6	July	2023
•	oury	2020

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>(10.00 am)</li> <li>Administrative Discussion</li> <li>MR BEER: Good morning, sir. Can you see and hear me?</li> <li>SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I can, yes.</li> <li>MR BEER: Sir, you'll recall that Gareth Jenkins was previously scheduled to give evidence on 4 and 5 May this year but, very shortly before that time, he indicated that he had taken the decision not to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination and would accordingly provide the Inquiry with a witness statement and answer the questions that the Inquiry had of him. As that happened very shortly before Mr Jenkins was due to give oral evidence, his evidence had to be postponed from 4 and 5 May to allow time for the provision and then the disclosure of his</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Events have happened in the last two days which mean that it is now not appropriate for Mr Jenkins to be called to give evidence today and tomorrow. Instead, his evidence will be taken on Phase 3 and Phase 4 issues after the summer break and I will explain why. You'll recall that in his evidence on Tuesday, Post Office's group general counsel, Mr Ben Foat, said and I'm summarising that what he described as a disclosure remediation process was being undertaken by the Post Office following the revelation of two failings in Post Office's disclosure: firstly, the failure to look at documents within a family to see whether
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17 18 19 20	be postponed from 4 and 5 May to allow time for	16	
18 19 20			those documents were responsive to the Inquiry's
19 20	the provision and then the disclosure of his	17	disclosure requests; and, secondly, as a result
20		18	of a de-duplication exercise, a failure to
	witness statement.	19	include within the pool of documents over which
21	Mr Jenkins duly provided a witness	20	searches were undertaken, documents which would
21	statement, it's 75 pages long, addressing the	21	have, in fact, been responsive to our disclosure
22	Inquiry's Phase 3 questions. His Phase 3 oral	22	requests and which were themselves within
23	evidence was therefore rescheduled for today and	23	families of other documents which were
24	tomorrow with him returning to the Inquiry after	24	responsive to our disclosure requests.
25	the summer break to give evidence about Phase 4 1	25	This remediation exercise, as he called it, 2
1	involved a triage process, so that documents	1	still to consider which of them should be
2	that may be relevant to our Phase 4 witnesses	2	disclosed to Core Participants, giving them
3	and, in the case of Mr Jenkins, relevant to him	3	a reasonable opportunity to read and to analyse
4	in the context of Phase 3, were to be	4	them and to send their Rule 10 questions to us.
5	prioritised by the Post Office in the order in	5	Nor has it afforded any opportunity for
6	which witnesses are being called this week and	6	Mr Jenkins to read and analyse the documents
7	over the next three weeks.	7	he hasn't even been given them yet and to
8	As I mentioned when questioning Mr Foat,	8	consider them with his own legal
9	this late disclosure process meant that Mr Blake	9	representatives.
10	was given some documents only the night before	10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I should say, Mr Beer, I haven't
11	Mr Ferlinc gave evidence that related to him in	11	seen them either.
12	some way.	12	<b>MR BEER:</b> No, exactly.
13	The Post Office sent us seven documents the	13	What we can say is that the documents
14	night before Mr Marsh gave evidence yesterday	14	contain relevant information that we would wish
15	that related to him in some way.	15	to ask Mr Jenkins about. They contain relevant
16	At the same time, the Post Office gave us 95	16	information which Core Participants should have
17	documents that related to Mr Jenkins in some way	17	the opportunity to see and to formulate
18	that are responsive to our earlier disclosure	18	questions of Mr Jenkins, and which Mr Jenkins
19	requests from last year and ought previously to	19	could have the opportunity to see before he
20	have been disclosed. The Post Office apologised	20	enters the witness box.
21	to the Inquiry for sending us these documents so	21	One of the responsibilities of counsel to
22	late.	22	an Inquiry acting neutrally and independently is
23	In the time available, we have had the	23	to seek to assist you in ensuring that these
24	barest of opportunities to read and analyse	24	Inquiry proceedings are fair to all but
25	these documents that relate to Mr Jenkins, less 3	25	especially are fair to the Core Participants and 4

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## The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

1	to witnesses. Moreover, we wish these	1
2	proceedings to be conducted in a way that	2
3	ensures that any conclusions which you reach in	3
4	your final report, especially conclusions which	4
5	are critical or damning about an individual or	5
6	an organisation, are not vulnerable to attack on	6
7	the grounds that the process which led to them	7
8	being made was itself unfair.	8
9	There are three other dynamics relevant to	9
10	the advice which I gave you, and which you have	10
11	accepted, that it wouldn't be appropriate to	11
12	call Mr Jenkins now.	12
13	Firstly, as I emphasised to Mr Foat when he	13
14	was giving his evidence, this Inquiry is itself	14
15	investigating the late or non-provision of	15
16	disclosure to others by the Post Office in	16
17	a series of criminal prosecutions that lasted	17
18	over a decade and the non-disclosure of	18
19	documents in civil proceedings, and the	19
20	unfairness that such non-disclosure had on	20
21	parties and on witnesses. We, of all people,	21
22	will not entertain the making of the same	22
23 24	mistakes of the past whilst simultaneously	23 24
24 25	investigating those mistakes. Second, as is well known, Mr Jenkins is	24 25
20	5	20
1	"Approach to de-duplication rectification	1
2	exercise.	2
3	"The Post Office is conscious of the need to	3
4	mitigate the potential consequences of 'Item	4
5	level de-duplication' applied in respect of at	5
6	least some of the responses to Rule 9 requests.	6
7	We address now how the Post Office proposes to	7
8	mitigate any implications of the evidence of	8
9	Gareth Jenkins and Phase 4 generally.	9
10	"The Post Office is still developing	10
11	a methodology to address this issue but, more	11
12	broadly, anticipates that the approach will need	12
13	to be tailored according to what is reasonable	13
14	in all the circumstances, having regard to the	14
15	Inquiry's protocol on the disclosure of	15
16	documents and the potential impact of the	16
17	de-duplication issue in respect of each witness	17
18	and/or each Rule 9 Request.	18
19 20	"The Post Office has made numerous enquiries	19
20 21	with its eDiscovery provider, KPMG, as to	20
21 22	whether they, in fact, carried out any	21 22
22 23	de-duplication in respect of any documents to be	22
23 24	reviewed for responsiveness to Rule 9 questions potentially bearing on the evidence of Gareth	23 24
24 25	Jenkins, but they have been unable to confirm	24 25
20	7	20

1	under criminal investigation by the Metropolitan
2	Police Service for serious criminal offences
3	relating to his role in the Horizon scandal.
4	The evidence that he gives to this Inquiry may
5	be used in any criminal investigation,
6	prosecutorial decision making or in any criminal
7	proceedings brought against him.
8	Thirdly, the Inquiry's timetable can
9	accommodate a hearing which hears evidence about
0	Phases 3 and 4 from Mr Jenkins later in the
1	year, a hearing that will now probably last four
2	days or so.
3	I should say that, additionally, at 10.32 pm
4	last night, the Post Office wrote to the Inquiry
5	drawing our attention to the fact that, amongst
6	the 95 documents that it had recently disclosed,
7	it had recently identified that one of them was
8	a new document that the Post Office said was
9	"likely to be of significant interest to the
20	Inquiry", and it identified it to us. That was
21	indeed amongst the documents that we ourselves
22	had identified as being of significant interest
23	to the Inquiry.
24	The letter went on, and I'm going to read
25	it:
	6
1	this in the time available.
2	"Therefore the Post Office has focused on
3	family documents to duplicates of the 13

documents produced by the Post Office which exist on the Inquiry's Core Participant platform and which are referred to by Gareth Jenkins in his second witness statement, being materials that POL's eDiscovery provider might have excluded. There are 4,767 such documents, excluding previously produced documents. Of these documents, POL will review for responsiveness to the Inquiry's Rule 9 Requests and/or interest to the Inquiry. This may also include documents that the Post Office has reviewed previously but not produced to the Inquiry. "From the Post Office's initial high-level review of 600 of the 4,767 documents, it appears that many of them are duplicative of documents that have been already reviewed. However, it has not been possible to confirm this in the time available so the Post Office will re-review

- any such documents. The Post Office will
- produce any additional documents as soon aspossible and will continue to reflect on how to

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1	manage this issue as an urgent priority."
2	This is, of course, grossly unsatisfactory,
3	to be told at 10.32 pm on the night before
4	an important witness gives evidence that there
5	are 4,767 documents that are at least
6	potentially relevant to a witness who is being
7	called 11 hours and 28 minutes later, some of
8	which might be duplicates of material already
9	provided to the Inquiry but some of which may
10	not.
11	You'll be issuing directions today, sir, or
12	tomorrow in the light of Mr Foat's evidence that
13	seek to ensure that this kind of interference by
14	the Post Office with the work of the Inquiry
15	does not continue to disrupt and to disturb us.
16	I realise that this news will be upsetting
17	and distressing for many people, some of whom
18	will have made arrangements to travel to the
19	Inquiry for today and tomorrow. All I can say
20	is that we are determined to uncover the truth,
21	but to do so in a way that ensures fairness to
22	all and which leads to conclusions in a report
23	from you which are unimpeachable.
24	We will notify the public and Core
25	Participants in due course when, after the 9
	5
1	MR BEER: He is. Ms Dobbin is here.
2	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, Ms Dobbin, I wish to
3	express my regret that Mr Jenkins has been
4	inconvenienced in this way. Whatever role he
5	may or may not have played in the events that we
6	are enquiring into, no doubt giving evidence in
7	these circumstances is of considerable strain to
8 9	him and it is of a matter of regret to me that
9 10	he has been inconvenienced in this way. MS DOBBIN: I wonder if I could just say a word or
11	two on his behalf. We understand entirely that
12	this is not a position that you or the Inquiry
12	would wish to be in and, of course, it's not
13	a position that he would wish to be in either.
15	Right up until the 11th hour he was preparing
16	and ready to give evidence today. But, of
17	course, we're driven to agree with Mr Beer that
18	it's intolerable and unfair to all Core
19	Participants that a witness should be called to
20	give evidence when there is this volume of
21	evidence that's outstanding and potentially
22	relevant to them.
23	So, regrettable though this position is, it
24	would obviously be unfair for Mr Jenkins to give
25	evidence but unfair to all Core Participants in
	11

1	summer, Mr Jenkins will give his evidence.
2	Sir, that's all I intended to say this
3	morning.
4	Sir, I think you're still on mute.
5	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry, Mr Beer. Thank you very
6	much for that full and clear exposition of
7	events which have been unfolding over the hours
8	leading to now. I don't propose to repeat in my
9	own words what you have so eloquently expressed
10	but I cannot help but express my frustration
11	that this has happened at this time. It is
12	a very important time for the Inquiry, and we do
13	not need dislocation.
14	I express my regret to all of those, my
15	apologies, in fact, and regret to all of those
16	who have made special arrangements to either
17	view or be present at today's hearing. Clearly,
18	the evidence which was intended to be heard was
19	of considerable significance and of interest to
20	very many people.
21	Is Mr Jenkins present in the room?
22	<b>MR BEER:</b> No, he's not, sir. In the time available
23	last night, we stood him down from travelling
24	late last night.
25	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Is he represented today?
	10
1	this Inquiry.
2	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Dobbin. The
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