24	A. From this screen that I've got, I really couldn't say.
25	last three lines you mention some names:	25	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay.
23	last times mies you mention some names.	23	WIN 303 FIGE WEIGHT. ORay.
	41		43
1	"The conduct of the protestors D6 D11	1	MS BOLTON: I don't think we know, my Lord. Yes, we don't
2	and D9 prevented me from freely passing along the	2	know.
3	Access Road"	3	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right, okay.
4	Correct?	4	You wanted to go to 15 August I think.
5	A. Yes, that's correct.	5	MR CURTIN: Yes, paragraph 29. Do you have it in front of
6	Q. At what point —— you just watched the video —— at what	6	you?
7	point did Mr Curtin stop your free access along the	7	A. I have, yes.
8	access road? I put it to you that Mr Curtin didn't.	8	Q. We've watched this video, because I've cross—examined
9	Mr Curtin was standing at the side with a megaphone	9	a number of witnesses, and let's see if we can come to
10	whilst other protestors played some part in slowing the	10	some sort of position where I don't have —— let's see if
11	traffic down?	11	we can go through your statement without too much
12	A. Yes, that could be the case.	12	dispute.
13	Q. Excellent. Right, 15 August.	13	So are you aware of the $$ if I can maybe talk about
	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Before we leave that, can you help me,	14	
14			the general scenario that day, the general incident,
15	Employee G, about —— can you identify Scott Patterson	15	yes? If I could.
16	and Sam Morley —— show the video, please. Can we get	16	A. Yes.
17	the video back? Rewind it to any of the car scene.	17	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Well, I'll tell you what, Mr Curtin, if
18	Are you able to help me with who these —— there's a man	18	we're going to move on to 15 August, we'll take our
19	who has a sort of pony tail wearing a ——	19	break now. We'll reconvene at midday.
20	A. Yes, that would be Scott Patterson, my Lord.	20	Employee G, thank you for being on the line. We're
21	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right, yes. And then the man who we	21	going to have a 15—minute break. Please don't discuss
22	can see there standing directly in front of the car with	22	your evidence with anybody during that break. That's
23	the white T—shirt and the black baseball cap?	23	nothing personal to you, it's a warning I give to all
24	A. Sam Morley.	24	witnesses, all right?

MR CURTIN: That puts me in an impossible situation but

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25 A. Of course.

MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you very much. see it? I can show it to you very easily -- well, not 2 (11.46 am) 2 3 (A short break) 3 A. I think I've got that in my statement, haven't I? Q. I think -- yes, let's watch that, it 's a very short 4 (12.01 pm) 4 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Okay, carry on, Mr Curtin. incident. Three minutes 32. Before we watch it, I would 5 5 MR CURTIN: Hello, is anybody there on the other side? ask you -- I can go to the point if you want, that this 6 7 is the second time I'm very clearly saying to people, "Get out of the way, let them in", this is the second Q. Great. So 15 August, I've showed this -- I've been 8 8 9 through this video a number of times with other 9 occasion. Would you accept from me that that's possible 10 10 witnesses and let's see if we can come to some at least? 11 agreement. If I could take you to your last sentence in 11 A. I can say that I heard it once at least. 12 paragraph 32: 12 Q. Okay. Three minutes 50. [Video 205]. 13 "She clearly had no appreciation that we had been 13 (Video played) waiting at the rally point since 07.30 for the police to 14 14 Can we take it back a bit before? 15 confirm it was safe for us to travel to the Wyton Site 15 (Video played) ... at around 10.17." 16 16 Stop there 17 Correct? 17 A. My Lord, I have no video at the moment. 18 A. Yes. 18 Q. Okay. If you just wait there, hopefully ... Q. I don't know if you remember the video but I'm asking 19 19 A. Okay, I have some now, thank you. 20 you, this would be my reading of it and tell me if it 20 2.1 clashes with yours. First of all, the reason why you 2.1 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You might want to go back just a little 22 were part -- at the rally point from 7.30 to 10.17, 22 bit. That's fine. Thank you. (Video played) 2.3 2.3 you're saying -- is it your information that you were 2.4 waiting for the police to give you the go-ahead that it 2.4 MR CURTIN: So if we stop there. So you've been held in the 25 was safe to go in? 25 lay-by for upwards of three hours, you're heading 45 47 A. That's what we heard, yes. 1 towards a lot of people, you've got a police escort, so I could imagine having some nervousness about this thing 2. Q. You obviously had no idea what was happening at the site 2. itself because you weren't there? 3 3 you're approaching. Yes? A. I wasn't there. no. A. Yes, I should think so. Q. Were you aware there was a demonstration taking place 5 Q. Play the video. that day and there were going to be more people than you 6 (Video played) 6 7 7 would expect on a normal day, yes? There were going to Can we stop there? Did you hear those words? 8 8 A. I did hear those, yes. be extra people at the site? 9 9 Q. Going, "Get the photographer to get the F out the way, A. We knew there was a demonstration, ves. 10 Q. So the bit where you've said there, "She clearly had no 10 get out the way, let these people in". Did you hear 11 appreciation ... ", was that after watching the video and 11 that? 12 seeing and hearing the words of Lucy Windler basically 12 A. I heard that, yes. $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.$ Then we'll play the video just for maybe 30 more saying, "The workers are in now", having some relief; it 13 13 wasn't Lucy Windler on the commentary, saying "We 14 14 seconds, just for when the first car perhaps comes in 15 prevented -- we stopped the workers coming in". It was 15 contact with the protestors. I invite you to see that 16 on the contrary, "We allowed the workers to get in". Is 16 what in fact does happen, apart from the gates being 17 17 that correct? Do you remember hearing that on the shut, that there seems to be a co-ordinated disciplined 18 video, that there were at least $\,--\,$ amongst some of the 18 response from the protestors to actually facilitate the 19 protestors, there was a drive to actually get you in 19 cars coming in. There's nobody -- you won't see anybody 2.0 safely? 2.0 blocking the road, for example. If we could watch the

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video.

the cars in". Would you accept that or do you need to

A. I remember her saying, "It took them long enough, but

Q. Okay. On the video, I could show it to you, Mr Curtin

addressing the protestors, saying, "We're going to let

they're finally here".

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Stop there. That baldy—headed person above the red

(Video played)

car I put it to you is me, standing beside the road,

next to the police officer. Could you accept that?

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- 1 A. Yes, you're there.
- 2 Q. Okay. Thank you.

(Video played)

Can you stop there? Could you hear some muffled gravelly voice saying, "Keep the discipline"?

- 6 A. Yes, I heard something like that.
- 7 Q. I'll put it to you that that's my voice. Would you 8 contest that?
- 9 A. If you say so.
- 10 Q. Excellent. Okay, I think that's all we need to see.

So would you accept that, by what it looks like,

Mr Curtin and Lucy Windler at least are making efforts

to make sure you actually did get into work without

having to drive through some crazy frenzied mob and

chaos? There did seem to be from that video, would you

accept, a movement by at least myself and Lucy Windler

to facilitate you actually getting into work safely.

- Can you concede that or how far are you prepared to concede on my version of things, as they looked at least from watching that video?
- A. It did seem like you were one of the ringleaders at the point and, yes, I did hear you ask people to get out of the way. But should we really need to be let into our
- 2.4 lawful work?
- 25 Q. Well, that's another point. You describe me as one of

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- $1\,$ the ringleaders . In this case it looks like I'm one of
- 2 the ringleaders to -- whilst being part of the protest,
- 3 to make sure that we keep a lid on this thing, that
- $4\,$ a protest happens but I'm one of the ringleaders in the
- 5 negotiation of a peaceful outcome to this particular
- day, and it could have gone very different. Would you
 - accept that?
- 8 A. It could have gone very different.
- 9 Q. Okay, thank you. Right. Let's move on to paragraph 60.
- 10 A. Yes. okav.
- 11 Q. The first sentence -- have you got it?
- 12 A. Yes.

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- 13 Q. "The protests outside of the Wyton Site are difficult to deal with each day."
 - Now, I'm accepting that. And in your long career, well, ten years of being involved in this controversial industry, you're aware —— you've seen protests before and you're aware of the nature of protesting against the industry, yes?
- A. I believe this was actually some of the first that I've
 seen in my ten years. We've had very small—scale,
 possibly one person, two people, outside the gates for
- an hour or so. But previously, no.Q. So you were working there when it was Harlan.
- 25 A. I was.

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- 1 Q. Harlan, are you aware that Harlan took an injunction out against protestors?
- 3 A. I know there was an injunction in place when I started.
- 4 Q. Is it your understanding that Harlan took an injunction out against protestors on the basis of the
- 6 demonstration, the one demonstration you'd just spoken
- 7 about, or I put it to you there has been a series of —
- 8 to me, it's not a controversial point. There has been
- $9\,$ a history of protests at that site , would you accept
- 10 that?
- 11 A. I would accept that. You asked me what protests I had 12 seen in my ten years there.
- 13 Q. Okay, excellent. But I just want to go to this first
- 14 sentence, these protests are "difficult to deal with
- each day". That is the case, isn't it? It's one thing
- going in and out of work facing a protest; to deal with
- it every day, that is another level, isn't it?
- 18 A. It is, yes.
- 19 Q. But would you accept that it's lawful to protest outside
- 20 your place every day?
- 21 A. I accept that peaceful protest is lawful out there, but
- I do believe that this one has gone well beyond peacefulat times.
- $24\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. When you say "peaceful", would you accept that
- 25 it's lawful to have loud, noisy, animated, passionate

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- demonstrations outside of your gates every day?
- 2 A. As long as they don't intimidate staff members I would 3 say.
- 4 Q. Excellent. So:

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- "The protests, and especially the incidents that
- 6 I have described above and the conduct of the specific
- 7 Defendants that I have identified, was threatening and
- 8 intimidating ... "
- 9 Is it your case —— and remember I am defending 10 myself —— this generic protesters, is there anywhere ——
- it's not part of your evidence against me that
- 12 I threatened you or I intimidated you, is it?
- A. I don't believe I said anywhere in my statement that you threatened or intimidated me.
- 15 Q. Let's deal with the last bit:
- 18 A. Yes, generically.
- 19 Q. But perhaps in my case, you've heard all these things
- $20\,$ about me, you think I may be disturbed, perhaps you have
- some extra fear of me, not based on what I'd done but
- 22 based on what you've heard about me. Would that be
- 23 correct?
- 24 A. Some of what I've seen about you, yes.
- 25 Q. You talk about how:

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1 "They have attacked the homes of other staff and know, possibly. 2 they clearly have no regard for us ..." 2 MR CURTIN: Okay, good. I do believe that's all the 3 From what you saw on that video, is it possible that 3 questions I have for you. Thank you. MS BOLTON: No re-examination, my Lord. 4 Mr Curtin did have some regard for the workers and that 4 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you very much, Employee G. I'm 5 you can clearly see him trying to get them in; would you 5 accept that? sorry that I have to refer to you like that but you'll 6 6 A. I don't believe that was regard for the workers, no. 7 understand that we're in open court now and I'm taking Q. Okay. Paragraph 62, you talk about -- it's about, measures to protect your identity. Thank you for giving 8 8 9 again, your identity. You live in the local area next 9 your evidence. That completes your role in the trial . 10 10 to Wyton: A. Not a problem. Thank you, my Lord. MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Next? 11 "I have been yards behind the protestors in the 11 12 12 MS BOLTON: My Lord, the next witness is Employee V. local ... Morrisons, but thankfully they have not 13 recognised me. 13 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you. What about the people that read the Daily Mail MS BOLTON: My Lord we might need a minute just to take away 14 14 15 yesterday and were horrified? Would you class those 15 LiveNote and everything before --MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: That's all right. I'll wait here. 16 people, someone reading the Daily Mirror and are 16 17 horrified, would they class as a protestor yet? 17 MS BOLTON: My Lord, it's page 1711 in the persons unknown 18 A. No, I don't believe so. 18 bundle MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Employee B? 19 Q. So a protestor is someone who it's a gang of people and 19 20 the thing they have in common is that they've physically 20 MS BOLTON: V, my Lord. 2.1 been outside your gates, is that what you call by "the 2.1 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I've got it at 1359. MS BOLTON: V, my Lord. protestors"? 22 22 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Oh, V, sorry. 2.3 A. A protestor is somebody who is protesting, surely. 2.3 2.4 2.4 MS BOLTON: Sorry. 1713, my Lord. Q. But what about someone, say, who lives in your area. that has very strong views, they've never been to 25 My Lord, we also need to go into private.

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a protest, but is it your feeling that if this person who lives in your area, even though they've never been to a demonstration, they read the Daily Mirror, isn't it possible that you would have fear of that person? This is a person with equally as strong held beliefs, if not more than the protestors, it would make you uncomfortable if they recognised you? Is that correct? They've never been to a protest but they've got very strong views about animal experiments, they've never been to a protest, that's someone that you would want to avoid perhaps revealing your identity to and your workplace? A. And how would these so-called people realise my identity? Q. Exactly -- by gossip in your local community. You said if it was known in the local community where you worked,

Q. Exactly — by gossip in your local community. You said
 if it was known in the local community where you worked
 and gossip being gossip, do you worry about your
 neighbours finding out that you work there?
 A. I don't know because I don't involve myself with gossip

A. I don't know because I don't involve myself with gossip
generally, so —

21 Q. But do you worry about your neighbours --

22 A. (Inaudible — overspeaking).

Q. Do you worry about people in your neighbourhood findingout where you work?

 $25\,$ $\,$ A. I would be cautious with letting some of my neighbours

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MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: If you could step outside, I'm sorry 1 2 for those of you who have come -- we're just going to 3 take five minutes. I have to get the witness sorted out and then you'll be invited to come back in. Thank you 5 very much. (Hearing in private) 6 ${\sf MS\ BOLTON:\ My\ Lord,\ the\ witness'\ name\ is\ [redacted]}.$ 7 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay, are we ready? Can we activate 8 9 the screen, please? EMPLOYEE V (sworn) 10 11 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. So deactivate the screen, 12 please, and then we'll get the public back. 13 (Hearing in public) ${\sf Examination-in-chief\ by\ MS\ BOLTON}$ 14 15 MS BOLTON: Good afternoon, Employee V. A. Good afternoon. 16 Q. There should be a document in front of you at page 1713 17 18 that says "First witness statement of Employee V". 19 A. Yes, I have that. 2.0 Q. If you could please turn through that document, pages of

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22 A. Yes

2.1

23 Q. And did you sign that document?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. Is that document your witness statement?

that document, and go to page 1745.

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- 1 A. Yes. it is.
- Q. And is that witness statement still true to the best ofyour knowledge and belief?
- 4 A. Yes, it is.
- 5 MS BOLTON: Thank you, Employee V. If you could stay there, 6 there may be some further questions.
- 7 Cross—examination by MR CURTIN
- 8 MR CURTIN: Hello, Witness V. I actually find your evidence
 9 very interesting and to me perhaps it goes to the heart
 10 of the case, so I'm going to do something that I don't
 11 normally do with other witnesses. Normally I go through
 12 chronologically but with you I want to take you straight
 13 to paragraph 64.

Basically, it will be my defence to defend myself against the statement you've made, that - it's my defence that it's not the actions that I carried out that gave you the level of fear you described but your level of fear for me based on the information you had at the time. How do you feel about this, does that make any sense to you?

- 21 A. Could you rephrase the question, please --
- Q. Yes, it's going to be my defence in this statement of
 the level of fear that you —— you talk of terror in
 relation to this particular —— ah, there's going to be
 one incident, I apologise if sometimes I get a bit ...

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- there's going to be -- basically your evidence against me, there's one particular incident when you came to do some work along the -- outside the fence. That seems to
- 4 be the main thrust of the evidence against me; is that
- 5 correct? In this statement.
- 6 A. Yes

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- Q. And I put it to you that the level of terror that you describe, which we'll come to, was based on the reputation that went before me?
- 10 A. That is correct. The reputation, your reputation, yes.
- 11 Q. And it's that reputation, I put to you, that influenced
 12 you to filter what you saw and turn it into terror
 13 because my reputation is in fact an issue, and we're
 14 going to talk about it now, it's an issue with you,
 15 isn't it?
- 16 A. No, I have no issues.
- Q. Okay. So we need to know about what your knowledge,
 your perceived knowledge of Mr Curtin is, because the
 reason I take you to this paragraph is because it seems
 like you've got some —— let's have a look:

"The intensity of having ... (John Curtin), who I know feels so strongly against MBR's business and has been to prison for his actions in the name of animal rights, being very close to my face and abusing me for $15\ \text{to}\ 20\ \text{minutes}$ as I carried out my job was

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- $\begin{array}{lll} 1 & & \text{overwhelming for me. I was very distressed after this} \\ 2 & & \text{incident, and I do not like to be reminded of it.} \end{array}$
- 3 A very strong statement, yes?
- 4 A. Yes.

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- Q. And it's my job to defend myself and I'm going to put it
 to you constantly as we go through the videos that the
- $7\,$ levels of terror that you're reporting, I don't take --
- you can feel however you feel, but they're based on this reputation of me as this -- well, as this -- I would say
- 10 I've become a bogeyman figure. One witness even
 - mentioned yesterday Freddy Krueger. So that will be my
- $12\,$ case, that I've become some sort of bogeyman to the MBR
- 13 workers. How does that come across to you? How does
- $14\,$ $\,$ that make you -- do you agree with that, that I'm
- 15 a bogeyman figure?
- 16 A. I don't see you as a bogeyman figure. It's just all the
- 17 information, when I researched you in the public domain,
- gives me lots of information on your past and present
- 19 activities towards people.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. And civilians.
- 22 Q. Let's talk about -- remember, there's nothing wrong with
- $23\,$ researching me or anything like that. We're here to
- give evidence under oath. Tell the court what you have
- 25 learnt -- was there any reason why you began to research

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- $1 \qquad \quad \mathsf{me} \ \mathsf{or} \ \mathsf{did} \ \mathsf{you} \ -- \ \mathsf{do} \ \mathsf{you} \ \mathsf{research} \ \mathsf{as} \ \mathsf{many} \ \mathsf{protestors} \ \mathsf{as}$
- 2 you can once the protests began?
- 3 A. When the camp was established and we found out Mr Curtin
- 4 was the main person, we all went out into the public
- 5 domain and researched Mr Curtin's past and present
- 6 activities from, I don't like saying this, grave
- 7 robbing, desecration of graves, vandalism, breaking and
- 8 entering. This gave us intel, information, regarding
- 9 what sort of person he was or has been at this present
- 10 time.
- 11 Q. So you talk about "we", so there's the protestors and --
- 12 is this like a -- this is very much borne out by other
- witnesses that they too have researched into me. When
- you say "we", is that a team, there was a bit of a team
- effort to find out who is this Mr Curtin; is that
- 16 correct?
- $17\,$ $\,$ A. No. We individually went out ourselves and researched
- you, gained intel and information on you in the public
- domain. Also further down the line, we had a police
- $20\,$ seminar regarding protestors, terrorism and other
- $21\,$ activities , and information gained is only from the
- 22 public domain.
- $23\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. So tell the court then about what you found out
- $24\,$ about Mr Curtin, the perceived knowledge you have based
- on -- is it just your internet searches? Tell the court

- 1 roughly, or as much as you can actually.
- 2 A. My internet search in the public domain gave me
- decimation of graves, grave robbing, breaking and entry,
- 4 attempting to decimate another grave and decapitate the
- 5 head (inaudible). The information is vast. This was
- 6 a year and a half ago I did all the research but since
- $7 \hspace{1.5cm} \hbox{then I have $--$ I stopped researching after the first} \\$
- 8 couple of days.
- 9 Q. Why did you stop researching?
- $10\,$ A. I gained enough information on your past and present
- activities , giving me a basic information on what sort of person you were.
- 13 Q. Yes, because I'm sure other people in this courtroom who
- never heard it before have said, "What did he say?
- 15 Grave robbing?". Tell us about the knowledge that you
- have about the grave robbing. Can I remind -- did it
- $17 \hspace{1cm} \hbox{relate to a campaign called Newchurch where there was} \\$
- $18 \hspace{1cm} \hbox{indeed a grave desecration of the owner's mother-in-law?} \\$
- 19 Does that ring a bell?
- $20\,$ $\,$ A. Not -- no. When I did the original research, this was
- over a year and a half ago, I went through it all. Most if I've forgotten now. I don't remember.
- 23 Q. Okay but --
- $24\,$ $\,$ A. It's not this thing you've just spoken about but I do
- know you spent prison time regarding the desecration and

- 1 grave robbing.
- Q. And that unsettled you, as you've said, which was very unsettling, and I understand that. Yes?
- 4 A. Could you repeat that again? Sorry.
- 5 Q. This information that, as far as you're concerned,
- 6 Mr Curtin had been —— was taking part in a grave
- 7 desecration and had been imprisoned, caused you alarm
- 8 and it became unsettling for you, yes?
- 9 A. Yes, it's very disturbing that someone could do that.
- 10 Q. And what else? You've talked of breaking in.
- 11 A. Yes, breaking in other premises and intimidating people.
- 12 I can't remember all the information now, this is a year
- 13 and a half ago.
- $14\,$ $\,$ Q. So intimidating people and there's more. What about
- 15 the -- so intimidating, breaking into property. Are you
- $16\,$ aware -- is there any information to you that I'd
- 17 previously had any involvement with the Wyton site?
- $20\,$ $\,$ Q. So when we go back to paragraph 64, just this man who
- has this connection with gravedigging, that alone, this
- guy standing near me, that alone is enough to cause you
- fear. As you said, you found it overwhelming, yes?
- A. Yes, it caused me great fear that a person very close to my face intimidating, provoking me, goading me, I was
 - 62

- 1 concerned that things could escalate.
- 2 Q. Was it your understanding that Mr Curtin was just
- 3 another protestor? Or I've been described a lot of
- 4 times by workers as a ringleader. Which one? Another
- 5 protestor, just one of those, or Mr Curtin in fact is,
- $\,\,$ $\,$ $\,$ if not the ringleader, a ringleader; would that be
- 7 correct?
- 8 A. No, I see you as one of the main persons in charge of9 the protestors' camp.
- 10~ Q. Okay. In charge, ringleader, similar, yes?
- 11 A. No, I'd just say main person, one of the main people.
- 12 Q. Okay. Right. Let's go and run through the paragraph.
- 13 I'll probably ask you questions for the next half
- an hour or so, I don't think we're going to get through
- 15 it but we won't be here for a long, long time. Right.
- 16 Your role:
- 17 "I am in charge of maintenance on the Wyton Site
- 18 ..."
- 19 Yes
- 20 A. Yes, I'm in charge of the maintenance.
- $21\,$ $\,$ Q. So MBR Acres, they breed, amongst the things they do,
- 22 the main thing is that they breed dogs for vivisection,
- 23 to supply vivisection laboratories, yes?
- 24 A. I -- they breed animals for all sorts of businesses.
- 25 Q. Could you expand on that, please?

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- 1 A. That's medical research and other businesses. My
- 2 knowledge is very limited regarding the dogs because
- 3 I have hardly any interaction with the dogs at the
- 4 kennel, due to maintenance(?).
- 5 Q. But you've worked there since 2015 so let's -- so is it
- 6 your understanding that the dogs —— it's you that's
- 7 mentioned medical research. Is it your understanding
- $8\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,$ that the only dogs -- when it comes to supplying
- 9 laboratories, the only reason for that is medical
- research; is that your understanding?
- 11 A. Yes, that's most of my understanding. As I've got no
- 12 interaction hardly with the dogs, I do know they go for
- medical research, yes.
- 14 Q. Who told you this? Has management told you this?
- 15 A. No. It's common knowledge because when I joined the
- $16 \hspace{1cm} \hbox{company many years ago, I did a little bit of research} \\$
- myself knowing that I was working at a dog kennels
- 18 regarding medical research.
- $19\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. What about testing for, say -- we're not going to
- go down this road much, just your vague knowledge, whatabout testing for like pesticides, insecticides,
- chemicals, what about that? Are the dogs this is not
- 23 important I don't think but is it your understanding
- that dogs are sold for those experiments, if they were
- 25 to be experiments, or it's only medical research?

- A. From what I understand, it's only medical research.
- Q. What about if I told you you were utterly wrong there --
- 3 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Mr Curtin, it's not relevant whether 4 he's right or wrong about it.
- MR CURTIN: Your Honour, he did say. He did say. 5
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I know but you've taken it as far as 7
 - you can, which is what is his awareness, and you've got
- 9 MR CURTIN: This other business, do you want me to remind 10
- you what the other business might be or have you 11 refreshed your memory what the other fundamental
- 12 business of why Marshalls breed beagles? They're
- 13
- a business, they're here to make money and what else
- is it that they make money from? What else is it that 14
- 15 Marshalls do, other than they breed beagles and they
- 16 sell them to laboratories, what else do they do? You've 17
 - been there for ten years. What else is it?
- 18 A. I understand the dogs are just bred for medical 19
- Q. Okay. Are you aware that the company holds something 20 2.1 called a bleeding licence?
- A. I have read some of the Home Office's licence 2.2
- guidelines . I've glimpsed at them. I didn't see 2.3
- 2.4 a paragraph regarding bleeding, I do know there is
- 25 something in there regarding this.

- 1 Q. You say -- it's a strange thing to glance at Home Office
- 2 guidelines. I put it to you that you do know about the
 - bleeding licence and you're being slow coming forward
- with the information at the moment.
- A. The information I got was just glimpsing at the licence .
- I was asked to have a look at it, which I did do, but as 6
- 7 I said before, my interaction with the dogs is very,
- 8 very limited. I just maintain --
- 9 Q. Where are you -- sorry, I beg your pardon for 10 interrupting you there. You were saying? Did
- 11 I interrupt you? You said? It's too late, I apologise.
- 12 Why are you, a man in charge of maintenance, being 13 shown some Home Office guidelines on bleeding?
- 14 A. When I joined the company, I was given lots of
- 15 literature to read regarding the company and this is 16 some of the things I read.
- 17 Q. Okay.

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- 18 A. As I -- working at this site.
- 19 Q. Okay, thank you. So when you go in and out of the site
- 2.0 and have done for many, many years, but since
- Camp Beagle, you hear people shout things at the 21
- 2.2 workers, don't you?
- 23 A. Yes, we're called all sorts of names and intimidated.
- 2.4 Q. And one of the things, one of the main chants in the
- 25 evidence that Mr Curtin has shouted is "Puppy killer",

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- 2 A. Yes, you've called me and the other members of
- 3 protestors have called me puppy killer too.
- 4 Q. How does it feel to be called a puppy killer?
- 5 A. Very disturbing, as I have nothing to do with the puppies and no inter -- I have no interaction with the 6
- 7 puppies and I've never seen any puppies being killed on site or heard of it. It's very disturbing. 8
- 9 Q. Do you think I should be prevented from calling you 10 puppy killer?
- 11 A. I'd like to prevent you calling me lots of names, yes,
- 12 that's including one of them.
- 13 Q. Okay, so I was going to say the next time I'm at the
- 14 camp — but the last time I was at the camp and you
- 15 drove past I called you puppy killer. Now I'm going to
- 16 give you my rationale for that and see what you think.
- 17 So you work at MBR Acres, you're the maintenance man.
- 18 So we've -- and I fully -- I can fully believe that
- 19 you've never seen a puppy being killed. Let me put it
- 20 this way, there's no blood on your hands, is there?
- 2.1 A. I've never seen any puppies being killed on site or
- 22 heard of anyone doing it. I know you use that as a term
- of intimidation, "blood on your hands", we get that 2.3
- 2.4 taunted at us when we leave site.
- 2.5 Q. So it's my case that you work for a company that

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- 1 supplies animals for experiments which I take massive
- 2 exception to, and it's also a company that sells dogs'
- 3 blood. Now, I am horrified at that and as a result of
- that I hold all the workers equally responsible that go
- inside MBR for being in different degrees but I'd say 5
- 6 you're all responsible for the bleeding of puppies or
- 7 dogs to death. How does that make you feel? Do you
- 8 think it's unfair?
- 9 A. I have nothing to do with what you're saying. I'm just
- 10 the maintenance so I don't understand why you're trying
- 11 to put all of this on me.
- 12 Q. Okay. I put it to you that when you receive your wage
- 13 packet, there is no blood on your hands but it would be
- my case that you earn literally blood money, which is 14
- 15 a very strong thing to say. How does that make you
- 16 feel?
- 17 A. When I receive my wage, unfortunately, I've got
- 18 a mortgage to pay and bills and I haven't got the luxury
- 19 of not working and I don't see it as blood money.
- 2.0 Unfortunately, it's money to survive and live with.
- 21 Q. Okay. I think -- so are you aware of -- did you see
- 2.2 the -- are you aware that there was a Daily Mirror
- 23 article yesterday about Marshalls yet again, and this 2.4
- time it was about you flying dogs into the country from 25 US for experiments? Are you aware of that yesterday?

- 1 A. No, sorry, I don't read the papers. I'm not aware of 2 this article
- 3 Q. Okay. Would you take it from me that there was such an 4 article yesterday and in fact it's one of many articles,
- 5 there has been —— especially in the time of Camp Beagle, 6
- MBR Acres has appeared in the media a lot of times in 7 controversial circumstances. Would you accept that?
- 8 A. I do understand that the company has been in the media 9 spotlight from various stuff(?) that have gone out in

the public domain occasionally.

11 Q. Okay.

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- 12 A. But most of the time I've -- because I'm only there to
- 13 do the maintenance, I'm not really interested in what 14 goes on outside. I'm just interested in maintaining my
 - site for the dogs.
- Q. I understand. I'm just putting to you, are you aware 16
- 17 that there's a -- we can't do a numbers game, but 18
- a sizeable number of people, a sizeable percentage of
- 19 the people who live in this country that would be
- 2.0 horrified that, one, puppies are bred to be experimented
- 21 on and, two, horrified that there's a company that
- 22 bleeds dogs to death. Would you accept that there is --2.3
- it's not just Mr Curtin, there are a large number of
- 2.4 people that would have a similar point of view to that.
- 25 Would you accept that?

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- 1 A. No, I wouldn't, because a lot of the media is -- things
- 2 are sensationalised and untrue. With some of the
- 3 information you're giving me, it's untrue.
- Q. Okay, we're not going to be able to go into -- this
- 5 isn't going to be a debate about the rights and wrongs
- of what you do. I just want you to accept that -- all 6
- 7 right, what about this? There are a large number --
- 8 Daily Mirror printed an article yesterday. Millions of
- 9 people probably read it. And of those, whether it's
- 10 true or not, whether it's tabloid, but there will be
- 11 a large number of people who believe what they read in 12
 - that newspaper and as a result of that they were
- 13 horrified, would you accept that?
- A. No, until I've read the article I'm not going to 14
- 15 comment. Sorry.
- 16 Q. Okay. So is it your evidence that you've got no real
- 17 knowledge at all of the fact that vivisection is
- 18 a massive controversial issue and it causes deeply held
- 19 opinions, especially on the anti-vivisection side. Are
- 2.0 you not even aware of that? Do you keep yourself away
- 21 so much that you're not even aware of that?
- 2.2 A. Vivisection, I know it exists because it's been on some
- 23 of the information regarding you, but I'm not
- 2.4 interested. I'm only interested in maintaining the
- 25 site. I don't always believe what I read or see on the

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- 1 media regarding your actions as well as other companies.
- 2 Q. So I'm just asking you, here's a scenario. Someone has
- 3 read some information in the national press, they've
- 4 looked at Camp Beagle, they've come down to the gates
- and they're horrified about the bleeding licence and 5
- every single car that goes in they shout at them "Puppy 6
 - killer". These people, including myself, would not be
- 8 particularly interested in who actually kills the puppy,
- 9 they'd hold you all generally responsible. Do you
- 10 accept that such a point of view can be taken as that by
- 11 somebody else? Not you but by somebody else.
- 12 Α I accept that everyone has their own opinion.
- 13 Q. And that someone else could find you -- in fact it's not
- 14 a case of like individual responsibility, by working at
- 15 MBR Acres you all have -- you have a collective
- responsibility $\,\,--\,\,$ there is a collective $\,$ responsibility $\,.\,$ 16
- 17 Once you go to work for that company, you need to --
- 18 I would say you have to accept that other people are
- 19 going to hold you responsible for animal cruelty. They
- 2.0 may be right and they may be wrong, but do you accept
- 21 that this scenario happens, that there are people who
- 22 are going to hold you -- forget about you as an
- 2.3 individual as such, but you as a worker at MBR Acres are
- 2.4 just as guilty as the ones with blood on their hands,
- 25 you're all culpable?

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- A. I'll repeat myself. I accept that everyone has their 1
- 2. own opinions
- Q. Okay. 3

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- 4 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Can I ask, Employee V, do you
 - understand why the protestors are there?
- 6 A. Yes, I do. I do understand. They are protesting for
 - their views on what goes on in the industry.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay, thank you. 8
- 9 MR CURTIN: Paragraph 7, do you have paragraph 7?
- 10 A. Yes, I have it in front of me now.
- 11 Q. Simple question:
- 12 "During the summer of 2021, the protests outside the
- 13 Wyton Site became more intense, and it was not possible
- 14 to enter ...
- 15 Did vou make vour statement off vour own free will?
- 16 A. Please give me a moment to read this through.
- 17 Q. Just the first sentence.
- 18 "... it was not possible to enter or exit the Wyton
- 19 Site safely."
- 20 Have you read that?
- 2.1 A. I'm reading it now. Please bear with me.
- 2.2 Q. Sorry, yes. It was just the first sentence I'm going to
- 23 ask you about really.
- 24 A. Yes, carry on. 2.5 Q. Did you make this statement of your own free will and of

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- 1 your own free choice? Are these the words that you 2 chose to put in your statement?
- 3 A. Most of these are my own free words. I had some help
- 4 regarding my English and to rephrase things. I've had
- 5 help, yes, but most of this is my statement. It's
- helped -- been helped here to word -- I use the word 6 7 "proper English".
- Q. Okay. So apart from helping you with proper English, 8
- 9 which I understand, were you prompted to say anything by 10 the people who were helping with the English? Did they
- 11 prompt you to say any -- to give any extra content into
- 12 the statement that you might not have otherwise given?
- 13 A. Not this statement. I don't remember. This statement
- 14 was given a long time ago.
- 15 Q. Paragraph 7, you talk about going in and out of the site
- 16 is really frightening. And you include in that
- 17 frightening experience people slowly walking in front of
- 18 the convoy. Would you find that frightening, people
- 19 walking slowly in front of you? It's frightening?
- 20 A. On paragraph 7, it doesn't mention anything about people 2.1 walking in front of me. Is that in another paragraph?
- 2.2 Q. No, it says:
- 2.3 "Accessing and exiting the Wyton Site during the 2.4 spring, summer and autumn of 2021 was, however, a really
- 25 frightening experience, with protestors surrounding my

- 1 vehicle on a daily basis and often blocking or slow 2. walking in front of the convoy of staff cars ... '
- 3 A. I think I might be on the wrong paragraph --
- Q. Paragraph 7.
- A. I've gone back to the front of my book. Paragraph 7. 5
- 6 Q. Of your statement.
- MS BOLTON: My Lord, if I may assist, it's page 1714. 7
- 8 A. That's why. I'm on the wrong page, I do apologise.
- 9 MR CURTIN: No problem. Happens to me all the time.
- 10 A. Ah, thank you. I do apologise. I've gone back to it, 11 gone back, sorry.
- 12 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You may need to ask the question again 13 now Mr Curtin
- 14 MR CURTIN: You talked about your views, I've underlined the 15 word "frightening", and then you go on to list some of
- 16 the things that you found frightening about going in and
- 17 out of work. One of them -- well, protestors
- 18 surrounding the cars "and often blocking or slow walking
- 19 in front of the ... cars ... and shouting abuse at me".
- A. Yes, that's what's happened. 2.0
- 21 Q. Okay. If people are shouting abuse at you, I imagine
- 2.2 you find that frightening, but we -- it's my case that
- 2.3 the reason that people are shouting things like "Puppy
- 2.4 killer" is because you work in MBR. It's not personal.

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25 It's normally not personal in the vast majority of

- 1 cases. Would you accept that? It's not personal but
 - it's against you as a MBR worker?
- 3 A. No, I see it as personal. I'm sorry, they're directed
- 4 at you, they're actually right up at the window shouting
- 5 at you, I see it as personal.
- Q. That's fine. It's up to you to see it. I'm just 6
 - challenging that. Especially when you know that the
- 8 people behind you and the people in front of you get
- 9 shouted at very similar things.
- 10 A. Yes, they do get shouted at.
- 11 Q. And the people slow walking in front of the convoy,
- 12 do you still want to include that as frightening?
- 13 A. Yes, because when they're around the car, they're
- 14 knocking on the windows and doors, you have no idea how
- 15 frightening that is, especially when some of them are so
- 16 angry and some of the death threats that have been put
- 17 on the internet, what they're going to do to the staff,
- 18 it does get very worrying when the car is surrounded.
- 19 There's a lot of angry people out there.
- 20 Q. Okay. So it's a combination. It's when there's slow
- 2.1 walking and you feel like you're surrounded and then the
- 22 added death threats, that's when it becomes frightening, 2.3
- 24 Α Yes, also the knocking on the windows, bending the
- 25 mirrors, trying to open the doors.

- 1 Q. Have you had that happen to you?
- A. Yes, I have. When I've had my car surrounded, they're 2.
 - knocking on the door, trying to open the doors and
- bending the wing mirrors.
- 5 Q. It's just that that's not featured in your witness
- 6 statement.

3

- 7 A. No, but I've mentioned how terrifying things were.
- 8 Q. Okay. Paragraph 9 you talk about you're worried that
- 9 the protestors may target the house.
- 10 A. Yes, that's correct. I have had other members or my
- 11 colleagues that have had their house targeted. They've
- 12 had them spray-painted, vandalised.
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 A. It's concerning that someone is going to come round and
- 15 with some of the death threats they put on the internet.
- 16 you don't know what sort of person could visit my house.
- 17 Q. Yes, I understand that. So of your fear level, of the
- 18 scale, would it be that the thought of you, your family
- 19 or your house being attacked would be at the top of your 2.0
 - fear level, yes? That would be literally the worst case
- 2.1 scenario: is that correct?
- 2.2 No. No, it isn't. I fear being — having my car
- 23 smashed while being outside the site. I had the fear of

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when you were intimidating me when I was repairing the 2.5 wire. And then I've got the fear of the house being

2.4

- 1 attacked. And then I've also got the fear of some of 2 the staff members who have been abused in the street.
- 3 It's a terrible, terrible fear.
- 4 Q. Okay. Another witness has stated that, like you, they
- 5 have a similar level of fear. I put the scenario. So me, we'll come to the incident in a minute, the fact 6
- 7
- that I'm next to you and close to you would bring you 8
- a similar -- would it bring you a similar level of fear 9 than if I was to be, along with some other people,
- 10 outside of your house shouting at night-time? Is it
- 11 connected to the point where it's just one lot of fear 12 or are there levels of fear?
- 13 A. One sort of fear, that would be you on your own or
- 14 a load of people. 15 Q. So me outside your house at night-time would be -- for
- 16 you would be terrifying, and me having an interaction 17 with you whilst you're working outside -- would that be
- 18 a similar level of fear to you, in my case?
- 19 A. Yes, it would. Especially when you're right up beside
- 20 my face, a couple of millimetres away from me last time 2.1 when I was repairing the fence.
- 2.2 Q. Yes. We'll come to that. A couple more questions --2.3 literally one or two and then we can deal with the 2.4 video
- 25 Paragraph 18, you talk about concealing your

- 1 identity and that can be unpleasant and uncomfortable, 2
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. You're a man who, from your own evidence, you like to
- 5 keep yourself to yourself, don't you? That's the
- 6 impression I'm gathering.
- 7 A. I work in my parameters at work. I do interact with the 8 staff when they need me. But most of the time I work
- 9 with -- within myself, yes.
- 10 Q. So in your case, prior to Camp Beagle, you were at
- 11 some -- you're in a pub or you're in a party or some
- 12 social setting, you get talking to a stranger and they ask you, "Where do you work?", what would your reply be? 13
- 14 A. Now my reply would be very different due to the hatred
- 15 that's been put on the internet and the intimidation.
- 16 death threats. I say I work somewhere different.
- 17 Q. You're saying now. What about if someone had asked you 18 the same question two years ago?
- 19 A. Close friends --
- 2.0 Q. No, no, no, no. I'm talking a stranger. Someone in
- 21 a shop, someone at a bar, someone at a party, "All right
- 2.2 mate, blah blah blah, nice day, isn't it? What are you 2.3 up to? Where do you work?" What would your answer be?
- 2.4 A. My answer would be now just maintenance. I wouldn't
- 25 give them where I work.

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- 1 Q. I asked you the question was like say two years ago, 2
 - three years ago, five years ago, ten years ago.
- 3 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Well, they may be different answers.
- 4 MR CURTIN: I apologise.
- 5 Previous to camp -- two years ago, what would your
- answer have been? You're talking to someone, you don't 6
- 7 know who they are. You've got no idea and they ask you where you work. What would your answer -- think about 8
- 9 it, and you're on oath, what would your answer be?
- 10 A. I'd very carefully answer it. Sometimes I'd tell the 11
 - truth, sometimes I would change my job title.
- 12 Q. How far would you go? Another witness said —— they gave
- 13 two options, a kennel assistant or "I work at Tesco's".
- 14 Have you done similar things?
- 15 A. No, I just keep it in the field of maintenance.
- Q. Just to make sure, that would be -- now you'd 16
- 17 definitely $\,\,--\,\,$ but this was the case also, wasn't it, two
- 18 vears ago, to a stranger?
- 19 A. No, I would say three years ago to a stranger I'd be
- 20 quite honest. But now, after all the interaction of
- 21 protestors and misinformation being spread, I have to be
- 22 very careful where I work now for my own safety and my 2.3 family's safety.
- 2.4 Okay, are you sure about that answer? You know you've
- 2.5 done a lot of internet research. Do you know about the

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- 1 Huntingdon campaign that happened in the early 2000s?
- 2 A. Yes, somebody has mentioned it to me but I don't know
- 3 about the campaign to -- I've read a little article but,
- 4 as you said, that's over two years ago. I don't
- 5 remember all what I've read.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.\ \ \ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$ put to you you've got some awareness of the nearly ten 6
- 7 years you've been working there, you're involved in
- 8 a controversial industry, there's always been animal
- 9 rights people around. But you gave various -- I just
- 10 want to simplify this point before we break, that two
- 11 years ago, some stranger comes up to you, "Where do you
- 12 work?", you're telling me now -- what would the answer
- 13
- have been two -- now you're saying -- I understand since
- 14 the camp because you've personally witnessed all these
- 15 things, you're absolutely going to just say
- 16 "Maintenance", you're tight-lipped. Two years ago,
- 17 someone comes up to you, a stranger, "Where do you
- 18 work?", give me the answer that you would have given two
- 19 years ago. You said -- I want to know the answer. What
- would you have said, two years ago? 2.0
- 21 A. I'm going to have to change that. Three years ago
- 2.2 I would have told the truth, but since the campaign
- 23 started and it's become more -- with more misinformation
- 2.4 on the internet and death threats and other things going
- 25 on, I give a different answer now.

- 1 Q. Okay, so three years ago, someone comes up to you at going to be an important area of the case. 2 a party, "Where do you work?", you say "I work at 2 MR CURTIN: No. 3 MBR Acres where we breed dogs for experiments and we 3 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: And you're not going to put provocative 4 also, you know what, sometimes --' 4 questions to the witness about -- because they're MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Mr Curtin, you're now way out of the 5 5 unreal, what you're putting to him. area. Okay? You're asking about what he might say at MR CURTIN: Okay, I'll move on. 6 6 a party. He might answer -- he said truthfully, three 7 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. It's time for lunch now. We'll years ago he might have said he worked at MBR Acres. He 8 8 come back at 2.10. 9 didn't go on to say --9 (1.08 pm) MR CURTIN: He said truthfully, he said truthfully --10 10 (The short adjournment) 11 I won't answer that then, how would he have put it? 11 (2.08 pm)MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Why does it matter? What are you going 12 JUDGE: Right. Okay, Mr Curtin. 12 13 to say to me at the end of the trial that matters about 13 MR CURTIN: Okay. Can I take you to paragraph 20, please? A. Just to clarify that, is that on page 1716? 14 this? 14 15 MR CURTIN: My case is he would have always hidden his 15 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: It is, yes. 16 identity from people. 16 A. Thank you. MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: And if you're right about that, what 17 MR CURTIN: The second sentence: 17 18 difference does it make? 18 "The protestors distribute footage and pictures of MR CURTIN: That the camp has not added -- has aggravated 19 19 us and our cars on the internet, and specifically ask 20 that but it hasn't created it. There was already 20 those viewing the content to identify staff members." 2.1 a position where this man was hiding away, I would say 21 Yes? 22 hiding away in terms of not being candid for a simple 22 A. Yes, that's correct. I've seen that on the internet 2.3 23 question like that. before it gets taken off. 2.4 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Then you've got a problem because he's 2.4 Q. Okay, so I'm not denying that you may have seen such 25 positively answered that three years ago, he would have 2.5 things. What about -- are you aware that Camp Beagle has some social media? Camp Beagle Facebook and 1 told the truth about his job. 1 MR CURTIN: Can I ask one more question on that then? 2 2. Camp Beagle Instagram. 3 So three years ago, we're at a social setting, what 3 A. Yes, I am aware but I have no social media accounts. would your answer have been? You said you'd be more --I just rely on some of the information given to me by 5 give me the words, "All right mate, how you doing, blah 5 other members of staff. 6 blah blah, where do you work then?" Tell me three years 6 Q. Okay. So sort of second-hand information? 7 7 ago what the answer would have been. A. Most of the time I ask not to be told because it really 8 A. I would have told them the truth where I worked. 8 doesn't interest me. Q. What's that? What's the answer? You can't tell them 9
- Q. What's that? What's the answer? You can't tell them
 the truth. What's the -- I ask you, "All right mate,
 where do you work?" What's the words that come out of
 your mouth?
- 13 A. I would have said MBR, Wyton. That's what I used to 14 say.
- Q. Okay. And if they ask you, "What's that then? What'sthat all about? Where's that"?
- 19 Q. Would you have offered the fact that they were going to 20 be sent to laboratories ——
- $21\,$ $\,$ MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Oh, Mr Curtin.
- 22 MR CURTIN: Okay, I'm prepared --
- 23 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You're not getting -- you're making the

- $24 \hspace{10mm} \text{situation worse for yourself because you've now got} \\$
- $25\,$ a worse answer than you had first of all . It's not

- 9 Q. Okay. If I were to put it to you that on Camp Beagle 10 social media and Facebook social media, there has never
- been any attempt to identify workers or to pick them out
- or to make it personal in any way towards any worker,
- how would you understand that? Would you accept that?
- 14 A. I accept that on Camp Beagle they do put bits asking
- where staff live, they put their registration numbers,
- and I have seen names go on there. From other members
- of staff they've shown me because they've captured the
- screen and then reported to Facebook and Instagram that
- they're asking people to -- I'm going to word it the way
- 20 they word it -- hunt us down.
- $21\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. But you gather this from the evidence of other
- 22 people. This is information gained by work colleagues
- who show you, "Here you are, look what I saw on
- 24 Camp Beagle last night"?
- 25 A. No, I haven't seen any articles for a long time because

- 1 I haven't -- I've asked not to be shown them.
- 2 Q. Okay. I'm just trying to get this straight. You're
- 3 telling me that you've seen screenshots that have been
- shown to you by workers. Is it right that you haven't 4
- 5 got social media so what you're about to answer about your knowledge of social media is based on from your 6
- 7 work colleagues, is that correct?
- A. Yes, but I haven't had any information given to me for 8 9 a long time because I've asked not to.
- 10 Q. Okay, but the information you were given on the past, so 11 anything -- if I was to ask you about Camp Beagle social
- 12 media, it would be second-hand information based on what 13 your work colleagues have told you, what they saw?
- A. Yes, that's correct, second-hand information. 14
- 15 Q. So in that case I don't think it's worth pursuing that
- 16 because you haven't seen it yourself. Do you
- 17 understand? So I'll move on.
- 18 Paragraph 21, you talked about Bethany Mayflower
- 19 meeting -- approaching Dave Manning, Dave Manning having
- 2.0 his door painted, Employee L having something happen at 21 their house and paint, Employee K and Q, Employee F and
- 22 Dave Manning having letters from funeral companies.
- 2.3 You're not suggesting in any way, are you, that I'm
- 2.4 responsible for those actions in this witness statement? 25 A. I can't answer that. I have no idea what you do off

- 1 site. But I do know of all the activities down there.
- 2 Q. Yes. Now, paragraph 22, you mention Mel Broughton,
- 3 Bethany Mayflower, John Curtin, Michael Maher and
- Pauline Hodson, then you go on to say -- it's as if you
- 5 draw a distinction between the five people you've
- mentioned and the others, because you say: 6
- 7 "There are other protestors ... who I recognise ...
- 8 but who are just making their views known, and not doing
- 9 anything especially 'wrong' ...'
- 10 Is it your case that the people you've identified
- 11 there are the ones that do things wrong and the others 12 don't?
- A. I've identified them in two ways, non-peaceful 13
- 14 protestors and —— protestors. As I've said,
- 15 non-peaceful protestors and peaceful — intimidating.
- 16 violent and abusive.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.\ \ \ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$ would come into the second category, is it? 17
- 18 A. You would come in, yes, the category of intimidation.
- 19 Q. I don't know how much is based on my actions but 2.0 certainly from what you think you know about my past,
- 21 that's always a factor here, the Curtin factor, about my
- 2.2 past, yes?
- 23 A. That is one of the criteria , yes. Your past is part of 2.4 you, yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. Paragraph 23, we've discussed this earlier. This

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- 1 is similar -- remember at the very beginning, we talked
- 2 about your knowledge. What I didn't ask then was about
- 3 this $\,--\,$ the idea of the police meeting, do you remember
- 4 you talked about the police coming to address workers?
- A. Yes. The police came to site, give us the seminar 5
- 6 regarding peaceful protests, non-peaceful protests and
- 7 terrorism acts. And some of the things, what to do and 8 what to do regarding certain situations.
- 9 Q. Was it the police who drew those distinctions? So you
- 10 have peaceful protestors and extremists -- would the
 - police lay out that sort of -- would you say they laid
- 12 that sort of plan out for you? There's peaceful
- 13 protestors who offer one kind of scenario but then
- 14 there's these others. Is it the police who drew those
 - distinctions? Perfectly rational distinctions.
- 16 A. The seminar was a training seminar. It went from
- 17 peaceful to non-peaceful. It was all basic information
- 18 which we could obtain from the public domain and how
- 19 things worked from any website, they just came to talk
- 20

11

15

10

2.0

2.4

- 21 Q. Yes. Did the police mention my name, John Curtin?
- 22 A. No, we mentioned your name and they give us information
- 2.3 which we already knew from the public domain. 2.4 What information did the police give you, whether you
- 2.5
- knew it or not? What information did the police give

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- 1 you about myself?
- A. Same as what I said before, I can repeat it . Decimation 2
- 3 of graves, gravedigging, breaking and entry. I mean,
- it's a long time ago, the seminar, but it was just all
- 5 the basic information which I'd obtained already from
- 6 the public domain.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: When you say that it was a long time 7
- 8 ago, can you remember roughly when it was?
- 9 A. I would say over a year ago. A year and a couple of
 - months. It's a long time ago.
- 11 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Were the police officers from
- 12 Cambridgeshire Police or some other force?
- 13 A. I can't remember that. I'm sorry.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: That's all right. 14
- 15 A. They were from a force, this is before the temporary
- 16 court injunction came in I think.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: All right. 17
- 18 A. That's all I can remember.
- 19 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: But you do have a recollection of the
 - police talking about individuals like Mr Curtin?
- 21 A. His name was mentioned, but that's because we asked
- 2.2 questions regarding Mr Curtin. I can't remember, we
- 23 just asked odd questions. And it was basically the same

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information that we'd already pulled off the public 2.5 domain. It was only a short amount of questions.

11

- I can't remember what was said now.
- 2 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Can you remember how many officers were
- 3
- 4 A. I think two officers were present.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Thank you very much. 5
- MR CURTIN: Could the same be said about Mel Broughton? Did 6
- 7 the police mention Mel Broughton to you or was that
- 8 another question asked by the workers?
- 9 A. I'm sure his name was mentioned but, again, I can't 10 remember again. It's such a long time ago.
- 11 Q. I've forgot where I am myself now.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You'd just dealt with 22. 12
- MR CURTIN: Okay, did they talk about, say, the campaign
- that had happened some 20 years before, Huntingdon Life 14 15 Sciences?
- A. You know. I'll be honest. I can't remember. 16
- Q. Okay. Was the campaign —— I think I asked you before if 17
- 18 you were aware of it. Let's say there was lots of quite
- 19 militant illegal activities, targeted -- a campaign of
- targeted attacks on individuals, attacks on property, 2.0
- 21 a campaign that encouraged personal attacks and illegal
- 22 activities . Did the police talk of previous campaigns
- 23 in those terms, that there had been such similar
- 2.4 campaigns in the past?
- 25 A. I am aware of the campaigns but I can't remember if that

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- 1 was through staff members, my knowledge looking on the 2 internet. I can't remember.
- 3 Q. Did you feel -- after the police talk was given, do you
- remember any colleagues -- any conversations with your
- 5 colleagues about the general conclusions that, if
- I could broadly say, members of staff had drawn from 6
- 7 that police seminar? Roughly, you know, roughly, was
- there something that was drawn from that seminar 8
- 9 collectively by the workers? I know you can't talk on 10 behalf of them collectively but I'm just asking for your
- 11
- 12 A. The seminar was very good I thought. It give us an
- 13 insight on how things worked and what to expect. It 14 reassured us
- 15 Q. And involved in that reassurance, did the police talk
- 16 about protestors involved in animal rights can be
- 17 extremely passionate and agitated and be very loud and
- 18 passionate, but on the whole non-violent in their
- 19
- actions? Did the police address you about that or was 2.0 it only about the militant actions?
- 21 A. I honestly can't remember it. It was just basically
- 2.2 going through the basics of a peaceful protest all the
- 23 way up to terrorist acts.
- 2.4 Q. Was the idea perhaps of talking about peaceful protests
- 25 to perhaps on that occasion allay your fears, chill out,

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1 you're working at a controversial place, animal rights

- people know about you, you might as well learn to live
- 3 with it, and the fact that there are peaceful
- 4 protestors, it's just going to be one of those things
- that you have to put up with. Was there anything along 5
- those lines from the police? 6
- 7 A. No, I don't remember that. I just remember parts of the 8 seminar going through all the basics.
- 9 Q. Okay
- 10 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: What did you find that was reassuring
 - about what the police said?
- 12 Of how things have been dealt with, how things have
- 13 improved over the years compared to the past. So it
- 14 reassured us because at one point things were getting
- 15 quite frightening due to what was happening to some of
- 16 the members of staff and us. That was the reassuring
- 17
- 18 MR CURTIN: Did the police give you some reassurance that in
- 19 the past, when there had been extreme activities, there
- 20 had been a clamp-down and they'd been given lengthy 2.1 prison sentences and that had sort of dealt with the
- 22 issue; is that the sort of reassurance you're talking
- 2.3 about?
- 2.4 No, I don't -- I remember parts of the seminar including
- 2.5 you and Mel Broughton and other members had been put in

- 1 prison for their actions, and that's all I remember.
- Q. Okay. But after the meeting, did you feel less nervous 2. 3 or more nervous?
- A. I actually felt the same, in between, at the time.
- 5 Q. Right. Moving on. We're now going to go to -- there's
- three videos that I need to get you to look at. Right. 6
- 7 Can I have video 253, please. 8.01.47. I think we can
- 8 just play it.
- 9 Now, before we play it, again this is -- have you
- 10 got it?
- 11 A. The video has come up on my screen. Which paragraph is
- 12 this referenced to, please?
- 13 Q. 32. Do you have it?
- A. Yes, I do, thank you. I'm just reading it now. 14
- 15 Q. I invite you to look at the bottom left-hand corner.
- 16 a man in a yellow-orangey jacket, next to two police
- 17 officers . I suggest that's me. Would you confirm that
- 18 from your understanding?
- 19 A. If it's the General Post Office jacket that you used to
- 2.0 wear, I'm sure that's you, yes.
- 2.1 Q. Yes. Just from saying that alone, the Post Office
- 2.2 jacket, you know, you clearly remember things I wear
- 23 et cetera, don't you? 24 A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Why is that? Why do you remember me? 2.5

1	A.	I remember lots of things, but you stand out the most	1		Road so that there was only a narrow gap for my car to
2		because you're mainly one of the main people there.	2		drive through"
3	Q.	Do you remember any other item of clothing over the	3		That's myself with the jacket and I put it to you
4		whole time that you've been at Camp Beagle that you can	4		that's Amanda James standing behind me. Watch as the
5		remember anyone else wearing?	5		vehicles go in.
6	A.	I can remember some of the other protestors wearing	6		(Video played)
7		certain items of clothing, yes. But $$	7		Okay, if we can stop the video there. You can see
8	Q.	Such as? Give me one. Give me one example of one item	8		there's a number of cars still to come but I've watched
9		of clothing that you remember from another protestor.	9		that video, and it's not in your evidence, that this is
10	A.	Another fluorescent jacket . There is $$ some of the	10		the scenario you're talking about where Mr Curtin and
11		other protestors wear other fluorescent jackets. Until	11		Amanda James, yes, we're standing there but there's
12		I'm shown the videos, as I said, I try and not get too	12		plenty of gap, I would say, and Mr Curtin is not
13		involved in things but certain things stick out.	13		blocking $$ hasn't blocked the road at any point. I'm
14	Q.	Okay. I'm going to play this video now and I invite you	14		not going to show any more video but so far Mr Curtin
15		to look at it with $$ my defence about this video would	15		has not blocked the road, would you accept that?
16		be that I'm there, for sure, I don't deny that, but I'm	16	A.	I'll accept two parts of that. Where you were standing
17		actually facilitating , helping to facilitate , using my	17		originally you were blocking the road and then you moved
18		experience, the actual passage of the vehicles. There's	18		out the way. So you had the first protestor in front
19		going to be $$ I don't remember this particular video,	19		blocking, you were the second back—up with Amanda James
20		haven't watched it today $$ some shouting, some	20		and then you moved out the way. You moved to the side.
21		delaying, but protest is going to happen and also	21		As I observed that from the video, you've moved to the
22		workers are going to come in and out, and I would	22		left . But you were originally in front of the gate.
23		actually say I'm helping the procedure as opposed to	23	Q.	No, I wasn't. I've never gone —— this is the closest
24		disrupting the affair . Let's watch the video and then	24		I've gone to the gate. I'll tell you what I'm going to
25		I'll ask you the same question. I may not watch all of	25		do, I'm content with your evidence so far. Let's go on
		93			95
1		the video. We'll see. If we can play some of the	1		to the next video, okay?
2		video, please.	2	A.	Okay.
3		(Video played)	3	Q.	Video 724 at 16.00.56.
4		How long is it? Can we skip the video to when the	4	A.	What page is this?
5		cars start to come in? A little bit.	5	Q.	Sorry, this is paragraph 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38.
6	MS	S BOLTON: 52 seconds.	6	A.	Okay, thank you.
7	MF	R CURTIN: Here we go.	7	Q.	Play the video.
8		(Video played)	8		(Video played)
9		Let's stop there. Immediately, again, there's	9		Okay, stop. You see the policeman? With his
10		a protestor in front that's impeding the cars, yes?	10		arms ——
11	A.	Yes, that's correct.	11	A.	Yes, I see $$ you've moved before $$ you were standing
12	Q.	And Mr Curtin is sitting back $$ standing back watching.	12		in front, then you moved behind the policeman.
13		If we can carry on playing ——	13	Q.	I have. You're correct, I've slightly shuffled back.
14	A.	(Inaudible — overspeaking).	14		You're correct. That's me, Mr Curtin, standing in the
15	Q.	— playing the video.	15		driveway, yes?
16		(Video played)	16	A.	Yes.
17		Can we stop there? Can I take you to the last	17	Q.	Okay. Let's carry on.
18		sentence, paragraph 32:	18		(Video played)
19		"As a result of D11 [which is me] (John Curtin)	19		Hold on a sec.
20		[and] (Amanda James) and the other protestors standing	20		I beg your pardon, carry on, sorry, I apologise.
21		in the Access Road, I was not able to freely pass	21		(Video played)
22		the Access Road"	22		Okay, stop the video there. I just wanted to show
23		The sentence before that:	23		the video. You've mentioned me, and the claimant
24		" (John Curtin) and (Amanda James) stood in	24		solicitor, MBR's solicitors, have pointed out a relevant

25

timestamp and I put it to you that that was my entire $--\,$

25

front of my car ... almost halfway across the Access

10

- 1 not my entire involvement, that was my involvement in
- 2 this incident and I indeed did not block your car. My
- 3 case would be that I am there and, as viewed from my
- 4 experience, I am facilitating protesting whilst also the
- 5 passage of the vehicles in and out. Would you accept
- that or would you reject that? 6
- 7 A. The first thing I'm going to say is originally you were
- 8 standing in the front and then as you worded it, you 9 shuffled back and you stood to the left and that's where
- 10 you are now.

17

3

- 11 Q. Okay, yes. I accept there's a little shuffle back.
- 12 We're talking perhaps centimetres, yes, I accept there
- 13 was a little shuffle back. At no point has Mr Curtin
- obviously sat in front of a car or "You shall not pass". 14
- 15 Mr Curtin is standing at the side and he continues to
- stand at the side for the remainder of the -- you don't 16
 - need to -- well, if I was to stop playing the video
- 18 there and just accept that Mr Curtin is now at the side
- 19 of the road and the vehicles are passing in and out and
- 20 there are police officers, a number of them, present.
- 21 A. I accept that you've moved from the middle of the road
- 2.2 to where you are now, as you shuffled back, and now 2.3 you're standing on the side.
- 2.4 Q. Can we go back to where he said middle of the road, just
- 25 a few seconds. All right, let's go back to look at

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- 1 where I'm in the middle of the road then, since you
- 2 mention it. Can you go back a bit?
 - When -- so am I in the middle of the road now?
- A. You're in the middle now. I can see you in the middle 5
- Q. That's me in the middle. That doesn't -- I don't want 6
- 7 to be -- well, I do want to be pedantic. That's not the 8 middle of the road.
- 9 A. Okav it's just off the middle then. Before you shuffled
- 10
- Q. Yes, it is just off the middle. 11
- 12 MS BOLTON: Are you putting paragraph 32 to him?
- 13 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: No, we're on to 33, 34 now.
- MS BOLTON: I know but we've started with paragraph 32 and 14
- 15 paragraph 32 is a different video because it's 8 o'clock
- 16 in the morning, not 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I think we know that. 17
- 18 MS BOLTON: I just wanted to make sure that we're not --
- 19 because I understood Mr Curtin read out on this video to 2.0 the witness about the description in 32, so I'm just --
- 2.1 MR CURTIN: Ah. I was mistaken when I said —— I don't know.
- 2.2 MS BOLTON: Sorry, that's what I'm just clarifying and it's
- 23 just a point of clarification , my Lord. I think there
- 2.4 was a bit of confusion there.
- 25 MR CURTIN: I'll tell you what, that's your evidence, that

98

- 1 I'm standing in the middle of the road there, that's me
 - blocking the road, according to you, isn't it?
- 3 A. Where I see the picture now, yes, you are blocking the
- 4 road Q. Okay. Right, let's move on. Would you accept this --5
- leave the video there. Would you accept that as you're 6
- 7 coming in and out of work, the protestors seem to be
- acting in unison? There's some obstruction but there's 8
- 9 balance being weighed. Certainly in this video there is
- no kicking of cars and no stamping. There's no overtly 11 illegal activities . And the protestors kind of are all
- 12 singing off the same hymn sheet and the police seem to
- 13 be kind of on the same hymn sheet too. Would you accept
- 14
- 15 A. No, I see that as obstruction of us trying to come in
- 16 and go out of work.
- 17 Q. Undoubtedly there's some level of obstruction but
- 18 there's also a protest taking place, isn't there? So
- the two are coming together here. There's a difference 19
- 2.0 between a blockade, "You shall not pass"; this isn't
- 21 a blockade, is it? This is more of a protest I would
- 22
- 2.3 A. I would word it as a temporary blockade because you're
- 2.4 obstructing us and the police have to shuffle everyone
- 25 out the way.

99

- 1 Q. Yes, I would accept there is a temporary obstruction.
- Right. Let's move on to paragraph 58. Yes? 2.
- 3 A. Yes, I'm on paragraph 58.
- Q. Ah, sorry, I do apologise. I've got one question to ask
- 5 you in relation to that last incident. But we haven't
- 6 watched the whole thing. In relation to me, on that
- 7 day, you said:
- 8 "As a result, I was intimidated and scared by the
- 9 protestors standing so close to my car."
- 10 Were you intimidated and scared by me that day
- 11 during that demonstration?
- 12 A. I can only answer that in one way. I know you were
- 13 there and I am worried when you're there what
- 14 instructions you could be giving to the other members of
- 15 the protest.
- 16 Q. Yes. That's the sort of fear process that goes through
- 17 your head, yes?
- 18 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 19 Q. Let's move on to paragraph 58. Yes?
- 2.0 A. Yes. I'm there now.
- 21 Q. And this is perhaps the -- for me, it's the most
 - important part of your evidence. In fact you also
- 23 agree, you say this incident, relating to 8 July, was
- 2.4 particularly upsetting for you?
- 2.5 A. Yes, it was.

2.2

- Q. We're going to watch that video. It's 20 minutes in length. I'm hoping we can skip through some of the bits but we'll have to see how we get on. But through the
- $4\,$ whole duration of this video, this is what I have to put
- to you and I'd like to see what you have to say before the video and then I'll ask you again afterwards. We're
- 7 in —
- 8 A. Would you like me to answer the first part that you just 9 said or --
- 10 Q. No.
- $11 \quad \text{A. } -- \text{ speak to you after the video?}$
- 12 Q. I haven't asked you anything yet.
- 13 A. Okay
- Q. I'm hoping I can say this. This is a civil court but it
 is a court. Imagine if that was a criminal case because
 in this, if I take you to paragraph 62:
- 17 $\,$ " \dots (John Curtin) harassed, abused and threatened 18 $\,$ me."
- 19 Yes?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. If true, those are illegal activities, yes?
- 22 A. It's been carefully worded here. If we watch the video,
- 23 you'll see you're harassing me --
- 24 Q. I know.
- 25 A. -- abusing me and intimidating me.

- 2 I want to ask you a question before we watch it. If
- this was a criminal prosecution and I was a defendant,
- 4 I'm telling you I would plead not guilty, absolutely not
- $\,\,$ guilty on the basis that at no point am I seen in this
- $\,$ 6 $\,$ video harassing, abusing or threatening you. I would
- 7 ask the case to be —— if this was a prosecution case 8 against me, halfway through the case. I could get an
- 8 against me, halfway through the case, I could get an 9 opportunity after the prosecution has finished to say.
- 10 "You must drop this case because there is no evidence".
- 11 What would you say to that, before we watch the video?
- 12 A. I'd say you need to watch the video.
- 13 Q. Okay, let's watch it then. Now, if you can, between us, 14 but you'd have to -- I don't think you could possibly
- 15 trust me though under these circumstances, but if I ask
- 16 to put the video forward -- in fact I'm in charge of it 17 but if you're against putting the video forward at any
- point in case you think I'm trying to hide anything,
- 19 then do speak out, please. Yes?
- 20 A. Okay.

24

- 21 Q. So if we can go to video 175.
- 22 If we can do a bit of skipping -- yes, let's watch 23 it because it's the start of the video.

(Video played)

25 Stop. I put to you that whether you've got access

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1 to social media or not, you know that Mr Curtin

2 regularly, maybe on a daily basis, for nearly two years,

3 has made livestreams and has made a lot of broadcasts on

4 Facebook, yes?

- $5\,$ $\,$ A. I do know you make livestreams because sometimes, when
- 6 I enter work, I drive past you at the fence and I know
- 7 when we had this altercation down the side of the fence, 8 it was livestreamed because other members of staff said
- 8 it was livestreamed because other members of staff 9 "Have you watched it?" and I said "No".
- 10 Q. Okay, so you knew it was a live -- in fact it is
- 11 a livestream and I'm inviting you to put that into
- 12 account, that sometimes there would be times when
- 13 I would be addressing you, sometimes the security guard
- and then at other times I'm addressing the audience who are watching the livestream, yes?
- 16 A. Yes, I know there's a lot of people involved here, yes.
- 17 Q. Excellent. All right. Let's watch a little bit of the video.

(Video played)

- 20 So could we stop it there? Just to give a general
- 21 introduction, I've said "Hello, anybody out there?",
 22 Limagine you could hear it but there's no response f
- 1 imagine you could hear it but there's no response from you or the security guard; is that correct?
- $24\,$ $\,$ A. Yes, there's no response. We were told not to interact

25 with you.

19

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- $1\quad {\sf Q.\ You've\ been\ told.\ By\ management?}$
- 2 A. I've been told by lots of information, from management, 3 police seminars, not to interact.
- 4 Q. So the police also told you not to interact, yes?
- 5 A. Yes, that was one of the things, I'm sure. I'm sure
- 6 that was said in the seminar. We've been told by
- 7 various sources not to interact in any way.
- 8 Q. Can you think of any other sources, apart from the
- 9 management and the police, who have given you this
- 10 advice?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. You're going down to do some work, yes?
- 13 A. I'm going to repair the holes cut in the fences by the 14 protestors.
- 15 Q. So you're going to fix the holes done by —— again, you
- say protestors. A short while before this, I'm not
- quite sure how many days or ... there had been
- a break—in at the site and Animal Rebellion protestors
- 19 had come and they came and they'd taken away five dogs,
- 20 yes?
- 21 A. I know there was a break—in and that's all I remember.
- 22 Q. In fact I did it myself just what you do, I said
- Animal Rebellion protestors. For you, is it fair to
- say, when you cast this net, that those people who broke
- in are just generic protestors? These protestors, they

- break in and they protest? It's the same sort of people, yes?
- 3 A. Just all I know, it was protestors that broke in.
- 4 That's all I know.
- 5 Q. Okay. Is it an unusual thing for you to work on this 6 side of the fence?
- 7 A. I've worked on this side of the fence, both sides,
- 8 checking and repairing stuff in the past, yes.
 9 Q. Just as far as I'm aware, as far as I can remember, this
- 10 is the one and only time, and it would be my evidence, 11 in the 22 months, it would be the only time I've ever
- seen an MBR worker down the side of the field. Would
- 13 I be correct in that?
- 14 A. I've worked on the other side of the fence many times 15 before the protestors arrived (?), repairing things and
- 16 checking things, yes. But this is a 17 Q. Okay, but since the protest began, this was a unique
- 18 event, you could say, a very unusual event?
- $19\,$ $\,$ A. No, I've actually been out a couple of times before that
- and repaired the fence when the protestors were there
 but this was the only time that someone engaged with me.
- $22\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. Were you sent there by -- were you given this job
- by a member of the management?A. I was asked by management to repair the holes and
- 25 I agreed to it.

- $1\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. All right . Let's carry on watching the video.
- 2 Ah -- sorry, back to this thing where you have been out
- $3\,$ a number of times. Are you telling me that you've come
- $4\,$ $\,$ out the front gates, walked down and did protestors see
- 5 you walking outside the gate and take no action or
- $\,$ do you think it was the fact that, if you had been
- 7 outside before, you weren't seen? Which one?
- 8 A. I've been outside and I haven't been seen because
- $9\,$ usually when you walk out the front, at certain times of
- 10 the day, there's nobody standing out there so I just
- walked round, repaired, repaired what I had to repair
- and walked back and no one was the wiser.
- $13\,$ $\,$ Q. Were you nervous? Were you ever nervous about --
- 14 A. Yes, I'm always nervous with what's been given to us,
- death threats and other things, yes, I am nervous.
- 16 Q. Because prior to this there's a fence --
- 17 A. Prior to this, prior to this -- I haven't done any more repairs since our altercation.
- 19 Q. Yes, we'll come to that. You mention that in your
- $20\,$ $\,$ sentence -- in your witness statement, we can come to
- 21 that. But prior to this, it's like there's always been
- a fence between me and you or at least a car door
- between me and you; is that correct?
- $24\,$ $\,$ A. Yes, there's always been a fence or a car door or you've
- 25 been at a very far distance.

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- 1 Q. Okay. Paragraph 61, you said:
- "[Mr] Curtin was constantly in my personal space
- $\ \ \, \text{during this incident}\ \ldots\ [\text{and}]\ \text{was constantly attempting}$
- 4 to provoke me ..."
- If you could stop the video at any time and tell us when the provoking comes. We'll come to the personal
- $7 \hspace{1cm} \text{space but if you could stop at any points, say "Stop} \\$
- 8 there, that was the bit where he provoked me", that
- 9 would be helpful. Do you understand?
- 10 A. Yes, I understand.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 (Video played)
- 13 MS BOLTON: If it helps, the timestamps are in the witness 14 statement in paragraph 62.
- MR CURTIN: Yes, I think because it's such an important film

 we're going to try to —— let's —— yes
 - we're going to try to -- let's -- yes.

 (Video played)
- 17 (Video played)
 18 Can we stop there? We will get to the end of this
- 19 video, I tell you. Now, I invite you -- there's three
- $20\,$ people involved in this . There's me, you and this
- 21 security guard here, yes?
- 22 A. Yes, that's correct, three people.
- $23\,$ $\,$ Q. A man known to the protestors as Rambo, do you know
- 24 that?
- 25 A. I have heard someone nickname -- talking about the

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- 1 protestors have nicknames in Rambo.
- 2 Q. Unlike other workers, Rambo has lots of close encounters
- 3 with protestors. Being a security guard, he goes round
- 4 the fence a lot, he's outside in the morning and the
- 5 evening, he's someone that protestors have met before
- 6 close upfront and I think you can -- it would be fair to
- 7 say you can detect a certain tension between me and
- 8 Rambo. He's a man known to the protestors who smiles
- 9 and dances when the puppy vans are going out. I just
- 10 invite you to -- if there's tension here in this
- situation , which undoubtedly there is, I would guide you
- 12 to bear that in mind. For example, this particular
- exchange here, "Don't touch me", it's between me and him
- 14 as opposed to me and you, that's all.
- 15 A. You use that same tactic on me further on down the line
- ${\tt 16} \qquad {\tt about\ personal\ space\ I\ think.} \quad {\tt I\ can't\ remember.} \ {\tt I've}$
- only watched this video once a long time ago.
- 18 Q. So you see this, me, I'm walking along, filming, making
- a livestream. This, for you, is my tactic, is it?
- 20 A. I see this as your tactic, as part of a protestor, to
- get in people's personal space, to delay them as much as possible in what they're doing.
- 23 Q. Okay. Let's watch the video

2.4

(Video played)

Okay, stop there. I would accept -- I fully accept

1	that that's the first comment I've put to you, "Hello,	1	(Video played)
2	anybody in there", would you accept that? This is	2	My Lord, can I pause the video? Not as a wind—up.
3	our — that's an attempt by me to contact you?	3	I did invite the witness, and I will try not to say
4	A. You had the first bit about the personal space, but this	4	another word, if he can intervene where $$ that was the
5	is the second, but again I'm focused on my work.	5	bit I was on about where —— "provoking me". If he can
6	Q. Yes, and you heard "Hello"? I'm just trying to help us	6	flag up that's a provoking or intimidating bit, that
7	along, "Hello, is there anybody ——" do you accept that's	7	would be helpful.
8	me trying to get some sort of reaction from you	8	MS BOLTON: It's in the witness' statement with timestamps.
9	actually?	9	MR CURTIN: I know. As we're watching it.
10	A. Yes, I accept that's attention, yes, you want my	10	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Ms Bolton, that's the equivalent of
11	attention.	11	leading, okay?
12	Q. Would you class that as me provoking you, "Hello, is	12	MS BOLTON: My Lord, it is there. If Mr Curtin is asking
13	there anybody in there"?	13	where, it's there.
14	A. Not yet, no.	14	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You do appreciate, Ms Bolton, that or
15	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Mr Curtin, it's going to take a very	15	of the purposes of cross—examination is to try and
16	long time with a 20-minute video if we're going to watch	16	undermine the witness' evidence.
17	it in five—second chunks, okay? I suspect the overall	17	MS BOLTON: My Lord, I apologise.
18	impact of this video comes from just watching it. Now,	18	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: You appreciate that?
19	you've got plenty of time at the end to ask whatever	19	MS BOLTON: I'm not trying to undermine anything, my Lord.
20	questions you want. If you want to note down timecodes	20	I'm simply saying that if Mr Curtin is not sure where it
21	you want to go back to, fair enough. And equally, if	21	is, it's in the statement. That was all I was saying.
22	there's something really, really important that you want	22	I'm not trying to do any more than that.
23	to draw the witness' attention to, then that's fine, you	23	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: It's for Mr Curtin to conduct his
24	can stop the video. But we can't go through this video	24	cross—examination. He's asked a perfectly reasonable
25	in five —second chunks.	25	question which is to ask the witness to identify the
	109		111
1	MR CURTIN: Okay. I can think of one area where I need to	1	minutes in the video where he feels he's being provoked.
2	stop it but you're correct, and I'm trying to facilitate	2	MS BOLTON: My Lord, I —— apologies.
3	the court and I was worried about the whole length but	3	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: All right?
4	it's an important video.	4	Right. Carry on, Mr Curtin.
5	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I see that, but it may be better for us	5	MR CURTIN: Play.
6	just to watch it.	6	(Video played)
7	MR CURTIN: I think that's a great idea and I'm guided by	7	If we could stop the video now. I feel no reason to
8	you.	8	watch the rest of the video because there's no real
9	(Video played)	9	interaction of any intimacy between me and $$ I don't
10	Can I stop there? I do that for a deliberate	10	think I address the worker. So that would be a good
11	reason. Yes?	11	place to stop perhaps for the $$
12	A. Can you repeat that again, sorry? I've got my	12	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay. Sure.
13	headphones on.	13	MR CURTIN: I do fully intend to finish by 4 o'clock.
14	Q. I was talking to the $$ yes, I just asked the man with	14	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. We'll come back at 3.25.
15	the video to stop it . \ensuremath{I} just ask you to look at the	15	(3.09 pm)
16	scene we're about to go into. You've gone to the fence	16	(A short break)
17	and I'm about to stand near you, and I would put it I'd	17	(3.25 pm)
18	say to the right of this there's two very narrow trunks	18	MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right, Mr Curtin.

20

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24

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have a problem.

Hello, Witness V.

MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: It's all right.

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of a sapling. But the thing I wanted to draw the $\,$

court's attention to was a very -- it's a gap in the $\,$

hedge and we're talking of -- down in a ditch and it's

a restricted space that me, you and another person are

about to go into. That's all I was about -- I don't

need a comment from you particularly, I just wanted to

remind the court so we can go along.

MR CURTIN: Excellent. Did you understand before the video $$\operatorname{112}$$

A. Yes, I'm here. Sorry, the mike has just come on, sorry.

MR CURTIN: Hello, Witness V. Are you there? Hello, is

there anybody out there? Hello, Witness V? Houston, we

19

20

21

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- 1 was played, at some point I said could you interfere at
- 2 the bits you're talking about being provoked or
- 3 intimidated? There are some bits in your statement that
- 4 I'll come to but is there any reason why you didn't stop 5 the video?
- A. No, I wanted to watch it through to refresh myself 6
- 7 because I -- this is the second time I've watched the 8 video.
- 9
- Q. Okay. I understand that. Right. Let's go through the 10 bits that you've identified then. Hopefully we won't 11 have to play them again because I don't dispute:
- 12 "We are going to do our darndest to make sure some 13 workers go to prison from here you deserve it you really 14 do deserve it.'
- 15 Yes?
- A. That's --16
- 17 Q. You've said:
- 18 "This upset me, as I do not do anything illegal."
- 19 A. That's correct. I'm just the maintenance man who works 20 at the kennels. We're Home Office licensed, we don't do 2.1 anything illegal . So that upset me immensely.
- 2.2 Q. Yes, because as far as you're concerned, we needn't
- really be there, we shouldn't be there, everything is 2.3
- 2.4 fine, this place is well run, well regulated, the dogs
- 25 are -- well, I'm putting words in your mouth there.

- 1 There's no need for any protestors maybe, would that be
- 2 vour case?
- 3 A. Well, yes. I should be left alone to do my work on
- 4 Q. Okay. Let's go back to 62.1. Now, what I've said, we 5
- 6 want "to make sure some workers go to prison". I didn't 7 say you should go to prison.
- 8
- A. Okay, that's what it implied.
- 9 Q. "This upset me, as I do not do anything illegal."
- 10 Then there's a bit on the video after this, which 11 I've not played, where I remind you, "Are you aware of 12 this company's history?". Are you aware that MBR has
- a criminal history? Are you aware of that? 13
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Mr Curtin, you need to be -- you 14 15 recognise that MBR has divisions and so this English
- 16 company, I don't think -- I think you're referring to
- 17 the Italian case.
- 18 MR CURTIN: Yes.
- 19 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: That's a different company. It's 2.0 a company in the same group but it's a different
- 21 company.
- 2.2 MR CURTIN: Are you aware that there has ever been
- 2.3 a prosecution of Marshall in relation to animal cruelty
- 2.4 allegations? Are you aware of any criminal history of
- 25 the staff of your parent company? Are you aware of such

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thing?

7

8

11

- 2 A. No, I'm not. I didn't know anything.
- 3 Q. Did I help to inform you on that day that, indeed, there
- 4 is a criminal past of the company?
- A. No, I didn't, I didn't -- I wasn't always listening to 5
- you. I was trying to get on with my work. But I didn't 6
 - know the other parts of the company have had anything against them. This is new to me.
- 9 Q. Okay. If I was to tell you that is true, and so my
- 10 comment there that you found intimidating was indeed
 - a sincere aim and belief that, if we were able to
- 12 pile -- if we were able to draw a file together we could
- 13 indeed get some of the workers from MBR Acres
- imprisoned, why did you take that personally? Or why 14
- 15 did you find it frightening?
- 16 A. The way you were intimidating, I've done nothing illegal
- 17 and I know none of my work colleagues have done nothing
- 18 illegal because we're licensed under the Home Office and
- 19 I haven't seen anything untoward.
- 20 Q. Okay. You said you weren't listening to everything
- 21 I said and you didn't hear -- I said "some workers".
- 22 Did you miss me saying that or did you think it was
- 2.3 relating to you?
- 2.4 A. I thought it was relating to me.
- 25 Q. Okay.

3

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- 1 "How low can you go working here?"
- 2 I put to you that's a question. It's not a very
 - nice question but it's a question.
- A. Unfortunately, as I've said in the past, I've got to
- 5 work because I've got bills to pay and a family to feed
- 6 and other things and I haven't got the -- and I enjoy
- 7 the work that I do, maintenance.
- 8 Q. Okay. And we've gathered that there are people who --
- 9 there's a section of society in this country that would
- 10 actually look down upon the work that you do, not the
- 11 fact that you're a maintenance man, but the fact that
- 12 you work for this company. You're aware that there's
- 13 a sizeable proportion of the country that would share my
- 14 opinion about this, as a low job, working for MBR.
- Do you accept that?
- 15
- 16 A. I accept that the protestors would say that but I don't
- accept anyone else would because I'm working. 17
- 18 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Mr Curtin, you're not going to agree
- 19 about that. It's back into the area where you don't
- 2.0 need to get agreement.
- MR CURTIN: I understand. 21
- 2.2 62.3, I think we'll play it. It's a very, very
- 23 short bit, I think it's worth playing it. 175, at 10
- 2.4 minutes 25 seconds. I'm just going to show a brief 2.5

clip, we've already watched it. I look at the camera,

9

10

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6

16

so 10.25, and I say "Let's have a look at what the
people are saying. I've already invited them to write
their comments, which they're always doing anyway, and
I'm going to read them". And one of those comments was
something along the line of "They're freaks" and I read
that out to you. Watch the clip and see.

(Video played)

8 Stop there. Did you hear that?

- A. Yes, I heard that. That's your personal opinion and everyone else's personal opinion.
- 11 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Did you appreciate at the time that 12 Mr Curtin was livestreaming this, from what he'd said to 13 you?
- 14 A. It's very upsetting calling me a freak when, again, I'm15 only working, just doing a normal job.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: I appreciate that. I'm just asking
 you, when this was happening and Mr Curtin was filming
 you, were you aware at the time that he was at the same
 time broadcasting it?
- A. Yes, I knew he was broadcasting it, yes. I sussed that
 out sort of a bit more further along down the line.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Yes. So what that little clip,
 Mr Curtin was reading out comments that he'd received as
 a result of broadcasting the footage and one of the
 people watching had decided to post a comment "Freaks",

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- and Mr Curtin then repeats the comments that he'd received.
- 3 A. Yes, I understand that. It did upset me, yes.
- Q. 62.4, 62.5, you talk of how close I was to you and you had some fear that I was going to pull down your face mask yes?
- 7 A. Yes, at one point in the video, as you can see, you got 8 very close to my hat and, as I wasn't reacting to any of 9 your comments as you tried to intimidate even the 10 security guard and abuse us in specific ways on the 11 livestream, I was getting very worried at one point 12 where you might react because I haven't reacted and 13 maybe do something silly. So that's when I made the 14 decision to stop what I was doing. I signalled the 15 security guard and said "Let's leave", because I was
- 17 Q. Well, that's not in your statement that as a result of this you finished your work. But at this late point --

worried about you becoming more agitated.

- 19 A. In my statement it says I felt really threatened and 20 uncomfortable. That is -- I could have reworded that to 21 agitated and uncomfortable --
- Q. Okay sorry, I apologise. Do you want to carry on?
 I interrupted you, sorry.
- A. That's all right. No, I've just worded it slightly
 different from my statement as it means the same thing,

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- threatened and uncomfortable. I felt unsecure and it was time to leave.
- 3 Q. Okay. I put it to you that the video that we've all 4 watched was a livestream by me where I talked in terms
- of the smell, the dogs crying, the fact that the dogs
- 6 don't get out, these dogs just want to play with a ball,
- 7 but they get nothing. I talked about 74 outreaches.
- 8 I talked about the FBI, when they're looking for serial
 - killers, go looking for people who either enjoy cruelty
- $10\,$ or don't enjoy cruelty . I go into a whole load of
- 11 things. I'm making a livestream. At no point did
- 12 I actually interfere with your work and you carried on
- 13 working. I made no physical or verbal commands to you
- or threats to you, "You should stop working", is that
- 15 right?

9

- 16 A. No. You intensified your livestream to intimidate me.
- You got very close to me. I do agree you did not touch
- me, but at one point you became very close and you did
- $19\,$ everything possible to slow my work down. So that was
- when I made the decision, on the second repair, to leave
- 22 Q. Okay. Would you accept that in both areas when you were
- $23\,$ connecting the fence, we're all down in the ditch, in
- 24 a little gap in the hedge, we weren't out in a wide open
- space. By the nature itself, the actual space that the

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- 1 three of us were in was a confined space. Would you
- 2 accept that small point?
- 3 A. Yes, it was confined and at one point I wish you had
- $4\,$ stepped further back from me. You had been very close
- 5 to me.

8

- 6 Q. 63:
 7 "I believe ... (John Curtin) was trying to get
 - a reaction from me by frightening and abusing me."
- 9 At which point did I frighten you?
- 10 A. When you became very close to me and tried to enter my
- 11 personal space.
- 12 Q. Okay, which --
- $13\,$ $\,$ A. And at the end, when I hadn't reacted to you, I could
- 14 see you becoming more agitated, so that was when
- 15 I decided to move on.
- 16 Q. Okay. We've already talked about paragraph 64 where
- 17 your previous knowledge, previous perceived knowledge of
- $18\,$ me. It's my case to you that that had an overwhelming,
- overpowering effect on you and every single interaction
 myself and you will ever have will be —
- 21 A. Yes. it did.
- 22 Q. Yes, it will be what?
- 23 A. Yes, it did have an overwhelming effect on me. It
 - frightened me that day that you could get so close to

120

25 me

- 1 Q. No.
- 2 A. Intimidate me and provoke me.
- 3 Q. Yes, the point I put to you was all the things you'd
- 4 heard about me, from the police, from other work
- 5 colleagues, from your own thing, gravedigging, prisons,
- 6 all the other gossip about me, that this had an
- 7 overwhelming effect on you. So any interaction with
- 8 Mr Curtin would cause you some trouble, would cause you
- 9 anxiety, would cause you to be frightened, any
- 10 interaction. Would that be fair?
- $11\,$ $\,$ A. No. First thing, I didn't gossip about you. It's just
- 12 information we gained on you, intel.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- $14\,$ $\,$ A. And the second thing is it's my personal opinion of you.
- 15 Q. Based on the intel you got?
- 16 A. Yes, the intel off the internet.
- 17 Q. You know me, don't you, really? You've got me sussed 18 out. haven't you?
- 19 A. Unfortunately I'm not a trained psychologist. I've only
- got a basic commonsense view of you.
 Q. Okay. Paragraph 64, only one thing I've got to say
- 22 about it. You said I was very close to your face and
- abusing you for 15 to 20 minutes. Well, the only time
- I was near you was when we were down by the ditch. That
- 25 entire -- the portion we just watched was just over ten

- 1 minutes long. There's another number of minutes where
- 2 you're walking away. It's not true that throughout that
- 3 entire time, throughout an entire 15/20 minutes. I put
- $4\,$ $\,$ to you it was only a matter of a few minutes once you
- 5 were by the fence; would that be correct?
 6 A. The way I perceive close is a couple of metre:
- 6 A. The way I perceive close is a couple of metres to 7 a couple of centimetres away from my head. That's how
- 8 I perceive close.
- 9 Q. Okay, paragraph 65. We're motoring through now.
 - "After this incident, I have refused to go outside of the Wyton Site to undertake repairs. This experience with ... (John Curtin), which was very unsettling ...
- has harmed my mental health ...'

14 Yes?

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- A. Yes, it has worried me immensely, as I didn't react toyou, that there could be repercussions from the
- $17 \hspace{1cm} \text{protestors} \, , \, \, \text{including} \, \, \text{you}.$
- $18\,$ $\,$ Q. I put it to you, imagine some scenario where we're in
- the local Tesco's, there's a Tesco's just a couple of miles away from the site, imagine me behind you in the
- 21 gueue, or you in front of me, we meet each other. That
- 22 just meeting Mr Curtin in some aspect away from -- and
- 23 there's no fence between us, I put it to you that you'd
- 24 find it very unsettling just to have any interaction
- with me; is that correct?

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- 1 A. First thing, I wouldn't meet you in Tesco's and, yes, it
- $2\,$ would worry me. If I met you in person, I would walk
- 3 away

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- 4 Q. Hopefully I can handle this sensitively but it is
 - evidence against me and I have to defend myself. You've
- 6 called me disturbed and you were beginning to go on to 7 psychologist then:
- 8 "... which was very unsettling and has harmed my 9 mental health ..."
- 10 Yes?
- $11\,$ $\,$ A. I'm just trying to find where it says in my statement
- 12 I called you disturbed. I don't see that there.
- $13\,$ Q. No, you've called me disturbed during your testimony.
- 14 Let's go back to 65, the first or second sentence:
- "This experience with [me] ... has harmed [your]
- 16 mental health ... "
- 17 Yes?
- 18 A. Yes, it has. It has worried me.
- 19 Q. Later on in that thing:
- 20 "... and I found the interaction with ...
- 21 (John Curtin) terrifying . The experience will stay with
- 22 me for a very long time."
- 23 A. That's correct, yes.
- $24\,$ $\,$ Q. Now, Witness V, the place you work at is an extremely
- 25 controversial place. People have very, very, very

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- 1 strong opinions about this work. Some people do,
- 2 don't they?
- 3 A. Only the protestors have strong opinions of where
- 4 I work.
- 5 Q. I put it to you your work conditions with the protestors
- $\,$ are extremely challenging. In fact it's the only place
- 7 in Britain, it's the only puppy factory where they breed
- 8 beagles for experiments and bleed dogs to death in the
- 9 country, it's unique.
- 10 A. I don't believe that. I've read somewhere there are
- 11 other companies that breed beagles too.
- 12 Q. Okay. But I'm going —— I'm trying to —— my basic point
- is, yes, I accept that your experience that day for you
- you found very unsettling. When it comes to harming
- your mental health though, I'm suggesting —— I don't
- 16 know God knows I wouldn't begin to suggest
- anything about your mental health history because
- I don't know, but just the fact of working in this place
- would put a strain on anybody. Would you accept that?
- 20 A. I'll accept one thing. If you weren't there, I would
- have no worries about anything. I would have no
- terrifying experience if you and the protestors weren't
- 23 there.
- $24\,$ $\,$ Q. Okay. As I was arriving in court today, a court
- official said, "You were here all last week and this

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- week, what are you here for?" and I said, "The beagle 1 2 case". He knew about it and he said, "Oh, does that 3 still go on? What a shame". It's controversial, the 4 place where you work, and this impact on your mental 5 health it's my case to you was not based -- this incident which unsettled you may have triggered you, but 6 7 I would suggest to you it's a very complicated situation about your mental health. Would you agree with that? 8
- 9 A. I don't know what we're talking about my mental $\frac{10}{10}$
- 11 Q. You're talking about your mental health, not me.
- 12 A. No, I said you have affected me with this incident we 13 had at -- the altercation at the fence and the 14 protestors has affected me.
- 15 Q. You felt degraded. Sorry, paragraph 66:

"I think this was a reaction [again you talk about your mental health] to feeling so vulnerable (ie without a fence or car between me and ... (John Curtin) and feeling degraded by not being able to retaliate or respond, as we have been advised by the police."

Yes?

- A. I felt very worried when you were in close proximity ofme, yes. Very, very, very worried.
- Q. Again, paragraph 82, the effects on you, and this isabout you. You've said:

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- 1 "The intimidation tactics of the Defendants, and the 2 constant incidents that I experience when entering and 3 exiting the Wyton Site, have slowly destroyed me 4 inside."
- 5 A. Yes, it has affected me. It has affected me internally,
 6 all the abuse that I have to take for working, coming
 7 into and from work and the protestors, the continuous
 8 intimidation tactics, the abuse, threatening and
 9 violence, death threats, yes, I think it would affect
 10 anyone here in the court if they had this constant.
- 11 Q. Yes, I would never challenge something like -- but 12 you're not suggesting that I have sent you death 13 threats, and apart from this incident and the others where I've been on the road protesting, your witness 14 15 statement sets out your full case against me but are you 16 suggesting that I -- that I have -- well, this is your 17 case, isn't it, that this incident with me, that -- did 18 you find it intimidating?
- A. Yes, I found it very intimidating. I have to look at
 things realistically. You're one of the main leaders of
 the camp, you advise everyone on their tactics, and
 I accept that that's your prerogative.
- Q. So I advise everyone on their tactics. This is allbased on your intel, yes?
- $25\,$ $\,$ A. No, it's not all intel . It's just basic knowledge as in

what I watch occasionally and what I've seen in the past.

3 Q. Okay. Again, 86:

"As the protestors seem to be very fanatical in their beliefs ..."

What about the court official I met this morning?
Would he come and do your thing as a protestor, a man
who was like, "You what, they still do that? Yes, it's
sickening". Is he a protestor?

- A. I can't comment on that because I wasn't there when you
 spoke to the court official and I don't know which court
 official it was.
- 13 Q. Okay. 86:
- "... I am constantly worried that [people] mightthrow themselves or projectiles at my car."
- 16 A. That is correct, yes. It has happened in the past to other members of staff.
- 18 Q. Have the police ever told you about a tactic where 19 demonstrators throw themselves in front of cars on
- 20 purpose?
- A. Well, we were advised that one of their main tactics is to jump in front of the cars to obtain our name and car insurance so they can obtain our identities.
- 24 Q. That's from the police, yes?
- 25 A. That's from the police and from the internet, I've read

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- 1 some of the tactics used
- 2 Q. On your intel?
- 3 A. Yes, my intel and information from the internet, the 4 public domain.
- Q. Let's go on to -- we're nearly there, you'll be relieved
 to hear. Paragraph 89, you refer:

7 "Every day, twice a day, I hear chants calling me
8 a puppy killer or murderer, which is untrue. I find it
9 upsetting that the protestors perceive and portray me as
10 someone that kills animals, as it is not true."

Do you remember the earlier conversation we had?

Yes, you're a maintenance man but there are other people that believe that by you working for this company, you become complicit. Do you understand that point? I know you don't like it but do you understand that other people can hold that opinion? That they find you ——

- 17 A. People have their own —
- 18 Q. I apologise.

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- 19 A. People have their own opinions on what they want to 20 believe. I still find it disturbing because I've never
- killed any puppies and I've never seen it happen.
- 22 I still find it very disturbing.
- 23 Q. Okay. Paragraph 90:
- $\begin{array}{ccc} 24 & & \text{"It breaks my heart and is traumatising to listen to} \\ 25 & & \text{twice a day."} \end{array}$

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9

10

- A. Yes, it does. It's very upsetting.
- 2 Q. Does it give you -- we just heard -- we could hear the
- 3 dogs in the background. Talking about breaking hearts,
- 4 does it ever disturb you to listen to the cries of those
- 5 dogs that you hear constantly while -- has it ever
- 6 affected you in any emotional way to hear the noise of
- 7 those dogs that you've never even seen?
- 8 A. Working at the kennels I hear the dogs all day. I've
- 9 worked at a pig farm and I've heard the pigs all day.
- 10 I've worked at a cow farm and heard the cows all day.
- 11 It's just a normal sound of hearing animals in the la kennels.
- 13 Q. But I put it to you it's not normal. It's not normal to
- keep dogs where they never see the sky, they never feel a drop they're the only dogs that I know of that are
- 15 a drop -- they're the only dogs that I know of that are intentionally confined 24 hours a day. You use the term
- 17 "normal", I put it to you that you do not work in
- 18 a normal dogs kennels?
- 10 AD HIGTIGE NIGHT A
- 19 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Again, Mr Curtin, you're crossing the
- 20 line again now. You're trying to persuade the witness
- 21 to think what he does -- he's told you what his answer 22 is.
- ZZ IS.
- 23 MR CURTIN: Yes. 91:
- $24\,$ "The protestors [there we go again] shout things
- such as 'we know who you are' ..."

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- 1 Is it your case that Mr Curtin has set out to 2 specifically identify you?
- $3\,$ $\,$ A. I listen to the protestors, what they say, "We know who
- you are", but that's one of the intimidation tactics.
 Unfortunately, I don't know if that's true or false, if
- Unfortunately, I don't know if that's true or false, if they know who I am.
- Q. You talk about -- 93 -- you "feel on edge if I travel
 into a town or a city" because you could be targeted by
- 9 protestors, ves?
- 10 A. Yes, that's correct. Because some of the other members 11 of staff have been targeted by protestors when going
- into large towns and that worries me.
- $13\,$ $\,$ Q. So these protestors, it must mean it's not just the few
- $14\,$ $\,$ that are outside the gates, there's lots and lots of
- these protestors scattered all over the country, yes?
- 16 A. I agree there are some of them from the gate and some 17 around the country who gather information on us and look
- 17 around the country who gather information on us and look 18 for us.
- 19 Q. Okay, this is from your intel again, yes?
- $20\,$ $\,$ A. Information in the public domain and being shown some of
- the articles on the Facebook and Instagram, "Hunt these people down, find out who they are, do you recognise
- this person?" and the picture goes on, it gets copied,
- 24 and then that —— and then before it gets taken down.
- Q. Okay. Paragraph 95, I ask you to read this. Perhaps
 - 130

- 1 read the four lines, if you could. And bear in mind
- 2 what you told me about three years ago you would have
- 3 just told someone, "I work at MBR Acres". Read the four
- 4 lines and see -- what have you got to say?
- 5 A. I've read the article. What's the question now?
- 6 Q. This is before -- you just said "before", we don't know
 - when, someone saw a Marshall logo and they asked you
- 8 about it and even then you decided to be -- in the words
 - of Margaret Thatcher, you decided to be economical with the truth: is that correct?
- 11 A. Reading this, this is when the protestors turned up and
- $12\,$ people started getting leaflets . As I said before,
- $13 \hspace{1.5cm} \hbox{three years before I would quite honestly openly tell} \\$
- people where I worked. But now, due to all the
- 15 misinformation and propaganda, I'm frightened for my
- 16 life and my family's life.
- 17 Q. Okay, but let's read what you've put in your witness
- 18 statement:
 19 "On one occasion, before the protests in spring 20
- $^{\prime\prime}$ On one occasion, before the protests in spring 2021 $^{\prime\prime}$... $^{\prime\prime}$
- Then you go on to relay the incident, so you were
- 22 economical with the truth. Is it a mistake? You said:
- "On one occasion, before the protests ..."

 24 Is that a mistake?
- 25 A. That must be.

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- Q. All right. Paragraph 96, you talk about neighbours
- 2 putting --

1

- 3 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Sorry, before we leave that then.
- 4 Employee V, paragraph 95 of your witness statement 5 savs this:
- 6 "On one occasion, before the protests in spring
- 7 2021, while I was living at my previous home,
- 8 a neighbour saw the 'Marshall' logo on my clothing and
- 9 asked me why I was working there. In this situation to
- protect myself, I stated I worked at a different
- 11 Marshall company, not connected to MBR."
- 12 Now, if you don't think that's accurate, what part
- 13 of that is not accurate?
- 14~ A. I've just read through it again and it's come back to me
- $15\,$ now. It was one of my neighbours who asked me, "Is that
- $16 \hspace{1cm} \hbox{the Marshalls down the road?" and I said, "No, it's the} \\$
- $17 \qquad \qquad \mathsf{Marshall} \ \mathsf{car} \ \mathsf{people"}, \ \mathsf{and} \ \mathsf{then} \ \mathsf{nothing} \ \mathsf{else} \ \mathsf{was} \ \mathsf{said}.$
- 18 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay. But perhaps Mr Curtin's point 19 is that when you say this happened, you say in your
- statement "before the protests in spring 2021".
- 21 A. So I'm trying to remember. It's a lot -- I can't
- $22\,$ remember all this, 1'm so sorry, it's got a bit
- 23 confusing now. I just remember the neighbour but
- 24 I might have got the dates mixed up. I'm \dots

25 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay.

3

7

8

9

- A. I can't remember. I'm so sorry.
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: It's all right. 2
- 3 MR CURTIN: Right. 97, I won't labour the point but is there
- 4 another reason, apart from these protestors that are
- 5 everywhere looking for you, is there another reason why
- perhaps you're economical with the truth about your job 6
- 7 with -- in the new area you are with your new friends, 8 in case somebody has read yesterday's Daily Mirror and
- 9 they might form a negative point of view that you work
- 10 there? Is that one of the reasons why you're now so
- 11 careful or is it only because of these activisty
- 12 protestors that are looking for you?
- 13 A. I can't answer that because I still haven't read this
- 14 Mirror article so I really can't answer that. I'm 15
- Q. Okay, I'll move on. A similar point -- no, not similar. 16
- 17 Paragraph 101, you found a sticker near your house, yes?
- 18
- 19 Q. And all of a sudden that becomes a scenario, this
- 20 sticker has been put there for your attention. Is this
- 2.1 a form of like imagination or is this based on your
- 22 intel, that there's a sticker near your house so
- 2.3 "They're getting near me, they're closing in on me"; is
- 2.4 that correct. or ...?
- 25 A. From previous employees who have been targeted, before

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- 1 they got targeted stickers would appear near their
- 2 houses so this worried me, yes, that I would be
- 3 targeted.
- Q. What about using your rational brain to think that
- 5 that's just one of those -- not even a protestor, it
- 6 could be someone that read another Daily Mirror article
- 7 in the past, they're against what you do at MBR and it
- 8 could have nothing whatsoever to do with you. Did that
- 9 occur to you?
- 10 A. Firstly, I've never read the Mirror article and,
- 11 secondly, due to all what's gone on regarding all the
- 12 other members of staff who have been targeted, it would
- 13 make anyone paranoid and worried that their house could 14 be targeted.

18

- 15 Q. Okay. Last point really. Paragraph 104 where you talk 16 about what you think is mine and Mel Broughton's past.
- 17 You've been given information:
 - "The police have ... informed us of these facts."
- 19 Then that leads you to be particularly scared about
- 2.0 me and Mel Broughton. That's true, isn't it?
- 21 A. We go back to the beginning where we all went out.
- 2.2 looked on the public domain, gathered all the
- 23 information on yourself and Mel Broughton and then,
- 2.4 further down the line, we had a police seminar. They
- 25 gave us some of the basic information which we'd already

- found on the open public network. I'd just like to
- 2 inform you of that again and that has worried me, all
 - the information about both of you, yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. And you're particularly scared and --
- 5 paragraph 106, I think it's the last paragraph I'm going 6 to come to:
 - " ... (John Curtin) has had a significant impact on
 - Yes?
- 10 A. Yes, that is correct. That day had worried me 11
 - immensely, working outside the gates, for my safety.
- 12 Okay. I put it to you that I'm not taking away the 13 thought processes that you have but it would be my
- 14 defence that I acted as a protestor, as a normal
- 15 protestor carrying out a livestream. I did not
- 16 intimidate, harass or threaten you, I conducted myself
- 17 perfectly properly, and the reason that this caused you
- 18 so much anxiety was. I would put it to you, a lot more
- 19 to do with you and the fact that you work in this place,
- and maybe this incident triggered you, there was maybe 2.0
- 21 a lot of pressure. I put it to you that my behaviour on
- 22 that day can't possibly be blamed -- well, I can't be
- 23 blamed for your mental health issues based on that
- 2.4 incident. That would be -- for me, it would be
- 25 preposterous and it would be a lot more to do with your

135

- 1 own mental difficulties than the actions I took part in
- 2. that day.
- 3 A. To me, my personal opinion, you intimidated me, abused
- me and showed me on livestream the wrong person I am for
- 5 doing my job as maintenance, and that has worried me
- 6 what's happened to other members of staff who have been
- 7 targeted, and this has worried me immensely and
- 8 unsettled me.

12

- 9 MR CURTIN: Okay. I have no more questions.
- 10 MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Re-examination?
- 11 MS BOLTON: No, my Lord.
 - Questions from THE JUDGE
- MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Just a few questions from me, 13
- 14 Employee V, please. Mr Curtin asked you some questions
- 15 about —— it was paragraph 20 in your witness statement
- 16 and your concern about photographs of you appearing on
- 17 the internet. You said you were concerned about that 18 and then you said "before they are taken off". Now,
- 19 I think I got -- later in your evidence you mentioned
- 20 that Facebook would remove photographs; is that what you
- 21 were referring to?
- 2.2 A. Yes, that's correct. On some of the social media sites,
- 23 other members of staff have screenshotted what's gone on
- 2.4 and then complained and it's taken down. But
- 2.5 unfortunately, as it's gone on there for a couple of

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1
         hours, it's been shared and shared and they've taken
                                                                                 1
                                                                                         constantly worried of being attacked or having something
 2
         screenshots, which is very worrying.
                                                                                 2
                                                                                         done to my car or house, like some of the other members
 3
     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Do the employees take the
                                                                                 3
                                                                                         of staff have had done to them.
                                                                                     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Was that just one occasion or is it
 4
          responsibility of complaining to Facebook individually
                                                                                 4
 5
         or is it something that's done collectively or on their
                                                                                 5
                                                                                         something that you can take advantage of as and when you
 6
         behalf by MBR?
                                                                                         need it?
                                                                                 6
 7
     A. From what I've spoken to staff members, most of the
                                                                                 7
                                                                                     A. At the moment we have been told that if we need to speak
 8
          staff members complain themselves.
                                                                                 8
                                                                                         to somebody, we can.
 9
     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you.
                                                                                 9
                                                                                     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Okay, thank you very much. Anything
10
             The incident with Mr Curtin on 8 July, we watched
                                                                               10
                                                                                         arising from those questions?
11
         the video, that's the incident of you repairing the
                                                                               11
                                                                                     MS BOLTON: No, my Lord.
12
                                                                               12
                                                                                     MR CURTIN: No.
         fence, did you report that incident to the police?
13
     A. I reported it to management. That's all I remember.
                                                                               13
                                                                                     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Thank you very much,
      MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you very much. And in your
                                                                               14
                                                                                         Employee V. You'll understand why I'm not using your
14
15
         evidence you drew a distinction between peaceful and
                                                                               15
                                                                                         name, because we're in open court now. Thank you for
16
                                                                               16
         non-peaceful protest. Just generally speaking, could
                                                                                         giving your evidence and making yourself available to
17
                                                                               17
         you explain what protest you identify as being peaceful
                                                                                         the court today. That completes your role in the
18
         and what is it that makes it non-peaceful?
                                                                               18
                                                                                         process.
19
     A. Peaceful I would say as someone standing outside, not
                                                                               19
                                                                                     A. Thank you very much for having me.
20
         running in the road, and just the worst thing is trying
                                                                               20
                                                                                     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Thank you.
2.1
         to come out of that entrance. You can't see. In my
                                                                               2.1
                                                                                             Right. So Tuesday, we'll reconvene.
                                                                                     MS BOLTON: My Lord.
22
         statement, I'll be very blunt here, it's like Russian
                                                                               22
                                                                                     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Right. Enjoy your weekend, everybody.
2.3
                                                                               2.3
         roulette going out the gate. As I say, peaceful is
2.4
         someone just standing there with their placards.
                                                                               2.4
                                                                                     (4.07 pm)
25
         I don't mind them shouting to a certain extent. But it
                                                                               2.5
                                                                                                    (The hearing adjourned until
                                   137
                                                                                                                   139
 1
         becomes non-peaceful when they're running out in the
                                                                                 1
                                                                                                   Tuesday, 9 May 2023 at 10.30 am)
 2
         road, throwing things at you, breaking in, threatening
                                                                                 2
 3
         staff with death, I could go on really. That's the
                                                                                 3
          definition between peaceful and non-peaceful.
     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: One of the placards has the words
 5
                                                                                 5
 6
         "MBR Acres and their staff are filthy scum". If
                                                                                 6
 7
                                                                                 7
         protestors shout that at employees, do you think that
 8
                                                                                 8
         makes that a non-peaceful protest?
 9
                                                                                 9
     A. I can't really answer that. It is upsetting being
10
         called scum when I'm not scum, I'm just doing a job.
                                                                               10
11
         I know it's their personal view but they haven't --
                                                                               11
12
         what's the word I'm looking for? Okay, they haven't
                                                                               12
13
         touched me in any way, they've touched me mentally.
                                                                               13
     MR JUSTICE NICKLIN: Finally, you've spoken in your evidence
14
                                                                               14
15
                                                                               15
         of how you've been affected by the protestors'
16
          activities . Have MBR Acres given or offered you any
                                                                               16
17
                                                                               17
         counseling or support in relation to the abuse that you
18
         have felt has been directed at you and what you've
                                                                               18
19
         described as the terrible fear about what they might do
                                                                               19
2.0
                                                                               2.0
         to you?
21
                                                                               21
     A. Part — we've had somebody come in and talk to us
2.2
         regarding the protests and how we feel and partly to
                                                                               2.2
23
         guide us through this process, which has helped to
                                                                               23
2.4
         a certain extent. But, unfortunately, when you go out
                                                                               2.4
25
         the gate, it doesn't protect you when you get home. I'm
                                                                               2.5
```

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