The story I decided to follow was regarding two men who were jailed for life for the murder of a police officer shot dead by dissident republicans in Northern Ireland.

Due to the story not breaking until around noon, it didn’t make it into the morning radio bulletins, but it did go straight to the main story on BBC Radio 2 for their lunchtime bulletin. After a short reporters link, we crossed to reporter Chris Page who we were told was outside the court in Ireland. The story had not long broke, so Chris simply summed up the details of the case for the readers before crossing back to the studio after about 20 seconds of talking.

As the day developed, so too did the story. At 3 O’clock this was still the top news story for Radio 2, though the top line had now changed, with listeners being told “Two men have been jailed for life after the murder of a police officer shot dead...” We then heard a brief voice report from the reporter who went into some more details on the case. Court cases can often be very complicated, but Page managed to break it down well for the listeners, elaborating on the more complicated aspects.

The story moved down the running order later in the day, but we still had a small package on the story which contained statements from the police as well as the earlier voice report from Page later in the day.

I also managed to listen to BBC Radio 1’s lunchtime bulletin which also included this news story, and similarly, they also had a reporter at the court who gave us some more details on the case. A news story such as this doesn’t have the potential to change angle as much as others, such as the fuel crisis story where interviews with members of the public and politicians could be included. With a court story, the most important aspect is getting the facts across to the listeners without being in contempt of court.

Looking back at last week’s radio news session, we began the day by discussing radio journalism in brief, looking at what makes radio different to both print and TV. This got us back into the habit of being radio journalists, as opposed to TV and print. After this discussion we were give a press statement and asked to create a presenter link to be read out on air. It was a task that sounds much easier than it actually is, with a lot of thought going into what our top line would be. It was interesting to see how the group’s top line’s differed, but as Beccy told us, there isn’t necessarily any right or wrong was of writing a presenter link.

With this aside, we were then put into separate groups where we would find news stories via newspapers and the internet which would become part of our own radio news bulletin. I took the role of allocating tasks to members of the group, with us each having an area to look at - Weather, sport, heavy news stories and lighter news stories which would make up our ‘and finally...’ section. Beccy gave us some really good feedback regarding the top lines for our first radio bulletin, and after making some minor changes we set off to the studio where we went ‘on air’.

After listening back to the bulletins we discussed them as a group to see where improvements could be made. With this in mind we made some changes to the running order, with our original top story regarding a suspected suicide by a Welsh mother and son was replaced with a more relevant story in which more people would be interested in. We also replaced some stories and those that did stay took a different angle, as the day progressed, so too did the stories. We also managed to include interview clips in our second news bulletin, as well as ‘reads’ for a couple of stories, these helped with elaboration where needed.

All-in-all I learned a lot in this first session with Beccy, including the importance of the top line, taking different angles on stories, altering the running order when needed and also the ways in which radio bulletins can be aided with the introduction of reads and interview clips, etc.