1		Thursday, 27 July 2023	1		so eight days after counsel's advice was
2	(09.	58 am)	2		produced. We can see about halfway down the
3	MS	PRICE: Good morning, sir. Can you see and hear	3		page the trial date, which was 16 to 18 August,
4		us?	4		so less than a fortnight away.
5	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: I can indeed.	5	A.	Yes.
6	MS	PRICE: May we continue, then, with the evidence	6	Q.	My question for you yesterday, which prompted us
7		of Ms Helliwell?	7		to go to this document, related to the purpose
8	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course.	8		of the further evidence which was obtained from
9		SUSANNE JANE HELLIWELL (continued)	9		Jan Holmes and Keith Baines, namely the
10		Questioned by MS PRICE (continued)	10		statements of the 11 August 2004. We know that
11	MS	PRICE: Good morning, Ms Helliwell.	11		counsel had advised the Post Office to abandon
12	A.	Good morning.	12		its claim against Mrs Wolstenholme for apparent
13	Q.	We looked yesterday afternoon at counsel's	13		losses in the sum of just over £25,000?
14		advice in the Cleveleys case, which was dated	14	A.	Yes, yes.
15		26 July 2004. Then just before we adjourned, we	15	Q.	And the advice was also to admit
16		looked at the note of a conference call with	16		Mrs Wolstenholme's claim of wrongful
17		counsel attended by you, Mandy Talbot, Jan	17		termination; that's right, isn't it?
18		Holmes and Keith Baines, at which further	18	A.	Yes, it is, yeah.
19		evidence was discussed and a plan was made for	19	Q.	He had advised, however, that there was
20		the production of statements from Jan Holmes and	20		an argument to be made on one part of
21		Keith Baines.	21		Mrs Wolstenholme's counterclaim, the claim that
22	A.	Yes.	22		there was an implied term in the contract for
23	Q.	May we have, please, that note on screen, the	23		services that the computer system provided for
24		reference is WITN04600310. We can see here the	24		her use would be fit for purpose?
25		date at the top left and that's 3 August 2004,	25	A.	Yes.
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1	Q.	His view, set out at paragraphs 37 and 40 of	1		computer system let JW down."
2		that written advice we needn't go back to	2		Then under "Tricky position", a bit further
3		them, we looked at them yesterday, but just in	3		down the page:
4		summary was that it could be argued that any	4		"We say she had difficulty operating and
5		implied term should extend only as far as the	5		calls to HSH were part of dealing with problems.
6		obligation to take reasonable steps to provide	6		Beyond point of analysing her system. Aiming to
7		a computer system that was fit for purpose. Is	7		say that potentially implied terms to provide
8	_	that a fair summary?	8		system that worked and system in place to
9	Α.	Yes, it is. I would say it is.	9		support her."
10	Q.	The fact that system provided may have been	10		Over the page, please:
11		defective on this occasion, to use his words,	11		"Extra evidence that can be introduced to
12		did not necessarily mean a breach of this	12		support this claim."
13		implied term, and his advice was that further	13		So it appears, doesn't it, that the evidence
14		evidence should be adduced on behalf of the Post	14		to be obtained from Jan Holmes and Keith Baines
15		Office that reasonable steps were indeed taken;	15		was intended to address the reasonable steps
16	_	is that right?	16		taken to ensure the computer was fit for
17	Α.	Yes.	17		purpose, the implied term point.
18	Q.	It's against that backdrop, isn't it, that the	18	Α.	Yes, and the support given.
19		discussion of further evidence at the conference	19	Q.	Before we leave this document, can we look,
20		was taking place?	20		please, towards the bottom of this page. The
21	Α.	Yes, it was, yeah.	21		penultimate point here from KB; is that Keith
22	Q.	Looking, please, to just above the trial date in	22		Baines?
23		this note, we see counsel's conclusion, that	23	Α.	Yes, I believe so.
24		first word is difficult to make out, but:	24	Q.	"During acceptance satisfied that if crashes
25		" if goes to dispute, likely to find that 3	25		happen then transactions would not be lost." 4

So this what you were being told, isn't it, about the Post Office's understanding of the consequence of crashes for transactions at the point of acceptance.

A. Yes, that's what we were being told. Yes.

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Q. That document can come down now. Thank you.

Following this conference call, you assisted Jan Holmes and Keith Baines to produce those statements that we've just discussed. In relation to Jan Holmes' statement, the reference in your statement for the Inquiry at paragraph 18 is, in fact, to a draft statement. We do now have the final version and, for the benefit of the transcript, that is WITN09020117. We need not display that document now.

Keith Baines's second witness statement, dated 11 August 2004, is at POL00118224. May we have this on screen, please.

Can you recall now what the process was for the drafting of these statements from Jan Holmes and Keith Baines?

A. In the case of Keith Baines, I would have had
 more involvement in the actual drafting,
 taking -- he would provide the information in
 a form that I would then adapt and put it in

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provided the body of it and obviously again, the comments from myself, counsel, to deal with any amendments or any queries that we were looking at -- that we had.

Q. Could we look, please, further down the page, starting at paragraph 3 in this second statement of Keith Baines. We see here the evidence:

"The Horizon system was developed as a managed service by Fujitsu Services Limited, formerly ICL Pathway Limited who also provided the actual equipment. Notwithstanding this and as is the Post Office's usual practice in contracts for the development of complex IT services, the Post Office put in place a formal acceptance process to satisfy itself that the service was fit for purpose before allowing it to be widely deployed.

"The Post Office's required specification of the service provided by Fujitsu included requirements relating to the ease of use of the system, the stability of the system and the integrity of the financial information which it produces.

"The acceptance process of the system used a mixture of technical reviews, testing by

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1 more of a witness statement form and obviously

2 take further instructions from him on any points

3 that I wasn't sure about or where I thought

4 further information was required. And I think

5 as I said yesterday, I base it on the

information and documentation received from him,

7 it would be approved. It would then be looked

8 at by counsel and counsel would have his input

9 and deal with any queries or amendments

10 following that.

11 Q. Can we look, please -- apologies.

12 A. I was going to say that I think the position

13 with Jan Holmes would have been slightly

14 different, which I can explain if you want me

15 to

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16 Q. Please do.

17 **A.** I think as I've said in my statement, obviously

18 Fujitsu weren't our client. So my involvement

19 with them was limited. I think, looking at Jan

20 Holmes' statement, he produced the -- very much

21 the narrative of it because it was very factual

and sort of detailed about the system itself.

23 And looking at the format of the text,

24 I probably put in more just at the start of the

statement and then the end of it, and then he

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1 Fujitsu and by the Post Office and the operation

2 of a live pilot stage in Post Office branches to

3 confirm that each requirement was being met

4 satisfactorily. I should state that this was

5 not a 'rubber stamping' exercise, and that

6 significant problems were found and remedied

7 before the main 'rollout' was authorised.

"Whilst there were some problems with system stability during the early stages of the acceptance process, these were rectified, and a period of monitoring in pilot offices during October and November 1999 demonstrated that the rectification had been effective in reducing the incidents of reboot and related problems to an average rate of less than 4 per counter position per annum. Subsequent improvements by Fujitsu during the year 2000 reduced this to less than 3 per counter position per annum."

What were you told about the detail of the acceptance process being referred to here by

21 Mr Baines?

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A. My goodness, again, it's 19/20 years ago. I can
 only assume that I was told what was -- pretty

24 much what was in his witness statement.

25 Q. Were you given any further detail beyond what is

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1		here?
2	A.	I just can't remember. I mean, to the best of
3		my recollection, these were quite they were
4		quite detailed and technical statements that
5		really the information came from very much
6		from the parties, the individuals who were
7		providing the statements. I may have asked
8		questions around that and got further
9		information but I just can't remember.
	_	

10 Q. We looked yesterday at Keith Baines' first
11 witness statement. May we have that on screen
12 again, please. It is POL00118250. Looking,
13 please, over the page to paragraph 5 of that
14 statement. In this first statement in 2003,
15 Mr Baines said this:

"Any faults that occurred in the Horizon computer system were eliminated once they were identified. Whilst it is possible for mistakes to occur, this is usually through incorrect inputting in the computer system in the office affected by the mistake. All subpostmasters were fully trained in the use of Horizon equipment. The system was fully tested before it was used by the Post Office and it is fit for its purpose. The system itself does not create

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reducing the incidents of reboot and related problems to an average rate", and we see those two rates provided there.

A. Mm. I can only assume that, at the time,
 obviously he believed the statement in his first
 witness statement to be true. Can I just have
 a look at that sentence again, just so I can --

8 Q. In the first statement?

9 **A.** Yeah.

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10 Q. That is POL00118250, over the page, please, to11 paragraph 5.

A. It's not hugely different because he's saying
 that the problems -- that there were faults but
 they were eliminated, as opposed to rectified.

Q. I was referring, really, to the reduction
 reference to incidents. So a reduction in
 incidents to three per counter position
 per annum?

A. He may not -- at that stage, we were looking at it from a different perspective and he was then asked to look into it in more detail. So it may be that the further detail produced that information, that he then provided in his second statement.

25 **Q.** When you were assisting Mr Baines in drafting

There seems to be a difference, does there
not, between what Mr Baines is saying at
paragraph 6 of his second statement that we've
just looked at, that rectification had been

losses as is claimed by Mrs Wolstenholme."

just looked at, that rectification had been
 effective in reducing the incidents of reboot
 and related problems, and what is said here at

8 paragraph 5 in the first statement:

"Any faults that occurred in the Horizon computer system were eliminated once they were identified."

At the time you were involved in drafting Mr Baines' second statement, did you have any concerns that Mr Baines had not been full and frank about the problems which had been experienced with the Horizon System in his first statement?

18 A. Could I just have a look at his second statement
19 again, the paragraph that you were referring to,
20 please?

Q. Of course. Looking back, please, to
 POL00118224, and over the page, please, to
 paragraph 6.

We see here, about three lines down:
"... the rectification had been effective in

his second statement, did he tell you about any specific bugs, errors and defects which had been identified in the Horizon System up to that point?

5 A. Not that I can remember, no.

6 Q. That document can come down now. Thank you.7 We know that this case did settle and that

the Post Office made a payment toMrs Wolstenholme. Were any formal concessions

10 made in the case before this settlement was

11 achieved?

12 A. This is the bit I really can't remember, and
13 I can't remember the terms on which the case was
14 settled. So I can't help you on that.

Q. Can you help us with whether the statements of
 Jan Holmes and Keith Baines, dated 11 August
 2004, were ever failed at court and served on
 Mrs Wolstenholme?

19 **A.** I can't recall, no. I mean

A. I can't recall, no. I mean, as I say, I can't
 recall. I've assumed that we perhaps settled it
 actually on the day when we -- as the trial
 started. But I have got no specific

23 recollection.

Q. It may follow from your answer -- your answersyou've just given -- but can you help us with

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case?
A. No. No, when I read through these papers, I do
recall the £25,000 payment into court. So I do
recall that that was made, and then obviously
the Post Office would have had to have paid more
to settle it but I can't remember what the terms
were.

what the final settlement figure was in the

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9 Q. The final document I would like to take you to, 10 please, is POL00095375. This is a letter from Keith Baines to Colin Lenton-Smith, dated 11 12 5 February 2004. If we can just scroll down 13 a little, so we can see who it's from. Over the 14 page, please. This appears to be the letter 15 which Colin Lenton-Smith's Cleveleys letter and 16 appendix, which we looked at yesterday, was 17 responding to.

There is one point in particular I would like to ask you about, the bottom paragraph on the first page, please:

"The County Court instructed the parties jointly to commission a report from an expert approved by the Court. I enclose a copy of his report. As you will see, the expert's opinion is that the Horizon system installed at

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- think I was aware that the Post Office were
 concerned about a precedent being set. That
 probably came -- that came later.
- 4 Q. You say that came later. When later did you5 become aware of that?
- 6 A. Um, well, I can say that I was specifically 7 aware of it in the run-up to the advice that we 8 got from Stefan Lewinski because that 9 prompted -- that was one of the matters that 10 prompted us to get the advice because of the 11 difficulties in the case and possible 12 consequences of the case -- of there being 13 a finding against the Post Office.

So I can certainly say in the run-up to obtaining that advice and then having had that advice and afterwards.

- 17 Q. At the time, were you aware of any other cases
 18 involving the Post Office in which
 19 subpostmasters were attributing apparent losses
 20 to the Horizon System?
- 21 A. No, no, I wasn't. No, I wasn't aware of any22 cases, no.
- Q. If there were such cases, would you haveexpected the Post Office to tell you about them?
- 25 A. I would have expected them to -- the Post Office

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1 Cleveleys branch was defective and that the HSH 2 was more concerned with closing calls than 3 preventing recurrence of faults. As I'm sure 4 you will understand, Post Office is concerned by 5 these findings, not only in relation to this 6 particular case, but also because of any 7 precedent that this may set and that may be used 8 by Post Office's agents to support claims that 9 the Horizon System is causing errors in their 10 branch accounts."

Were you aware at the time of the Post
Office's concern to avoid a precedent being set,
that may be used by the Post Office's agents to
support claims that the Horizon System is
causing errors in their branch accounts?

15 causing errors in their branch accounts?16 A. What's the date of this letter again, sorry?

17 Q. This is 5 February 2004, so this is just after18 Mr Coyne's opinion was produced.

A. I think at that stage I was -- the only thing
 I was aware of was that the Post Office, the
 people I was dealing with, were concerned by the
 findings of the report and concerned that Jason

Coyne had reported on possible defects in the

24 system because, obviously, they hadn't believed

that to be the case. At this stage, I don't

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- 1 to tell me that they had other ongoing cases in
- which -- yeah, in which alleged defects --
- 3 defects with the system were being alleged.
- Q. Would you have considered information relating
 to such cases to be disclosable material in the
 Cleveleys case?
- 7 A. It would depend on the nature of the
 8 information. I'd have to see -- I'd have to
 9 have a look at what information there was and
 10 then take view on it from there.
- Q. The losses alleged in this case by the Post
 Office totalled over £25,000. If the Post
 Office considered these were true losses, rather
 than illusory ones, what was the Post Office's
 explanation or favoured explanation for the
- A. I can't specifically recall. I know that there
 were suggestions about errors in inputting
 information and the management of the system,

20 but I don't -- I can't specifically recall.

shortfall? Can you recall?

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry, as far as you were aware,
 Ms Helliwell, did the Post Office in any witness

statement seek to explain the losses it was
 alleging, ie to break down where the £25,000 had

come from and how it could be that that had been

1	lost?	1	what happened to the £25,000 in this case. All
2	A. Not from memory. I	2	that seems to have happened is that Horizon says
3	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I mean, it's not there on the	3	"There's a deficit in that amount, therefore
4	face of the statements we've seen. I was just	4	there must be, therefore you, Mrs Wolstenholme,
5	wondering if you'd ever been party to	5	are reliable for it"?
6	a discussion where they might have been, if you	6	A. I can see that that does that is how it looks
7	like, trying to work out what had happened?	7	but we've not seen the list of documents or the
8	A. No, I don't recall being part of the discussion,	8	documents that were provided by the Post Office
9	all I can say is that I would assume that we'd	9	that could I'm not saying they would have
10	have disclosed documents supporting those	10	supported how that loss was calculated and how
11	losses. But, in terms of any discussion,	11	it came about.
12	I can't recall being a party.	12	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Anyway. This isn't a memory test
13	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: This isn't being critical of you	13	for you.
14	but, if I were to draw the conclusion, if I need	14	A. No, I know. It's so hard.
15	to, that, basically, what happened was Horizon	15	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: As a solicitor acting for the
16	said £25,000 was missing so the Post Office just	16	Post Office in this litigation, you don't
17	accepted it, and it was up to the subpostmaster	17	actually remember seeing any documents which
18	to try to prove the opposite; is that fair?	18	explained the losses; is that fair?
19	A. I think that it would be fair to say that	19	A. Yes, I don't. I mean, that's not saying that
20	they would be asked to justify those losses and	20	there wouldn't be, because I'm sure I would have
21	how they were calculated.	21	asked for them because we'd have to substantiate
22	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, well, what it may be that	22	the losses and how they were claimed.
23	we just haven't got all the documents, so	23	MS PRICE: Sir, for completeness, the Amended
24	I don't want to be unfair in any way at all, but	24	Particulars of Claim, if we can have those on
25	there seems to be a complete absence of focus on 17	25	screen, please. That's POL00118218, starting at 18
1	the bottom of that page. Apologies, I need to	1	While I'm asking, the other question that
2	give you a page number. Page 13 within the	2	came into my mind, Ms Helliwell, was relating to
3	trial bundle.	3	the questions that Ms Price asked you about the
4	Looking towards the bottom of that at page,	4	differences in the wording between paragraphs 5
5	please, paragraph 5:	5	and 6 of Mr Baines's two statements, all right?
6	"The Defendant's subpostmaster's account	6	A. Yes.
7	shows an overall final loss in the sum of	7	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I don't want to pursue the
8	£25,034.34 in respect of the period up to and	8	difference in wording with you but, especially
9	including 4 December 2000. An itemised	9	in the second statement where he talks about
10	breakdown of this figure is attached at	10	there being a reduction, as opposed to
11	pages 61-67. Suction sum remains outstanding to	11	an elimination, it did strike me that that is
12	date."	12	information that could only have come from some
13	So, sir, there is a document that shows	13	kind of document. It's not very likely that
14	some shows discrepancies, ultimately, on the	14	Mr Baines was carrying that around in his head.
15	accounts.	15	That's what I had in mind.
16	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: What I was trying to get at, and	16	Do you recall any documents being made
17	perhaps you could help me I'd forgotten about	17	available to you so that you could disclose them
18	this, so thank you for reminding me but is it	18	in support of that witness statement?
19	any more than the Horizon record?	19	A. I don't specifically recall any documents, no.
20	MS PRICE: No, sir. That's my understanding. The	20	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Because, on the face of it, would
21	document, for the reference, starts at page 80	21	you agree with me that, if you're going to
22	of that, using the external pagination of that	22	produce what would have been very late evidence
23	document we've been looked at.	23	as in paragraph 6, giving quite an important
24	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. I'll look at that for	24	detail about a reduction in a problem, and
25	myself. Thank you. Yes.	25	documents exist, you would have expected that
	, 19		20

1	they would have been exhibited to the witness	1		express concern that the Horizon System might be
2	statement, wouldn't you?	2		causing illusory losses in the accounts of
3	A. Yes, you would. Yes.	3		subpostmasters?
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Clearly that didn't happen on any	4	A.	I don't recall specific concerns being raised
5	view of it?	5		with me, apart from, you know, the concerns I've
6	A. Pardon, sir? Sorry, sir? What was that?	6		already referred to. I don't remember any other
7	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: On any view of it, that didn't	7		concerns raised about other accounts where that
8	happen?	8		may or that may be attributable to the losses
9	A. No, it didn't, no.	9		on those accounts, as well.
10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Thank you.	10	Q.	Did anyone suggest to you that there would be
11	Sorry, Ms Price, for jumping in like that.	11		any form of investigation by the Post Office or
12	MS PRICE: Not at all. Thank you, sir.	12		Fujitsu to establish whether there was a basis
13	Did you understand there to be any desire on	13		for the suggestion that problems with the system
14	the part of the Post Office to get to the bottom	14		might be causing apparent shortfalls in branch
15	of what might have gone wrong at the Cleveleys	15		accounts?
16	branch?	16	A.	No, I don't recall that.
17	A. Not from the people that I dealt with or spoke	17	Q.	You said yesterday, Ms Helliwell, that you were
18	to. I think I said in my witness statement,	18		shocked and concerned by Mr Coyne's report. Did
19	I said in my evidence, that the people I dealt	19		you discuss the content of the report with your
20	with were shocked and concerned by the findings	20		supervising partner?
21	of Jason Coyne's report and information that	21	A.	I would have done, because I had regular review
22	seemed to be coming to light.	22		meetings, so cases were discussed at those
23	Q . Given the conclusions reached by Mr Coyne and	23		meetings.
24	the fairly stark advice received from counsel,	24	Q.	
25	did anyone within the Post Office or Fujitsu 21	25		to what the wider implications of this report,
1	Mr Coyne's report, was, going beyond the	1		hadn't she?
2	Cleveleys case?	2	Q.	Sorry?
3	A. No, because at that stage, as far as we were	3	A.	She previously had solicitors and then she acted
4	concerned or possibly the Post Office, it could	4		in person.
5	have just been isolated to that particular set	5	Q.	Yes. Why do you think that was?
6	of equipment, that system that was in use at	6		I assume finance, money.
7	that branch.	7	Q.	Yes, exactly. So financial pressure. Did you
8	MS PRICE: Ms Helliwell thank you very much. Those	8		or your client give any thought to the fact that
9	are all the questions that have.	9		she was a litigant in person?
10	Sir, before turning to Core Participants, do	10	Α.	As a solicitor, you always give have some
11	you have any remaining questions for	11		regards to the fact that someone is a litigant
12	Ms Helliwell?	12		in person and obviously deal with them
13	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: No, thank you. As I said,	13		accordingly, that they don't have the same
14	I jumped in and asked them, so thanks very much.	14		knowledge of the legal system.
15	MS PRICE: I think there are some questions from the	15	Q.	Because I'm just if we might have a look,
16	Hodge Jones & Allen team and the Howe+Co team,	16		please, at POL00118221, please. I'd be very
17	starting with the Hodge Jones & Allen team and	17		grateful if we could go to the internal
18	Mr Henry.	18		pagination at page 208, please. There we can
19	Questioned by MR HENRY	19		see your letter, which I obviously you must
20	MR HENRY: Thank you very much.	20		have an opportunity to read it to yourself.
21	Ms Helliwell, the fact that Mrs Wolstenholme	21	A.	Yes.
22	was a litigant in person, she was representing	22	Q.	When you have confirmed that you've read it to
23	herself, did that in any way influence the	23	٦.	yourself, I'd like to take you to the response
-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			,

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instructions you were given by your client?

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25 A. No. She had previously had solicitors as well,

1	Α.	Okav.
	Α.	Orav.

- Q. If we therefore go to 209. Again, if you wouldbe so kind as to just read that to yourself.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I mean, did you consider that you might have to,
- 6 given the fact that Mrs Wolstenholme was a
- 7 litigant in person, explain the court orders to
- 8 her, so that she was in no doubt of the
- 9 obligations upon her?
- 10 A. We had been at a hearing, and she'd been
- 11 present, and the District Judge had very clearly
- 12 explained what was required but I think then in
- 13 my next letter I may have clarified further
- 14 about the computer expert, I think, from
- 15 a further letter. And I think I simply sent her
- 16 the list of documents and the documents in
- 17 another letter, rather than her having to
- 18 request copies.
- 19 Q. Yes. You received instructions, since you
- 20 mention your further letter, if we could go to
- 21 internal documentation 211, please:
- 22 "Finally, as regards your request for the
- 23 call log details to Horizon from the period
- June 2000 to November 2000, our client does not
- 25 have copies of these call log details and the
 - 25
- 1 information I was receiving from the client.
- 2 Q. I see. Thank you.
 - Could I now turn to the issue of the single
 - joint expert, and you were asked by learned
 - Counsel to the Inquiry whether the statements of
- 6 Mr Holmes and Mr Baines were lodged with the
- court and you could not say. But you accept theprinciple, don't you, that with a single joint
- 9 expert, as we can see the order of the County
- 10 Court, single joint expert, it's vitally
- important that they are only provided with
- 12 completely accurate information --
- 13 **A.** Yes.

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- 14 Q. -- and that the information submitted to them
- 15 must be scrupulously checked to ensure that the
- 16 expert is not offering an opinion on a false
- 17 premise?
- 18 **A.** Mm.
- 19 Q. You agree?
- 20 **A.** Yes.
- 21 Q. Thank you.
- When an adverse opinion, such as that
- 23 received from Mr Coyne was received and Fujitsu

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- 24 employees sought to rebut it, did the Post
- 25 Office recognise that Mr Coyne's opinion was

- 1 only call log details in our client's possession
- 2 are those referred into item 10 of our client's
- 3 List."
- 4 Is that what you were told, that the Post
- 5 Office did not have call log details to the
- 6 Helpdesk from the period June 2000 to November
- 7 2000?
- 8 A. That's what I would have been told at the time
- 9 and that's why it was in that letter.
- 10 Q. So did you not question their apparent void in
- 11 document retention and recording of information?
- 12 A. I certainly would have done.
- 13 Q. What were you told?
- 14 A. Well, as far as the -- these call log details,
- 15 they were then actually produced, weren't they?
- 16 Q. So you were therefore, at that point, being
- 17 given misinformation?
- 18 A. It would appear so because they were
- 19 subsequently produced. Correct me if I'm wrong.
- 20 Q. Well, we'll come back to that if necessary,
- 21 but --
- 22 A. But my letter was based on information --
- 23 Q. Your evidence here is that this was
- 24 misinformation.
- 25 A. This letter, obviously this is based on the

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- 1 independent and unbiased?
- 2 A. I can't specifically say that they did, but
- 3 I certainly saw his opinion as being independent
- 4 and unbiased, and I would have relayed that to
- 5 the client. He was a joint expert that was
- 6 instructed and we had no reason to consider
- 7 otherwise, that it would be other than unbiased.
- 8 Q. Mm. Can you recall, notwithstanding the advice
- 9 you believe you tendered to the Post Office, can
- 10 you recall whether they accepted Mr Coyne's
- 11 opinion or not?
- 12 A. Whether the Post Office accepted it?
- 13 **Q**. Yes
- 14 A. It's just so hard to recall but I can just more
- 15 recall the concern and questioning of how -- you
- 16 know, of that opinion because it had come as
- 17 a complete surprise and shock to them, and
- 18 it's --
- 19 Q. Did they settle with good grace or did they, in
- 20 effect, very, very -- shall we put it
- 21 neutrally -- reluctantly settle this case?
- 22 A. From the -- certainly the people I dealt with,
- 23 they settled with good grace --
- 24 **Q**. Ah
- 25 A. -- as opposed to it being reluctantly because

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(7) Pages 25 - 28

- 1 they had to accept that the evidence --
- 2 Q. So it would follow, if they were settling it
- 3 with good grace, that they would be persuaded of
- 4 the merits of the unbiased and independent
- 5 report and would want, therefore, to disseminate
- 6 the information as widely as possible, given the
- 7 risk to other subpostmasters, would it not?
- 8 A. Could you just repeat that, please?
- 9 Q. Well, it would follow, if they were settling it
- 10 with good grace, that they would be very
- 11 concerned as to the content of the independent
- 12 and unbiased expert report and would want to
- 13 disseminate the information so that there should
- 14 be no risk presented to other subpostmasters?
- 15 A. You would imagine that. The only qualification
- 16 I would make is that this report was based on
- 17 very limited information and documentation,
- 18 and --
- 19 Q. And who's responsible for that?
- 20 A. Well, Fujitsu had -- you know, for whatever
- 21 reason, the archiving provisions rules, which
- 22 obviously had been changed by this time but
- 23 there was certainly a feeling that the expert's
- 24 report could have been -- could have been
- 25 different, had there been a full set of
- 1 A. Mr Baines individually? Um ...
- 2 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. Yes, I can't recall that he did -- that he
- 4 specifically said that, but ...
- 5 Q. Can we have a quick look -- no, I'm going to
- 6 move on.
- 7 But he was the most senior person from the
- 8 Post Office at that conference, wasn't he?
- 9 A. Yes, Mandy Talbot was there though, wasn't she?
- 10 Q. Yes, but he was a very senior member of the Post
- 11 Office at that conference, wasn't he?
- 12 **A.** Yes.
- 13 Q. You would you agree that, at around that time of
- 14 that conference, they wanted to avoid, and they
- 15 were very particular about this, publicity
- 16 concerning Mr Coyne's negative report?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. Right. We know the fundamental issue was that
- 19 Mr Coyne had concluded that Horizon was at
- 20 fault. Pursuant to my earlier question when you
- 21 said that the Post Office accepted that with
- good grace, do you accept now that the Post
- 23 Office allowed themselves to become more
- 24 concerned with suppressing that information than
- 25 actually learning from it and addressing it?

- 1 information available and data available.
- 2 Q. I mean --
- 3 A. There was no -- nobody knew that.
- 4 Q. Surely, I mean, it is obvious, and I mean no
- 5 disrespect to you in stating that it is obvious,
- 6 that the Post Office did not want Mr Coyne's
- 7 findings to be widely known or even narrowly
- 8 known by anyone other than those involved in
- 9 that case?
- 10 A. I would accept that, yes.
- 11 Q. Yes, and learned Counsel to the Inquiry asked
- 12 you about the Post Office's concern to avoid
- 13 publicity about Mr Coyne's negative report, did
- 14 they not?
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 Q. You stated that this was expressed at around the
- 17 time of the conference with counsel, correct?
- 18 A. Yes, it must have been the run-up to it and
- 19 around the time, yes.
- 20 Q. Yes. We know that Mr Baines was at that
- 21 conference, don't we?
- 22 A. Yes
- 23 Q. Would it be right to say that Mr Baines agreed
- 24 that the Post Office should be seeking to avoid
- 25 publicity?

- 1 A. That's a difficult question for me to answer
- 2 because, at the time of my involvement, they
- 3 were concerned to avoid publicity. But what
- 4 they then did with that information moving
- 5 forward and looking at other issues that
- 6 I didn't know about, maybe that were ongoing
- 7 with other subpostmasters, I wouldn't have been
- 8 a party to that and how they --
- 9 Q. I realise this is very difficult for you because
- 10 of the lapse of time but, of course, you are
- 11 relieved of your obligation, it wasn't your
- 12 privilege, it's the client's privilege and it's
- been waived, you are relieved from the burden of
- 14 professional legal privilege. Did you see it as
- 15 any part of your job to warn the Post Office
- that it would be advisable to get to the bottom
- of this contentious issue, rather than
- 18 suppressing it?
- 19 A. I would have certainly advised that the report
- 20 had to be taken very seriously and that
- 21 questions needed to be asked.
- 22 Q. Surely, they must have sought your counsel, your
- 23 advice, on this, because it went to the heart of
- 24 whether Horizon was safe?
- 25 A. I can't say whether they sought my advice on

- 1 that or what discussions we had. It's just so 2 difficult to remember.
- 3 Q. But you do recall that you would have advised 4 them to take it seriously?
- 5 Α.
- 6 Q. Yes.
- A. I would have --7
- 8 Q. I mean, surely, you're a commercial lawyer and 9 a litigator. The reputational risk and the
- 10 enormous damage to the Post Office must have
- 11 featured in the considerations that centred upon
- 12 this case?
- 13 A. Yes, it would have featured but, again, at that
- 14 time, we were looking at one isolated case. We
- 15 didn't -- I didn't know if there were other
- 16 cases ongoing.
- 17 Q. Sorry?
- 18 At that point, we were looking at this one
- 19 individual case. Whether there were other cases
- 20 ongoing at that time about -- with issues with
- 21 the system, I don't know. And I think, as
- 22 I mentioned earlier, although the report was
- 23 very concerning, it had to be looked at in the
- 24 context of would it have been any different, had
- 25 all the data been available to Jason Coyne? His
- 1 et cetera:

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- "My observations considering the documents are as follows ..."
 - Then if we could -- yes, thank you so much:
- "The statement from Ms Elaine Tagg, the Retail Network Manager of the Post Office, at
- paragraph 11, stated that:
- "'Mrs Wolstenholme persisted in telephoning the Horizon System Helpdesk in relation to any problems which she had with the system generally, these problems related to the use and general operation of the system and were not technical problems relating to the system'."
 - Then Mr Coyne opines:
- "This, in my opinion is not a true representation of the evidence that I have had access to. Of the 90 or so fault logs that I have reviewed, 63 of these are without doubt system related failures. Only 13 could be considered as Mrs Wolstenholme calling the wrong support helpdesk requesting answers to 'How do

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- 21 22 I ...?' type training questions."
- 23 When you saw that, that must have been very 24 troubling, mustn't it?
- 25 A. Yes, because we would know that Mrs -- that

- report was based on very limited information. 1
- 2 Q. Because of Fujitsu?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So you have, on the one hand, an independent and
- impartial and unbiased expert and, on the other 5
- 6 hand, you have Fujitsu disputing it but also, so
- 7 it appears, withholding information, correct?
- 8 Well, I wouldn't say withholding information.
- 9 The information had been archived -- had been
- 10 deleted or destroyed after however long,
- 11 18 months.
- Q. Well, deleted or destroyed, did that not raise 12
- 13 a red flag?
- 14 A. That the information had -- that it had been
- 15 destroyed so soon? Yes.
- 16 Q. Well, exactly, but also --
- 17 A. And that was -- that had been changed already,
- 18 hadn't it, to seven years or whatever, or six or
- 19 seven vears.
- 20 Q. Can I now move, please, to Elaine Tagg --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- and could we please go to WITN09020115. This
- 23 is Mr Coyne's statement and if we could be so
- 24 kind to go to page 2. It's just underneath that
- 25 "more detailed examination", et cetera,
- 1 Elaine Tagg was -- obviously she would be
- 2 cross-examined on her witness statement and
- 3 she'd have to deal with Mr Coyne's opinion.
- 4 Q. Well, leaving aside her being cross-examined,
- 5 what about the submission of a witness statement
- 6 which is so manifestly wrong?
- 7 In the opinion of the expert it is wrong, yeah.
- 8 That's why it -- having looked at -- that's why
- we obtained the advice and -- from counsel on 9
- 10 the evidence, because statements like that were
- 11 a real cause for concern.
- Q. It wasn't just the opinion of the expert that 12
- she was wrong; even Jan Holmes said it would be 13
- 14 hard to dispute that, didn't he?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. I don't need to take you to it, thank you for
- 17 your concession, but the reference is
- 18 FUJ00121499 at page 3.
- A. Can I just have a look at that, please? 19
- 20 Q. Of course, by all means. Yes. Do you see just
- 21 the last line of that statement --
- 22 A. Yes, I just wanted to remind myself.
- 23 Q. Do you see it?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You're happy?

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1	Α.	Yes.	1		course you rely, don't you, on the information
2	Q.	3	2		which you are provided with, don't you?
3				Absolutely, yeah.	
4		on 2 February 2004. Did you because she was	4	Q.	Yes. But nearly every sentence in paragraph 5
5		suggesting actually that Elaine Tagg was, shall	5		of his witness statement, first witness
6		we put the euphemism, not telling the truth.	6		statement, could have been contradicted, it
7		Did you discuss the implications of providing	7 8		would appear, from his own personal knowledge, from what we now know. You weren't aware of
8		untruthful witness statements in legal			
9	٨	proceedings with your client? Yes, I would have done.	9 10		that at the time?
10 11	A. Q.		11	A. Q.	Absolutely not, no.
12			12	Q.	No. Counsel to the Inquiry took you to the handwritten notes of the conference that led to
13	A.	Again, it's hard to remember from so long ago,	13		
14		but I would certainly have highlighted that as a potential an error and potential	14		this statement being produced, in which it seems that Mr Baines said he would be candid about
15		misstatement in Ms Tagg's statement.	15		glitches. Do you remember that?
16	Q.	Could I ask you now about Mr Baines' direct	16	٨	I think so, yes.
17	Q.	involvement. We know that he was involved in	17	Q.	Now, what I want to just try and help me with is
18		the acceptance of Horizon and the many	18	Q.	this, because you said this morning to learned
19		significant problems that still existed when it	19		Counsel to the Inquiry that you believe you
20		was rolled out I suggest he was aware of. When	20		would have had more involvement in the actual
21		you go to the first witness statement of the	21		drafting of Mr Baines's witness statements.
22		late Mr Baines, which is POL00118250, and we go	22		I think you drew a distinction because Mr Holmes
23		to paragraph 5 and I want to make it clear,	23		was Fujitsu, Mr Baines was Post Office,
24		Ms Helliwell, I'm not suggesting that you are	24		therefore you'd have had more involvement in the
25		a party to any impropriety here because of	25		actual drafting of Mr Baines' witness
2.0		37	20		38
1		statements; that's what your belief was?	1		were, you know, being the active drafter?
2	A.	Yes, and I think also I could tell from the	2	A.	No, I wasn't (unclear) on that, no.
3		typeface of Mr Holmes' statement that it looked	3	Q.	No. You weren't because, in fact, there is
4		a different point at the start and then as if	4		an email from Mr Baines about his second witness
5		his information had pretty much been put in.	5		statement copied to you, in which he says that
6		I'd have but then I do also with	6		it was the detail behind the assertions on
7		Mr Baines' second statement, him and Mr Holmes,	7		paragraph 5 of his first witness statement
8		I think as it's referred to in the notes of the	8		what I'm trying to suggest is that he drafted it
9		conference, and that they were working, yeah,	9		without your assistance.
10		they were exchanging information, working on	10		Could we go to, please, POL00118233. There
11		their statements together as well.	11		we are. I think this is copied to you, isn't
12	Q.	So they were a double act?	12		it?
13	A.	They were both providing information statements	13	A.	Mm.
14		and	14	Q.	Sent to Ms Talbot, copied to Mr Holmes, copied
15	Q.	In tandem?	15		to you:
16	A.	I think they were liaising on that, yes.	16		"Enclosed is a statement covering Post
17	Q.	Yes, so they were working together, they were in	17		Office's approach ensuring that Horizon was
18		tandem, and	18		suitable for use for its intended uses and
19	A.	And then	19		users. I'm also copying this to Susanne
20	Q.	Yeah.	20		Helliwell. This in general, rather than
21	A.	before it came to before it came to	21		specific to Cleveleys, and in effect is the
22	Q.	Before it came to you?	22		detail behind some of the assertions in
23	A.	Mm.	23		paragraph 5 of my earlier witness statement
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Q. That's precisely what I wanted to establish, in

fairness to you, lest it be thought that you

As agreed, I haven't attempted to put this into

the format required by the court."

1 So, in other words, and I mean no disrespect 1 it -- because that was attached to the email. 2 to you, but would it be the case that he drafted 2 Q. Yes, that was attached to the email --3 his second witness statement and you put it in A. Because this to me would be more that he signed 3 4 to the appropriate format? 4 it and faxed it back to me because I'd need 5 a signed -- at that time, I don't think we Α. Yes, I would have put it into the appropriate 5 6 format and asked any -- raised any questions or 6 really did --7 queries I had on the information he provided --7 Q. It doesn't appear -- yes, it was signed. So 8 8 Q. 9 A. So this is after --A. -- and sent it to counsel. 9 10 Did he not in fact fax it to you, as well? Do 10 Q. After you formatted it -you recall that? 11 This is probably after --11 Gosh, I can't remember a fax. Yes, you formatted it, by this time, and he 12 Α. 12 13 Let's have a look at --13 faxes it back. So perhaps that's not so A. I'm sure if there's a fax here, he did. 14 important but --Q. Let's have look at POL00118224, please. That's 15 A. I think that's --15 16 the second witness statement, and could we go 16 Q. But the first one shows --17 to -- we know about paragraph 6. I'm not going 17 A. The answer to what -- that this would have been -- I assume that this would have been him 18 to take you to that again but could we go to 18 19 page 8, please. We can see there that he sent 19 faxing his signed statement back to me. 20 it to you, didn't he? 20 Q. Yes. 21 A. Yes, whether it was the --21 A. I can't be certain but that's what I assume. 22 That was after you put it into the format and he 22 Initially, it looks like he drafted this 23 signed it; is that right? 23 statement without your assistance, doesn't it? 24 A. Do we know that this is the format that he -- is 24 Α. Yes, and it -- his -- it was attached to that 25 this him sending me his initial statement or is 25 email that you just showed me that he sent to 1 Mandy Talbot. 1 providing statements dealing purely with the 2 Q. You don't recall making any alterations to it? 2 matters that we discussed in conference --3 I mean, how could you? 3 Q. Yes. 4 A. I can't -- I just can't recall. No. 4 A. -- and to do with the point that was raised by 5 Q. No. Could I, in conclusion -- in his second 5 Mr Lewinsky in his advice and evidence in 6 witness statement he admits to significant 6 quantum on the implied term issue. 7 problems of acceptance, touches on the subject 7 MR HENRY: Well, thank you so much. 8 of blue screens, but he completely ignores the 8 A. Thank you. 9 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you Mr Henry. Acceptance Incident which centred upon 9 10 unreliable cash accounts, doesn't he? 10 Sorry, can we --MS PRICE: I understand Mr Jacobs has some A. Pardon -- you'd have to just take me to that. 11 11 12 Q. Within his second statement. He doesn't mention 12 questions, sir. Did you want to proceed or did 13 anything to do with unreliable cash accounts. 13 14 He doesn't deal with a very critical Acceptance 14 will be? 15 Incident which centred upon unreliable cash 15 16 accounts. You, of course, unless you're told 16 about serious Acceptance Incidents, you can't be 17 17 18 presumed to know. 18 No, I can't be presumed to know. 19 19 quick. 20 No. You can't say "Well, why haven't you 20 21 mentioned this?" 21 22 **A**. 22

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So you were very much dependent, weren't you, on

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Yes, absolutely. And him and Jan Holmes were

the information that was provided to you?

you -- it depends a little on how long Mr Jacobs SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I think I can encourage Mr Jacobs to conclude his questions before a break, I think. Let me put it that way, Mr Jacobs. MR JACOBS: Thank you, sir. I'll endeavour to be Questioned by MR JACOBS MR JACOBS: I act for 157 subpostmasters, instructed by Howe+Co, and want to ask you about a specific 23 point. Many of my clients, if not all of them, 24 feel that Post Office's attempts in 2004 to 25 suppress Jason Coyne's expert evidence and keep 44 (11) Pages 41 - 44 that out of the public domain amounted to a cover-up of the failings in the Horizon System, so I want to ask you about that.

You said in your answers this morning to Ms Price that you became specifically aware that the Post Office were worried about a precedent being set in the run-up to receiving counsel's advice; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

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- 10 Q. And --
- A. I would have been, because that's probably one
 of the reasons that had prompted me -- I do
 actually refer to getting his advice after we
 received the report, but I know that over time,
 I would have -- yeah, prompted -- become
 concerned.
- 17 Q. You dealt with Mr Keith Baines quite a lot,18 didn't you, in your dealings with the Post
- 19 Office in this case?
- A. More from the purposes of witness evidence. My
 main point of contact was Jim Cruise and then
 Mandy Talbot.
- 23 Q. But you took instructions from Mr Baines in relation to his first witness statement?
- 25 **A.** For his statements, yes, but in the general

1 branch accounts."

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Now, what I want to ask you is: do you accept, from having Post Office as your client, that the precedent issue they were worried about was that other subpostmasters would latch onto the fact that Post Office knew and was aware, and their own expert had told them, that the Horizon System had deficiencies?

and their own expert had told them, that the
Horizon System had deficiencies?

A. Yes, if they had issues with other agents.
I wasn't aware that they had issues with other
agents concerning accounts. And also, I'm not
actually sure that I would have been -- received
a copy of that letter at that time.

14 Q. No, of course. But you say in your evidence
15 that you were aware that Post Office were
16 concerned --

17 **A**. Yes.

18 Q. -- that Jason Coyne's report would set19 a precedent.

20 A. (The witness nodded)

21 **Q.** What I'm putting to you is that the reason for that precedent concern was that the Post Office didn't want other subpostmasters to get wind of the fact that Post Office's own expert has said that there were deficiencies in the Horizon

running of the case, it would be the legal team.
 Q. In relation to the precedent being set point,
 can I refer you to a document, POL00095375. Now

this -- we'll wait for it to come up on the

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So this is a letter from Keith Baines to Colin Lenton-Smith at Fujitsu, dated 5 February 2004. He says, if we could perhaps scroll down to the paragraph where it begins "As you will see". So yes, if we go up again, I'm sorry, to the last paragraph on page 1. So it says:

"As you will see, the expert's opinion is that the Horizon System installed at the Cleveleys branch was defective and that the HSH was more concerned with closing calls than preventing recurrence of faults."

Now you've heard from Mr Coyne yesterday about that:

"As I'm sure [can be understood] Post Office is concerned by these findings, not only in relation to this particular case, but also because of any precedent that this may set [and the important bit is this] and that may be used by Post Office's agents to support claims that the Horizon System is causing errors in their

1 System?

A. Yes, and at that time, it may not have been that
there were any -- as I say, I wasn't aware of
any other issues, but they wouldn't want that to
be set -- a precedent to be set for any future
issues should they arise.

Q. So is it fair to say, and you may or may not be
 able to answer this question of course, that
 Post Office were, from what you observed,
 involved in covering up Horizon deficiencies
 from subpostmasters from 2004?

12 A. I can't say that I was involved.

13 Q. But that was their precedent concern, wasn't it?

14 A. It wasn't a matter of covering up and
 15 Mrs Wolstenholme could be very -- obviously she

was entitled to be very vocal and tell anybody

about this particular -- the County Court
 proceedings, so she could have told any

proceedings, so she could have told anybody about the findings of the report anyway. All

20 I know is that they were concerned about adverse

21 publicity and wouldn't wish for that to go

against them, you know, in terms of any futurepotential claims.

24 Q. In any future cases?

25 A. Yes, but not that they were aware -- or I was

- 1 aware of any at that time.
- 2 Q. Thank you.
- 3 Um --
- 4 A. I think I also mentioned before as well that,
- 5 certainly, the people that I dealt with, you
- 6 know, one view was that this report was based on
- 7 just a very, very limited amount of
- 8 documentation and that, for all we knew, the
- 9 outcome of such a report could have been
- 10 different had he had access to all the data, but
- that's just -- that was possibly something that 11
- 12 I got the impression from the legal team.
- 13 Did you hear Mr Coyne give evidence yesterday? Q.
- No, I didn't, no. 14 Α.
- You said that one view was that his report was 15 Q.
- 16 limited because of him being given limited
- 17 information.
- 18 A. Mm, yes.
- 19 But do you accept that there is another view,
- 20 which happens also to be Mr Coyne's view: that
- 21 it was a perfectly valid report?
- 22 Α. Oh, absolutely, yeah. Yeah, based -- yeah, it
- 23 was a valid report based on the information he
- 24 had
- 25 Q. Can I go to -- and I apologise for showing this
- 1 the autumn of 2003?
- 2 Α. That's what I thought, sir, yes.
- 3 MR JACOBS: Thank you, sir.
- 4 A. So he'd have actually done this without the
- 5 benefit, you know, without having sight of
- 6 Mr Coyne's report.
- 7 Q. Were you concerned that the account that
- Mr Baines was giving in that statement, were you 8
- 9 later concerned that that couldn't be borne out
- after Mr Coyne's expert report came out? 10
- A. I would have been because, again, that would 11
- 12 have prompted the -- even more so the need to 13 get counsel's advice on the evidence because
- 14
- I had our statements, I had Mr Coyne's report
- 15 and it's how our witnesses could deal with those
- 16 statements in the context of the report from
- 17 Jason Coyne.
- You have said that you discussed these matters 18
- with your supervising partner. 19
- 20 Α.
- Q. What was his name? Was that Neil Kelly, who you 21
- 22 mentioned before?
- 23 A. This is the -- this is probably what I struggle
- 24 to remember because, at the time, he was my
- 25 supervising partner but then we also had

- 1 one more time -- Mr Baines' first witness
- 2 statement paragraph 5.
- 3 A. Right.

- 4 Q. I will be very quick on this point. POL0095374.
- You'll probably know this by heart now. Just 5
- 6 waiting for it to come on screen. Here we are.
 - So paragraph 5, please. Now, you'd
- 8 obviously read Mr Coyne's report at the time
- 9 that this was drafted. Were you concerned that
- 10 what Mr Baines was saying at paragraph 5 wasn't
- 11 actually true?
- What was the date of this statement? 12
- 13 Q. Now I'm afraid I'm not able to help you with
- 14
- 15 A. Oh. Can I -- can you go back to the top? To
- 16 the first --
- 17 Q. Let's go back to the top, shall we, please.
- 18 Again, it doesn't assist us.
- 19 A. Right. Can I just check, though, that --
- 20 weren't the first set of witness statements
- 21 served before Mr Coyne's report? I can't
- 22 remember.
- 23 **Q.** Well, if that's the case then that's the case.
- A. I don't know, yeah --24
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I reckon that this statement is

- 1 a partner who was responsible for that
- 2 particular client, Post Office, and that could
- 3 have been David Jacks, who is referred to
- 4 earlier on. So I don't, you know, I may have
- 5 discussed it with both of them.
- 6 Q. So either or both of David Jacks or Neil Kelly?
- 7 A. Mm.
- 8 Q. Did Weightmans act for Post Office in other
- cases that were ongoing against subpostmasters? 9
- A. My understanding at the time was that they acted 10
- 11 more on the employment claims.
- 12 Q. All right.
- 13 But they would have done, obviously this is
- 14 a litigation matter, commercial litigation
- 15 matter. So they would have had some dealings
- 16 but then, as you saw, the proceedings were
- started by Consignia, by the in-house team, and 17
- 18 that may be what had happened. Maybe that was
- 19 what had happened on the commercial litigation 20 side initially.
- 21 Q. Did Weightmans view Post Office as
- 22 a particularly big client or important client?
- 23 A. At the time they were but I remember more
- 24 specifically on the employment side more than
- 25 anything, but that's just my recollection at the

1		time.	1		could take a 10-minute break I think that takes
2	Q.	Do you think that Jason Coyne's report is	2		us to 11.30.
3		something that would have been disclosable in	3	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: I think we'll have 15 minutes if
4		any future proceedings in which your firm had	4		you don't mind.
5		acted against had acted for Post Office	5	MS	S PRICE: Of course.
6		against subpostmasters?	6	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Okay. 11.35, then.
7	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: I'm going to stop you there,	7	MS	S PRICE: 11.35, sir.
8		because there are so many possible permutations	8	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. Thank you.
9		that that's almost an impossible question	9		1.16 am)
10	Α.	That's a very difficult question to answer,	10	`	, (A short break)
11		that.	11	(11	1.35 am)
12	MR	JACOBS: All right. I'll withdraw that question.	12		R BEER: Good morning, sir. Can you see and hear
13		Sir, I don't have any further questions to	13		me?
14		ask. Thank you.	14	SIE	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.
15	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr Jacobs.	15		R BEER: May I call Colin Lenton-Smith, please.
16	0	Thank you, Ms Helliwell, for your evidence	16		R WYN WILLIAMS: Of course.
17		to the Inquiry and your witness statement and	17	0	COLIN EDWARD LENTON-SMITH (sworn)
18		your forbearance in coming back this morning as	18		Questioned by MR BEER
19		opposed to finishing your evidence yesterday	19	м	R BEER: Good morning, Mr Lenton-Smith, my name is
20			20	IVII	
20 21	TUE	afternoon. I'm grateful to you.	21		Jason Beer and I ask questions on behalf of the
2 i 22		E WITNESS: It's a pleasure. Thank you.	22		Inquiry. Can you give us your full name, please?
23	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: So we'll take our morning break, yes, Ms Price?			Yes, it's Colin Edward Lenton-Smith.
	Me		23		
24 25	IVIO	PRICE: Yes, sir. Mr Beer will be asking	24 25	Q.	, ,
23		questions of Mr Lenton-Smith next, so if we 53	23		to the Inquiry today and assisting us in our 54
1		investigation. Thank you also for previously	1		tell us in your witness statement that you
2		providing a witness statement. Can you open	2		qualified as a member of the Institute of
3		that witness statement, please. I think it's	3		Chartered Accountants and worked in industry
4		the first tab in the binder in front of you.	4		from 1979; is that right?
5	A.	Yes.	5	A.	That's correct, yes.
6	Q.	It's dated 22 May 2023 and, if you turn to	6	Q.	If you just move forward a little bit the
7		page 14, is there a signature?	7		microphone will pick you up a bit better.
8	A.	There is a signature, yes.	8		That's it. Thank you.
9	Q.	Is it yours?	9		You joined ICL Computers, or ICL, in 1990 as
10	A.	It's my signature, yes.	10		a commercial manager within the international
11	Q.	Are the contents of that statement true to the	11		division; is that right?
12		best of your knowledge and belief?	12	A.	That's correct, yes.
13	A.	They are, yes.	13	Q.	Was that preceded by some work in the IT
14	Q.	For the transcript, the URN is WITN08590100. No	14		industry from about 1985?
15		need to display that. I am going to ask you	15	A.	Yes, I had worked for the computer company Wang
16		some questions this morning and this afternoon	16		for four or five years previously before joining
17		Mr Lenton-Smith, principally about your role in	17		ICL.
18		the claim brought by Mrs Julie Wolstenholme, who	18	Q.	You tell us that you worked for ICL Pathway
19		ran the Cleveleys post office in Lancashire, but	19		Limited from March 2001; is that right?
20		also some broader issues about the provision of	20	A.	That's right, yes.
21		litigation support by Fujitsu, and in its	21	Q.	Before then, had you had any involvement in the
22		predecessor guise as ICL Pathway Limited, to the	22		project which became known as Horizon?
23		Post Office.	23	A.	No, none at all.
24	A.	Yes.	24	Q.	At that time, March 2001, you joined ICL Pathway

25

25 Q. Can I start with your background, please. You

Limited as the Commercial and Finance Director? 56

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A. Yes, it wasn't a registered directorship in 1 2 terms of registering at Companies House but it 3 was a position given the seniority of the 4 function, so it was leading the function of the 5 commercial and the finance functions. 6 Q. Did you take over in that position from Anthony 7 Oppenheim? 8 A. In that functional role yes, but not as 9 a director of Pathway. 10 He was a director of Pathway, I think? Q. 11 A. I believe so. Did you stay in that role as director until 12 Q. 13 October 2007? A. I did, yes. Well, it changed. The role changed 14 from being a finance and commercial 15 16 responsibility to simply commercial. 17 **Q.** What did you do after October 2007? A. I then worked for another multinational contract 18 19 that Fujitsu had taken with an international 20 company to manage that contract. 21 Q. Until your retirement in, I think, September 22 2018 --23 A. Yes. -- did you have any further involvement with the 24 Q. 25 Horizon Programme? 57 1 at the specific three elements you described 2 there, litigation support to the Post Office? 3 A. Within numeric constraints. So I believe, just 4 as I started, a number of audit requests were 5 made available, a negotiated position that 6 Fujitsu then -- or ICL Pathway then provided to 7 Post Office. I think it was 50 around that 8 9 Q. What about anything more fundamental than that? So rather than the number per month or year of 10 11 packets of audit data, anything more fundamental 12 in the contract, was it your understanding that 13 the contract contained any such provisions? 14 A. I think it was -- there was a letter from Martyn 15 Bennett to Post Office, which I believe -- there 16 was an agreement reached on limiting a general 17 statement on provision of information to these 18 number of requests, but I can't recall whether 19 there was anything wider than that. 20 Q. Okay. If we just go a the page to paragraph 4, 21 you say, as the Commercial Director: 22 "My role involved managing an autonomous 23 finance team and a small commercial team to

None at all. Δ 2 Q. So we're principally interested in the period March 2001 until October 2007 --3 4 A. Right. -- about six and a half years. 5 6 Yes, that's correct. 7 Q. If you can turn up your witness statement, please, WITN0590100, and look, please, on 8 9 page 2, at the bottom of the page, paragraph 5. 10 You sav: 11 "Regarding Post Office Limited, legal action against [subpostmasters], as part of the service 12 13 for Horizon, Fujitsu provided support to [the 14 Post Office] as and when required in the form of 15 audit data, witness statements and if required, 16 appearances in court. Outside of the standard 17 service [the Post Office] may request Fujitsu to 18 provide special assistance." 19 So you say here that Fujitsu provided 20 support in the form of audit data, witness 21 statements and court appearances to support 22 legal action against subpostmasters. Was it 23 your understanding that that was part of the 24 contract between the Post Office and Fujitsu, 25 that required, in general terms, without looking 1 things]." 2 Yes? 3 A. Yes, that's right. 4 So was your job essentially managing the 5 contract? 6 It was managing the contract, yes. Well, it was 7 managing the contract from a commercial perspective, so that my opposite number in the 8 9 Post Office, Keith Baines, we would have 10 discussions about the points of the contract and 11 these would be discussed or issues that were 12 raised would be discussed through Commercial 13 Forum, monthly, I believe, but periodically, to 14 deal with issues that arose from the contract. 15 So at the time, you would have been very 16 familiar with the terms of the contract between 17 the Post Office and Fujitsu? 18 A. 19 Q. Can we look at, I think, the letter to which you 20 were referring, FUJ00155527. Just forgive us 21 a moment. Thank you. 22 This is indeed a letter to Charles Leighton 23 from Martyn Bennett. If we just look at the

letter generally to start with and look at the

foot of the second page -- thank you -- you'll

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contract manage the Horizon contract with Post

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1 see that it's written by Martyn Bennett, the 2 Quality Director within ICL. 3 Then go back to the first page. It's 4 written to Charles Leighton, the Internal Crime 5 Manager in Post Office, and it's dated 6 6 February 2001. 7 We'll see in a moment that this concerns 8 contractual provisions and, most specifically, 9 the Post Office's need to have Fujitsu staff 10 produce witness statements for the purposes of legal proceedings. So this is dated February 11 12 2001, that's about a month before you took up 13 position; is that right? That's right. 14 Α. 15 Q. Is that an issue with which you became familiar 16 when you took up your post? 17 A. I find it -- I'm finding it difficult to remember that, specifically. Working backwards 18 19 from the fact that we had contracted for 20 a number of audit requests and that was 21 an ongoing discussion with Post Office 22 Commercial in terms of providing more --23 increasing the number. There are, in the 24 minutes of the Commercial Forum later on, there 25 are points about increasing DWP support for --1 maybe that was passed over to other functions, 2 such as the audit manager, but I'm not sure 3 there was a specific Quality Director during my 4 time there. 5 Q. So he wasn't a part of your team, Mr Bennett? 6 Not part of my team, no. Part of the commercial 7 team -- not part of the commercial team. 8 Q. He was not part of the commercial team? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Was he working in the same office as you? A. He may have been working in Feltham, which is 11 12 where we were based. But --13 Q. That's what the letterhead suggests. 14 A. Yeah, but I don't recall him -- I think he must have left that position around that -- around 15 16 March, because I just can't recall his being 17 around at the time. Q. If we look at the foot of the second page, 18 please, we'll see to whom the letter was copied 19 20 and we'll see that it was copied to Tony Oppenheim, your immediate predecessor? 21 22

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A. 10 11 audit data. Yeah. 12 Α. 13 14 15 16 A. Not specifically, no. 17 18 19 20 21 after I joined, and --22 23 does that mean? 24 A. 25 1 2 3 over, yeah. 4 5 6 7 8 9 have had that copy. 10 11 12 13 Α. Okay. 14 15 16 17 18 19 Mr Bennett says: 20 21 22 23 24 25 A. Yes, I do, yes.

support, litigation support. So I think it was an ongoing position that we started at 50, which I think is what this letter and I think Keith Baines, one of his submissions refers to as 50. but I think they increased over time. I can't remember specifically the numbers we got to but it was a topic for discussion. Q. This is about witness statements --Witness statements, yes. Q. -- in particular, rather than the provision of Q. Was that an issue with which you became involved, when you took up to post a month after this letter was written? Q. Who -- we saw that Mr Bennett was described as the Quality Director at ICL. Was he a person who you knew within ICL? A. No, he had left -- he left almost immediately What was the role of Quality Director? What Well, it wasn't a -- it's not a function that I recognise existing at the time. I recall that Q. Would that include passing over of files? There would have been correspondence handed Q. So we can assume that this would -- you will have no specific memory, but this is the kind of thing that would be handed over? A. Yeah, I mean if there's a copy of this letter, a hard copy of this letter on file within the commercial library of information, then I would Q. Can we go back to the first page, please. I am going to spend a little time on the letter. Q. If I may, because this is a new document to the Inquiry, received relatively recently, and I'm going to, therefore, given the importance of the issue, look at it carefully. You'll see the heading is "Witness Statement Request", and "I am writing to respond to the exchange of emails between yourself and Graham Hooper recently re your request for the provision of witness statements." Can you recall who Graham Hooper was?

Presumably you received some sort of handover

from Mr Oppenheim?

Yes, I did.

Α.

A.

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- What was your recollection of the function that 1
- 2 he performed?
- 3 A. He worked with Jan Holmes in the audit area,
- 4 which included the provision of witness
- 5
- 6 Q. Some of the documents have got him signed off,
- 7 including in an email signature block, as
- 8 a Security Manager within the Security Team at
- 9 ICL?
- 10 A. Okay, I can't --
- Q. Does that jog your memory? 11
- You've jogged my memory. I didn't remember 12
- 13 offhand what it was, but I think clearly that
- 14 was his role.
- Was he someone that you dealt with on 15 Q.
- 16 occasion --
- 17 Α. On occasion I --
- -- given your role --18
- 19 A.
- 20 -- ie when an issue over the contract arose that Q.
- 21 concerned the function that he was performing?
- 22 A. Yes. So if there was material to be gained --
- 23 to be put together in response to a commercial
- 24 issue that the commercial department in Post
- 25 Office would have raised, then in formulating
- 1 that POCL sees this requirement as an open-ended
- 2 obligation on Pathway to produce information
- 3 related 'witness statements' at POCL's request.
- 4 This is not how we see it. The requirement is
- 5 that relevant information produced by the
- 6 Horizon System at POCL's request be admissible
- 7 evidence in Court (which so far as such
 - information in itself can be, it is) and capable
- 9 of certification in accordance with PACE (or
- 10 equivalent in Northern Ireland and Scotland).
- 11 As you are no doubt aware, the relevant sections
- of PACE (s69 and s70) were repealed by the Youth 12
- 13 Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, which
- 14 came into force on 14 April 2000."
- 15

- So having cited the relevant provision of 16 the codified agreement -- I think he's citing
- 17 from version 3 of the codified agreement
- 18 there -- he sets out ICL's interpretation of the 19
- provision, which is that relevant information 20 produced by Horizon should be admissible
- 21 evidence in court and capable of certification.
- 22 Do you recall that being ICL's interpretation of
- 23 the relevant part of the contract?
- 24 A. No. Not when this was written because it was
- 25 before I started.

- 1 the response, he might have been part of that,
- 2 bringing that together, the information that we
- 3 then responded back to Post Office with.
- 4 Q. So this Mr Bennett, the Quality Director,
- writing to the Internal Crime Manager in the 5
- 6 Post Office saying, "You've exchanged some
- 7 emails between a Security Manager within us,
- 8 ICL"?
- A. Yes. 9

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- 10 Q. He says:
 - "I believe that the relevant provision is
- Requirement 829/1 which states: 12
- 13 "The CONTRACTOR shall ensure that all
- 14 relevant information produced by the POCL
- 15 Service Infrastructure at the request of POCL
- 16 shall be evidentially admissible and capable of
- 17 certification in accordance with the Police and
- Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984, the Police 18
- 19 and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order
- 20 1989 and equivalent legislation covering
- 21 Scotland'."
- 22 So this mentions the relevant requirement in
- 23 the contract?
- 24 Α.

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25 "My concern [he says in the fourth paragraph] is

- Did you discuss this issue with Tony Oppenheim
 - when he left or as part of the handover?
- 3 A. Not that I recall.
- 4 Q. Did you ever have cause to look at this part of 5
 - the contract in the coming months and years?
- 6 Δ Not that I recall.
- 7 Let's carry on, in substantive paragraph 5:
- 8 "We have made our position with respect to requirement 829 clear on a number of occasions. 9
- 10 However, given that you seem surprised by the
- 11 stance taken by Graham Hooper, it may be of
- 12 assistance if I set out some of the background.
- 13 The issue of witness statements was discussed in
- 14 meetings between Barry Proctor (then our
- 15 Security Manager) ..."
- 16 Do you remember Barry Proctor?
- 17 Α. No. I don't
- Bob Martin, recall him? 18
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Paul Harvey, remember him?
- 21 Α.
- 22 Q. "... in July 1999. It was made clear in those
- 23 meetings that Pathway did not consider the
- 24 production of witness statements to be included
- 25 in the scope of the requirement. An Acceptance

Incident (370) was raised by POCL (Bob Booth) on
 23 July 1999 and a clearance action for this
 incident was agreed as follows ..."

Can you recall what Acceptance Incidents

- A. I think these were incidents that were raised during the acceptance process of the Horizon software.
- 9 Q. Do you recall anything more about what10 an Acceptance Incident, an AI, was?
- 11 A. No.

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12 Q. In any event, the AI was agreed as follows:

"Pathway will provide PACE statements as necessary to support a fraud prosecution.

Pathway will update the work required to produce draft witness statements when POCL have raised an appropriate Change Request, as indicated in the letter from Barry Proctor to Paul Harvey dated 8 June 1999. The reason why this is necessary is because Pathway has no contractual obligation to provide POCL with any evidence to support a prosecution'."

So these are all events that predated your time in your position, yes?

25 A. Yes.

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(as above). POCL has never submitted the required change [notice] hence my negative response to your request to Graham Hooper for draft witness statements."

When you joined, a month after this letter was written, did you know that the Post Office was supposed to have produced a change notice, ie tabling a change to the contract, but that it had failed to do so?

- 10 A. Not specifically. I can only surmise that it
 11 eventually did happen because the issue of
 12 witness statements became a change to the
 13 contract, so this point I was talking about, the
 14 limit of 50, would have been dealt with through
 15 a change request.
- 16 Q. So it's a separate issue, the provision of audit
 17 data. We're at the moment looking at the
 18 provision of witness statements.
- Asgain, I can't specifically recall the change,
 but I can -- I believe that that would have
 happened in order to come to an agreement that
 we would produce, or that Fujitsu would produce
 witness statements, however numbered they
 were -- however numbered they were going to be,

were -- however numbered they were going to be, that would have been dealt with through a change

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Q. Did you know that the Post Office was supposed
 to produce a change notice to make provision for
 the production of witness statements?

4 A. Well, that would have been a natural change to 5 the contract. So any change to the contract 6 would have gone through the change control 7 process and, if Post Office wanted to provide 8 for that or request that, then they would have 9 issued this change request, which would have 10 gone through, impacting an assessment and come 11 to a commercial arrangement, and that would then 12 have been included -- drafted into the contract 13 as a change.

Incident was raised with agreed wording and,
amongst that, it was agreed that, because the
contract includes no obligation to provide the
Post Office with any evidence to support
a prosecution, it's necessary for the Post
Office to raise a change to the contract through
a change notice?

So what this is saying is that an Acceptance

22 A. Yes, exactly.

14

23 Q. The letter continues:

24 "The statutory requirement for PACE
 25 statements and certification no longer exists

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request. So any change to the contract would
have been done through a change control, through
a change request, and then a change to the
contract.

Q. In the answer before last you said, "I wouldsurmise that" --

7 Well, I surmise it in the fact that I wasn't 8 around when this was -- the fact that they had -- you're suggesting that they hadn't 9 10 produced it or this letter says they hadn't produced it. I wasn't aware that they hadn't 11 12 produced it and all I can suggest is that, 13 because we were doing it later, that a change 14 request would then have subsequently been

issued, that we would have then impacted andthen bought into the contract.

then bought into the contract

Q. Okay well, we'll look at the rest of the letter to see whether that follows at all because what we'll see is that there's a without-prejudice agreement to produce witness statements.
I don't think we've got a change notice in any of the disclosure that we've got.

23 A. Really? Okay.

Q. You're essentially putting two and two togetherand saying they equal four because "We must have

		THE FOST OF	1100 11011201111	шч	27 00
1		had a change notice because we produced witness	1		between POCL and Pathway concerning access to
2		statements"?	2		audit information. The background to the audit
3	A.	That's what I'm saying, yes. That doesn't	3		information agreement (as you are probably
4		necessarily follow but it's kind of a logical	4		aware) is that during the first few months of
5		path.	5		2000 there was discussion and correspondence
6	Q.	Okay. The letter continues:	6		about the requirement to produce audit
7		"In answer to your query as to what change	7		information to support investigations. This
8		could be requested, the Change Request would	8		culminated in agreement in principle being
9		either be for a particular statement required by	9		reached at a meeting on 29 March 2000 that
10		POCL, or (which would appear the more sensible	10		Pathway would provide up to 50 audit data
11		option) to change Requirement 829 such that it	11		extractions per annum for audit and security
12		incorporates a more general obligation to	12		investigation purposes, with a maximum of 7 in
13		produce witness statements. Any such Change	13		any calendar month. The basis of the agreement
14		Request would be subject to impact assessment	14		was described in more detail in my letter of
15		and costing in the usual way."	15		24 May 2000 to Keith Baines and confirmed
16		So what this is saying is that, "Because	16		subsequently in connection with closure of
17		there's a change to the contract here, we'll	17		[Al370] in September 2000"
18		have to assess its impact and work out how much	18		He provided the documents:
19		we're going to charge you for it"?	19		"Pathway has been providing access to audit
20	A.	Yes.	20		information in accordance with the agreed limits
21	Q.	Mr Bennett continues:	21		and other matters set out in that letter (in
22		"As things happened, [Al370] was not closed	22		relation to which, by way of further
23		on the basis of the clearance action referred to	23		confirmation of the agreed arrangement, Pathway
24		above. It was closed instead, without	24		will raise a [change notice])."
25		concession by Pathway, on the basis of agreement 73	25		So what he's saying here is that, although 74
1		the AI was concerned with the production of	1	Q.	Over the next six and a half years, were you
2		draft witness statements, it was actually closed	2		aware of any change in the contract, whether
3		off by a different agreement relating to the	3		raised by a change notice or otherwise, that
4		provision of audit data.	4		made specific provision for the production of
5	A.	Yes.	5		witness statements?
6	Q.	Therefore, the witness statement issue remained	6	A.	My memory is not good enough to remember
7		outstanding?	7		specific details about the witness statements.
8	A.	Yes.	8	Q.	I understand. So let's move on, please, and see
9	Q.	He continues in the last paragraph:	9		what happened. Can we look, please, at
10		"I trust that the above makes Pathway's	10		FUJ00121788. If we scroll down just a little
11		contractual position clear. In accordance with	11		bit further, we can see this is a letter from
12		your email to Graham Hooper of 10 January	12		Mr Hooper, the Security Manager, dated
13		stating that you 'would be happy to agree to	13		8 September if we just scroll up a little bit
14		accept the cost to produce the Statements on	14		please 2001, so when you're in post
15		a "without Prejudice subject to Contract" basis	15	A.	Yeah.

contractual position clear. In accordance with your email to Graham Hooper of 10 January stating that you 'would be happy to agree to accept the cost to produce the Statements on a "without Prejudice subject to Contract" basis at this time, pending the outcome Commercial discussions', Pathway is willing to provide witness statements. However, I emphasise that this is without prejudice to the above position and Pathway does not accept that it is contractually obliged to do so."

Were you aware of that without prejudice agreement when you took over a month after this letter was written?

25 A. I can't remember that specific detail.

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'without prejudice' agreement as outlined in
 Martyn Bennett's letter to you of 6 February
 2001.

"Dear Charles

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"Thank you for your acceptance that POCL

Q. -- to Mr Leighton, the Internal Crime Manager,

about the Higher Broughton Post Office, saying:

statement in respect of Higher Broughton Post

Office. This has been produced under our

"Please find enclosed as requested a witness

- 1 will be charged on a Time and Materials basis 2 for this work."
- 3 If we skip over the page we can see there is
- 4 a witness statement --
- 5 Α.
- 6 **Q.** -- and it goes on for pages and pages, okay?
- 7 A. Yeah
- 8 Q. Going back to the first page, then. We can see
- 9 that the witness statement is being produced
- 10 under the without-prejudice agreement that's
- recorded in the letter of 6 February that we've 11
- 12 just looked at.
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. As part of your commercial responsibilities were 14
- you aware that the Post Office had agreed to pay 15
- 16 ICL on a time and materials basis --
- 17 A. I do remember that, yes.
- -- for support in pursuing prosecutions --18
- 19 A.
- 20 Q. -- including the provision of witness
- 21 statements?
- 22 A.
- 23 Q. Can you recall when into the process you
- 24 discovered that?
- 25 Α. Can you see who is copied on this letter?
- 1 non-criminal investigations, ie civil
- 2 litigation?
- 3 A. I can't recall whether there was a distinction.
- 4 Q. Were you aware of any formal policy within
- 5 Fujitsu or any protocol between Fujitsu and the
- 6 Post Office that carried the arrangements that
- 7 we see here into effect?
- 8 A. No. I mean, there are quite a lot of
- 9 documentation around the contract, contract
- 10 reference documents, and various other
- 11 documentation, and I can't specifically
- 12 remember -- I mean, there's guite a lot of them.
- 13 It was a long time since I've seen the list of
- 14 such documentation. I didn't notice any in the
- 15
- Q. We've given you copies of the codified 16
- 17 agreements that are relevant to this time, and
- 18 I'll look at one of those just very briefly in
- 19 a moment. What I'm essentially asking is: were
- 20 you aware of any policy within Fujitsu that
- 21 said, "We've taken on this function, these are
- 22 the standards that are going to be applied,
- 23 these are how those standards are going to be
- 24 achieved, this who is going to do what and this
- 25 is how we're going to do it"?

- Q. I don't think there's any copy, if you scroll down. I should say that there's lots of these
- 3 letters throughout your period in office --
- 4 A. Yes.

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- 5 Q. -- providing witness statements. This is just
- 6 an example where Mr Hooper, or the author of the
- 7 letter, says, "Here's a witness statement, I'm
- 8 providing on the basis of the without-prejudice
- 9 agreement in the letter of 6 February".
- 10 A. Yes, I suspect that I would have been aware of
- 11 the fact because, as a commercial issue, we'd
- have to charge -- the finance function was part 12
- 13 of my function -- of my responsibility and,
- 14 therefore, we would be responsible for billing
- 15 the Post Office for the time and materials.
- 16 Q. So what was happening was that ICL was providing
- 17 litigation support, not pursuant to
- 18 a contract -- because it argued that the
- 19 contract didn't require it --
- 20 A.
- 21 Q. -- but pursuant to a without-prejudice agreement
- 22 contained in a letter?
- 23 A. Yes.

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- 24 Q. Were there any similar arrangements in place for
- 25 the provision of litigation support for

- 1 A. I couldn't -- I can't name a document
- 2 specifically that would do that.
- 3 Q. Would you expect there to be --
- 4 A. I would expect there to be a document. My view
 - of Pathway's internal documentation and controls
- 6 was I thought it was very good. It was well
- 7 documented -- all the processes were well
- 8 documented. I would expect that Graham Hooper,
- 9 as Security Manager, there would have been
- 10 security policies and audit policies that
- 11 Pathway would have followed, as a matter of
- 12 course. It's not something that would be left
- 13 floating, so there would be specific -- could
- 14 well be a specific document. I would expect
- 15 there to be a specific document within the
- 16 library that would set out what we were going to
- 17 do in this instance.
- Q. How it was going to be done and who was going to 18
- 19 do it?
- 20 Α. Exactly.
- 21 Q. Because, as you say, it can't just be left
- 22 floating?
- 23 No, it was a common methodology that there was
- 24 such -- all the policies and procedures that
- 25 followed were, I thought, in my view, well

1		positioned as a controlling mechanism of how the	1	Q.	If we scroll down, please, to see who it was
2		account was run.	2		authored by, you'll see its status, first, is an
3	Q.	Can we look, then we're going to look at	3		"Initial draft". I ought to have said the date
4		three documents that perform a similar function,	4		at the top right was 4 August 1988.
5		if they had been either issued as operative	5		I appreciate these are before your time, by some
6		guidance or actually carried into effect. Can	6		margin.
7		we start, please, with FUJ00152140.	7		You'll see that it's authored by Barry
8		Again, I'm going to spend a little time on	8		Proctor and the distribution includes Graham
9		this document as it's a new document for the	9		King; Matthew Cooper, from Alliance & Leicester;
10		Inquiry, received by us after all of the	10		Graham Hooper, from Alliance & Leicester; Pete
11		relevant witnesses in Phases 2 and 3 had given	11		Spence; Alan D'Alvarez; Christopher Billings;
12		their evidence. Can you see the title to the	12		Dave Campbell (ICL Outsourcing); Martyn Bennett
13		document "Evidential Information Production,	13		and the Library. This, of course, is a few
14		Certification and Retention"?	14		years before you took up your position and,
15	A.	Yes.	15		therefore, you're not mentioned at all.
16	Q.	That looks quite hopeful, doesn't it, in terms	16		Just a couple of questions. Do you recall
17		of performing the function that you just spoke	17		what ICL Outsourcing was?
18		about?	18	A.	Yes, I believe it was the procurement function
19	A.	Yes.	19		for Fujitsu at the time.
20	Q.	Then look at the "Abstract":	20	Q.	So procuring
21		"A description of the process required to	21	A.	Third-party services.
22		demonstrate the integrity of a PACE certificate	22	Q.	You'll see that one of the places to which it
23		and the associated declaration."	23		was distributed was a library. Was that
24		Again, that looks quite hopeful, doesn't it?	24		an intranet library
25	A.	Yes, yes.	25	A.	It was an intranet library, yes.
		81			82
1	Q.	to which you would have had access?	1		subpostmasters for theft or false accounting.
2	Α.	Err I'm just pausing because I'm not sure	2		So can you see in the first sentence:
3		whether the library the library was	3		"Prima facie evidence to be presented for
4		controlled by the project office and by the	4		benefit payment fraud prosecutions is obtained
5		change control functions. So it was part of the	5		solely from the ICL Pathway Fraud Case
6		documentation set that they managed. So it	6		Management System (FCMS). This computer output
7		would have been available on request but I'm not	7		is only admissible in evidence where special
8		sure that it was simply a document simply	8		conditions are satisfied. These conditions are
9		a library that one could just dial up and look	9		described in detail in Section 69 of [PACE] and
10		at documents.	10		require ICL Pathway to provide 'honest'
	^		11		
11	Q.	How would you know whether to look for a document in a library if you didn't have	12		certification of such computer-generated evidence."
12		• •	13		
13		access to the library?			Would you agree that the first sentence
14	Α.	It's a good question. I can't remember how the	14		appears to restrict the coverage provided by
15		library was managed. It was part of the	15		this document to benefit fraud payment
16		infrastructure sort of function that supported	16		prosecutions?
17		software and services. It was the change	17	Α.	
18	_	control function.	18	_	prosecutions, yes.
19	Q.	Okay. I'll move on. Can we go to page 4,	19	Q.	, ,
20		please. We can see the "Introduction". There's	20		"This process describes the PACE
21		some three passages on this page that I'm going	21		certification of computer evidence originating
22		to draw your attention to, that may suggest	22		within the ICL Pathway [FCMS] to support benefit

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payment prosecutions."

The last part of that sentence again

suggests that this is all about benefit payment

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I'd like your view -- that this is a policy or

fraud prosecutions, not the prosecution of

a process document that's about benefit payment

1		froud procedutions, wouldn't it?	1	٨	Voc
1	۸	fraud prosecutions, wouldn't it?	1		Yes.
2	Α.	It would seem so, yes. If we just scroll down to paragraph 4 at the	2	Q.	The distribution list is broadly the same, albeit Dave Campbell at ICL Outsourcing has been
	Q.				,
4		bottom, under "Certification": "Irrespective of the number of fraud	4 5	A.	changed to Les Fereday at ICL Outsourcing Yes.
5			6	Q.	
6		prosecutions that the ICL Pathway FCMS supports,		Q.	
7		a PACE certificate must be provided for each	7		the list. You'll see, top right, that it's
8		individual prosecution."	8		dated 9 December 1998.
9		So that's probably the third indication, the	9 10	A. Q.	Yes. The first one was remember 4 August 1009, see
10		first part of that sentence, which again suggests that this document was all about fraud	11	Q.	The first one was, remember, 4 August 1998, so we're four/five months on. Are any of those
11			12		·
12	٨	prosecutions involving benefit payments, agreed?	13		people on that list, the distribution list
13	Α.	It would seem so, yes.			there, Post Office people, to your knowledge?
14	Q.	So, on the face of it, not much to do with the	14	Α.	
15		prosecution of subpostmasters for theft by them	15	Q.	•
16	۸	or false accounting by them?	16		Now, can we look at two documents side by
17	Α.	On the face of it, yes.	17		side, the relevant parts of them, please. On
18	Q.	Can we now look at a later iteration of the	18		the left-hand side of the page can we have
19		policy, please, FUJ00152142. You'll see that	19		FUJ00152140 at page 4 and on the right-hand sid
20		and, again, this document is new to the Inquiry.	20		of the page can we have the document we are on,
21		Can you see that the title and the abstract are	21		FUJ00152142, also at page 4. Thank you.
22		the same?	22		So left-hand side of the page, August;
23	Α.	Yes.	23		right-hand side of the page, December.
24	Q.	It's moved from being an initial draft to a	24		Can you see in relation to the three points
25		draft? 85	25		that I picked up earlier suggesting that the 86
1		left-hand document was all about benefit payment	1	A.	Yes, it does.
2		fraud, that they've gone? So in the	2	Q.	•
3		"Introduction", it says:	3	ų.	suggestion that I'm making, that there's been
4		"Prima facie evidence to be presented in	4		a stripping out of the coverage of the policy,
5		support of criminal prosecutions"	5		to remove the limitation on benefit fraud
6	Α.	Yes.	6		prosecutions. If we go over on the right-hand
7	Q.	So the restriction or limitation of benefit	7		
8	Q.	payment fraud prosecutions has gone.	8		side of the page, one page to page 5, if you
9	٨	, ,	9		look at the bottom under paragraph 5:
	Α.	It has, yes. Can you see, under "Scope", whereas the last			"In order to demonstrate the integrity of a Horizon PACE certificate for the Benefit
10	Q.	·	10 11		
11		line of the first paragraph of "Scope" suggested			Payment Service, it is necessary to describe the
12		that the policy related to support benefit	12		information", et cetera, et cetera?
13		payment fraud prosecutions, in the third line of	13		So that again seems to be focused on benefit
14		"Scope", that's been changed to "to support	14 15		payments, doesn't it? Yes.
15	٨	criminal prosecutions"?		Α.	
16	Α.	It has, yes.	16	Q.	Then if you go over the page on the right-hand
17	Q.	Then, fourthly, under "Certification", whereas	17		side again, there's a diagram and these
18		previously it mentioned "Irrespective of the	18		appeared in the earlier iteration in exactly the
19		number of fraud prosecutions", that's just been	19		same way. You'll see there's a diagram of
20		changed to:	20		information flow, and can you see that it starts
21		"PACE certificates may be required for each	21		with CAPS, which was a Benefits Agency payment
22	Α.	individual criminal prosecution"	22		system.
23	Α.	Indeed.	23	Α.	Yes, I can see that.
24	Q.	So it looks like the fraud, benefit fraud, has	24	Q.	' '
25		been stripped out?	25		residual mentions of Benefits Agency payments,

			,		
1		therefore suggesting that the policy might be	1		However, the corollary is also true and
2	_	focused on fraud prosecutions, agreed?	2		a successful demonstration of honest
3	Α.	Yes.	3		certification will stand all subsequent
4	Q.	, , ,	4		prosecutions in good stead."
5		suggest that this later iteration of the policy	5		It continues, in the light of those
6		was broader in its coverage?	6		warnings, to say:
7	Α.	It would seem it was heading that way, even if	7		"Comprehensive records pertaining to the
8		there were flies in the ointment. But this was	8		site(s), services and individuals concerned
9		still a draft, wasn't it?	9		should be able to produced at all times.
10	Q.	It was still a draft. Can we see what the	10		These records will serve to show that the
11		substance of the policy says, and I'm going to	11		relevant services were available at all material
12		use the later version, the one on the right-hand	12		times, were operating properly and had not been
13		side to do this, so we can lose the one on the	13		used inappropriately."
14		left, please.	14		So looking at those two paragraphs together
15		Thank you. Then if we can blow up	15		would you agree that this was suggesting that
16		underneath the diagram. The policy says:	16		the person who signs the certificate must be
17		"Given the size and complexity of the	17		able to produce evidence to support what they
18		Horizon system, it is conceivable that the	18		were certifying?
19		integrity of the PACE certificate will be	19	A.	Yes.
20		challenged by Counsel in order to discredit	20	Q.	It was said that it was forgive me a moment.
21		a prosecution. If it is not possible to	21		If we go further up to page 4, please.
22		demonstrate the certificate's integrity to the	22		Sorry, to page 5. The policy says in the first
23		Court's satisfaction, a very dangerous precedent	23		paragraph:
24		will have been set and all subsequent	24		"It is therefore vitally important that
25		prosecutions will be automatically jeopardised. 89	25		whoever signs the PACE declaration on behalf of 90
1		ICL Pathway can produce evidence to support	1		So, it says that it is vitally important
2		these statements.	2		that the person who signs the certificate must
3		"Traditionally, PACE certificates are signed	3		be able to produce evidence to support what
4		by a senior member of the Computer Operations	4		they're certifying, yes?
5		staff responsible for managing the computer	5	A.	Yes.
6		installation and its associated networks. ICL	6	Q.	You can't just sign a certificate. You've got
7		Outsourcing performs this role as a managed	7		to be able, if you're challenged, to produce
8		service for ICL Pathway, and it is assumed that	8		secondary evidence to support what you're
9		the information required for their assurance is	9		saying, is what this policy is suggesting?
10		available to them in day-to-day operational	10	A.	It is.
11		documentation and as management information"	11	Q.	Then it says:
12		Then there's a note to Les Fereday to	12		"Traditionally PACE certificates are signed
13		provide more appropriate wording:	13		by a senior member of the Computer Operations
14		"The certificate (see example at appendix A)	14		staff", with a capital "C" and capital "O".
15		contains a declaration including the statement	15		Who were Computer Operations?
16		'I sign this certificate knowing that I shall be	16	A.	I couldn't tell you.
17		liable for prosecution if I have stated in it	17	Q.	Have you any idea?
18		anything which I know to be false or do not	18	A.	Possibly the service function, because it
19		believe to be true', it is therefore in his	19		relates to managing the computer installation
20		rational self-interest to ensure (a) that the	20		and its associated networks. So
21		logs are adequately comprehensive and (b) that	21	Q.	We know in due course that people from the third
22		they are investigated thoroughly."	22	•	tier of support, the SSC, provided some witness
					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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Just pause a moment, there's some movement

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going on to my right. I just need to check out

what's going on.

statements and some analysts in the security

department provided witness statements. Are

		The P
1		Computer Operations staff?
2	Α.	Potentially. I'm trying to it's really where
3		the functions sat or they sat across, so it's
4		so statements that were signed by you saw
5		Graham Hooper and we've seen Jan Holmes, would
6		have sat across a not a definition but
7		a title of Computer Operations, I guess, within
8	_	the Computer Operations.
9	Q.	It continues in the last paragraph there, having
10		set out what the declaration on the witness
11		statement says, that it is:
12		" in his [I think that's going to be the
13		author of the statement] rational self-interest
14		to ensure that (a) logs are adequately
15		comprehensive and (b) that they are investigated
16		thoroughly."
17		Would you agree that that is common sense
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	and that it contemplates the production of
20		logs?
21	Α.	It would suggest that logs are available.
22	Q.	Yes, and logs that have been investigated
23		thoroughly
24	Α.	Yes.
25	Q.	not just produced. They've been investigated
		93
1		never required, but it may have appeared in some
2		never required, but it may have appeared in some other form, in terms of the production of
3		witness statements.
3	^	
5	Q.	Can we go on, please, to page 6, and scroll down, please, to where we left off:
		••
6		"This secondary evidence should include, but
7		is not restricted to, the following"
8		Then there's a series of bullet points. So
9		this is saying that behind the certificate
10		should be kept some comprehensive records, which
11		is described as secondary evidence, and they
12		should include an external auditor's certificate
13		of data integrity.
14		Were you ever aware of external auditors
15		providing certificates of the integrity of
16		Horizon data?
17	Α.	I can't say one way or the other. If they were,
18		it may well have been arranged at a at this
19		operational level in the production of the
20		statements. But I can't specifically recall an

1		thoroughly before they are produced?
2	A.	Into signing the certificate, yes.
3	Q.	Would you agree that this document is a document
4		that ought to be shown to or explained to anyone
5		who produced a witness statement for Fujitsu in
6		a criminal prosecution or civil proceedings?
7	A.	To the extent that this that PACE
8		certificates were required, yes.
9	Q.	Would you agree that its terms should have been
10	_	complied with?
11	A.	If it became a version 1.0 published document,
12	_	yes.
13	Q.	We're going to see that that never happened,
14		that it never became a 1.0. Do you know why it
15		wouldn't happen? What would stand in the way?
16	A.	Well, wasn't the Martyn Bennett letter referring
17		to the fact that PACE certificates weren't
18	_	required?
19	Q.	,
20	Α.	I don't
21	Q.	it never became a 1.0?
22	Α.	I can't specifically say that but I can
23		assume well, I can come to that conclusion that because PACE certificates were not
24		required, this particular policy never was
25		required, this particular policy never was 94
1		should be an external auditor's certificate of
2		data integrity?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	, ,
5		repeal of Section 69 of PACE about the
6 7		continuing necessity for an external auditor's
8	Α.	certificate of data integrity? It wasn't dealt with at a commercial level, as
9	Α.	a commercial matter.
10	Q.	If there was a cost involved in that, that's
11	Œ.	something that would have bubbled up to your
12		level, wouldn't it?
13	Α.	Yes, I'm getting to that point, that I can't
14	Λ.	recall whether we actually paid I mean the
15		level of detail, you know, number of suppliers
16		that we payments that we would have made over
17		the years, over the time, I can't specifically
18		recall a whether we did or whether we didn't.
19	Q.	Secondly:
20	⋖.	"Logs of calls to the Horizon System
21		Helpdesk and the Payment Card Helpline detailing
22		incidents of error, inaccuracy or value function
23		pertaining to the sites, equipment, services and
		individuals concerned"
24		

I'm going to skip over the next couple and

external auditor. That doesn't mean to say it

policy that was being proposed, when Section 69

and 70 of PACE were in force, was that there

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didn't happen.

23 Q. But you'll see, certainly at this time, the

1 1 go over the page, please, and the last bullet potential prosecutions and procedure for the 2 2 point. The secondary evidence should include: creation of Witness Statements." 3 3 It seems to have been written by Graham "Testimony from expert witnesses stating 4 4 Hooper. Distribution: ICL Pathway Library, that, in their experience, similar incidents 5 Graham Hooper, Chris Billings. So this is have never happened or, if they had, they would 5 6 be reflected in the relevant audit log." 6 January 2001, just before you joined, a slightly 7 Can you recall when you joined, whether that 7 different title and abstract to what we saw 8 was something that occurred, namely ICL, when it 8 earlier, and this is a procedure document, 9 9 produced any certificates or witness statements whereas the last ones were described as process 10 supporting a criminal prosecution, would also 10 documents. seek, as part of the secondary evidence, 11 Can we go, please, to page 4. We can see in 11 12 testimony from expert witnesses stating in their 12 paragraph 1 that the mentions of PACE have been 13 experience similar incidents had never happened 13 stripped out. 14 or, if they had, they'd be reflected in the 14 A. Yes. 15 relevant audit log? 15 Q. Would you agree that this tends to suggest that 16 A. No, I can't. 16 this policy document is applicable to all 17 **Q.** Can we move on, please, and look at FUJ00152171. 17 criminal prosecutions in which ICL are involved? 18 So this is the third in the trilogy of documents 18 A. Yes. 19 that I wanted to show you. You'll see that this 19 Q. Looking at "Scope", again, mention here of PACE 20 is dated 30 January 2001. It's a version 0.1 20 and, indeed, of benefit fraud prosecutions not 21 and therefore a draft. If we see that the title 21 included. Then under 4.0 "Certification", this 22 has changed to "Production of System Information 22 draft policy reads: 23 for Evidential Purposes", the abstract is: 23 "Traditionally PACE certificates are signed 24 "Requirements and procedure for the 24 by a senior member of the Computer Operations 25 production of evidential information to support 25 staff responsible for managing", et cetera, 1 et cetera. 1 evidence without it being requested would only 2 You'll remember that from the last document 2 serve to flood the courtroom with 3 we looked at. 3 documentation." 4 A. Yes. 4 Then "Supporting Evidence" gets its own 5 heading under 5.0. There's the passage about it Q. "The certificate (see example at Appendix A) 5 6 6 being conceivable that the integrity of the PACE 7 We'll come back to that because, in fact, 7 certificate will be challenged. Comprehensive 8 Appendix A does not include a sample 8 records must be available to be produced, as 9 declaration. Then it sets out the sample 9 before and they're set out, including the 10 declaration and then, if we go over the page, 10 external auditor's certificate of data 11 please, 4.2: 11 integrity. Then, over the page, we'll see 12 "The manager of the ICL Pathway Fraud Risk 12 exactly the same as before. 13 Management team, or his deputy, will advise 13 A. Yes. 14 a nominated member of ICL Outsourcing of the 14 Q. Now, you'll remember that it said that the PACE 15 relevant dates and times for which a PACE 15 certificate was in Appendix A? 16 certificate is required." A. Yes. 16 17 So it is mentioning PACE in these parts: 17 Q. If we go over the page, please, we can see what 18 "The ... nominee will consult operational 18 Appendix A is and, in fact, it's not a PACE certificate at all; it's a witness statement --19 records pertaining to computer and network 19 20 operations on the dates and times advised, in 20 A. Yes. 21 order to satisfy himself that a certificate can 21 Q. -- a blank witness statement in terms of date 22 be signed with confidence. A statement should 22 and author. 23 accompany the certificate to the effect that 23 If we just scroll through very slowly, you 24 additional (supporting) evidence to uphold the 24 can see it's like a template to be written by 25 certificate can be produced ... To offer all the 25 a security analyst, and it's describing the

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1 balancing process, and then later, the You're telling me it didn't become? 2 extraction of documents. 2 Q. Correct 3 Then, over the page, please, and then over 3 A. I can't say, unless there was another document, 4 the page again. There's an interesting line at another document which dealt with production of 4 5 the top of this third page: 5 witness statements. 6 "The integrity of audit data is guaranteed 6 Q. We haven't been given one. You would agree, 7 at all times from its origination, storage and 7 wouldn't you, and I think you, in fact, did 8 8 earlier, that it would be important to have retrieval to subsequent despatch to the 9 requester. Controls have been established that 9 a policy that carried the contractual 10 provide assurances to Post Office Internal Audit 10 requirement or the without-prejudice agreement that this integrity is maintained." 11 into effect, that told people within Fujitsu how 11 12 So a draft witness statement, rather than it was going to be done? 12 13 a certificate. 13 Yes, I -- that's what I said. Certainly. 14 Q. Can you think of a good reason why a policy like 14 A. So would you agree that post the repeal of this would not be carried into effect? 15 Q. 15 16 Section 69 of PACE, the draft policy appears to 16 A. I can't think of a good reason. 17 have changed and, although there's some language 17 MR BEER: Sir, we're about to turn to the Cleveleys that refers to PACE certification, the draft 18 18 case. I wonder whether that would be a good 19 policy is suggesting that everything that has 19 moment for lunch and perhaps come back at 1.45? 20 been said before in the drafts obtains but now 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: That's fine, Mr Beer. Yes. 21 we will produce a witness statement rather than 21 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: 1.45. 22 a PACE certificate? 22 23 A. It would appear so, yes. 23 (12.44 pm) 24 Q. Do you know why this would not be carried into 24 (The Short Adjournment) 25 effect, would not ever become version 1.0? 25 (1.45 pm) 101 102 1 MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear 1 signature block, describes himself as 2 2 a Programme Assurance Manager. What's one of me? 3 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you. 3 4 MR BEER: Thank you. Mr Lenton-Smith, we were about 4 A. Effectively to ensure kind of the overall 5 to turn to the Cleveleys case. I'm going to 5 integrity of the programme. 6 attempt to deal with matters chronologically. 6 Back to the first page, please. What 7 7 Can we start, please, with what happened on relationship therefore, professional 8 20 August 2003 by looking at FUJ00121482. 8 relationship, did Jan Holmes have to you or with 9 We can see here, looking at the bottom part 9 you? 10 of the email first, an email from Jan Holmes to A. Okay, so he was a colleague not within the 10 commercial function, but matters that dealt 11 you of 20 August --11 12 A. Yes. 12 with -- that he came across that were of 13 Q. -- 2003. We can see the subject matter is 13 a commercial nature or had been flagged up by 14 "Cleverleys", as he's described it, "Horizon 14 Post Office as of commercial nature, would come 15 15 to me and we would discuss these, the points, or 16 To your knowledge, to your memory, was this 16 take them forward. 17 your first involvement in the Cleveleys case. 17 Q. Therefore, did you work quite closely with him A. I believe so. I mean, I haven't got any other 18 when the occasion --18 documentary evidence to suggest that. 19 Yes 19 A. 20 Q. Nor have we. 20 Q. -- arose? A. No. Okay. Yes. 21 Α. 22 Q. What role did Jan Holmes perform at this time? 22 Q. Reading the email:

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"Colin

"Nothing is as clear as it seems. I have

some papers faxed over from [Post Office] and

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Q.

A. I believe he was the audit manager. I'm not

If we flip over the page we can see his

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sure what his title is, I can --

1		this is my proposed reply. I've had it	1	Q.	Relevantly to this
2		'technically' checked by Mik."	2	A.	Yes.
3		Just stopping there, would you understand	3	Q.	issue?
4		that to be a reference to Mik Peach?	4	A.	Yes.
5	A.	I believe so, yes.	5	Q.	"Thanks for the papers. I've done some
6	Q.	"Are you happy with it? Jim is Jim Cruise with	6		preliminary work and, perhaps inevitably, the
7		[Post Office] Legal Services their in-house	7		picture is not as clear as we might wish.
8		sollies", ie solicitors.	8		"Let me start with the easy stuff:
9	A.	Yes.	9		"1. We will have no record of any
10	Q.	Then he sets out a draft email. If we scroll	10		transaction data from Cleveleys dated before
11		down, please:	11		November 2000 in the central audit archive since
12		"Jim,	12		this is automatically deleted 18 months from the
13		"For clarification I am not part of	13		date that it is written. So, if 30th November
14		Fujitsu's legal department. My role in Post	14		was the last active day for the Counter"
15		Office Account is restricted to assisting Post	15		Just stopping there, that was the last
16		Office with litigation support as and when it is	16		active day for Julie Wolstenholme's employment
17		required."	17		and operation of the counter:
18		Does that accurately describe his role?	18		" that data would have been deleted on or
19	A.	I think it's part of his role.	19		about 30th May 2002.
20	Q.	And	20		"2. Similarly, there will be no Helpdesk
21	A.	I think his role was wider than that but, within	21		logs since these are also deleted after
22		his function, within his job, that's what he	22		18 months."
23		did.	23		Just pausing there, can I look at some
24	Q.	So relevantly, it was his role?	24		documents that predated this to work out what
25	A.	Yes.	25		had happened in this claim.
		105			106
1		Can we start, please, with POL00118218.	1		in issue in the proceedings from the beginning
2		This is part of the trial bundle for the claim	2		of June 2001; can you see that?
3		between the Post Office and Julie Wolstenholme;	3	Δ	I can see that, yes.
4		do you see that?	4	Q.	
5	Α.	Yes.	5	٠.	at paragraph 4. This is the Post Office's
6	Q.	If we go, please, to page 10 and look at	6		response to what was said in the document I've
7	٠.	paragraph 14. This is part of what's called the	7		just shown you and it says:
8		Defence and Counterclaim, so it's	8		"It is denied that said computer system was
9		Mrs Wolstenholme's defence to the claim that the	9		unfit for its purpose and it is averred that the
10		Post Office brought against her for delivery up	10		same worked adequately."
11		of computer equipment. She says:	11		Then if we go forwards to page 99, please.
12		" it was an implied term of the contract	12		This is an order of the court of 21 August 2001.
13		between the [Post Office] and [Julie	13		If we just look at paragraph 3:
14		Wolstenholme] that the computer system provided	14		"Each party do give standard disclosure to
15		by the [Post Office] would be fit for its	15		the other by serving copies with a disclosure
16		purpose and the [Post Office] is in breach of	16		statement by 21 October 2001."
17		this term in that the computer systems provided	17		Now, you wouldn't have seen any of these
18		was unfit for its purpose and the [Post Office]	18		documents at the time; is that right?
19		failed to ensure that the system was working	19	A.	In 2001?
20		adequately. [Julie Wolstenholme] has supplied	20		Correct.
20 21		the [Post Office] with details of the persistent	21	Q. A.	No, I haven't seen these documents, no.
22		inadequacies of the said computer system."	22	Q.	You would agree, I think, looking at them now,
23		We'll see that the date of that document is	23	₩.	that the operation and adequacy of the Horizon
23 24		6 June 2001. So it seems from this that the	24		System appears to have been an issue between the
2 4 25		operation and adequacy of the Horizon System was	25		Post Office, on the one hand, and
_0		107	25		108

Mrs Wolstenholme, on the other? 1 2 A. That's what she claims, yes. 3 Q. Well, that's what the document --4 A. Says, yes. Q. Yes. She claimed it, the Post Office denied it. 5 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. At that time, mid-2001, if Horizon data was kept 8 for 18 months, that would include all of the 9 relevant data from Horizon relating to the 10 Cleveleys branch in the period February to November 2000, wouldn't it? 11 It would have not been deleted in --12 A. 13 Q. It would have not been deleted? A. -- in the 18 months, yes. Q. In that 18 months. The relevant period in the 15 16 claim, I should have said, is between February 17 2000 and November 2000. 18 A. Yes. 19 In the light of those documents, would you 20 expect the Post Office to approach Fujitsu to 21 seek such data? 22 A. In any other instance, one would have expected 23 that to happen, yes. 24 le "The period is February to November 2000, we Q. know there's an 18-month deletion policy, we had 25 109 1 conversation wouldn't go anywhere. 2 Q. Would there have been no point in such 3 a conversation? 4 A. There might have been a point of the 5 conversation but, by that time -- by 2003, when 6 I was involved and subsequently when Keith 7 Baines wrote to me, it was a fait accompli. The 8 data had gone. So they were looking for other 9 ways to try to validate the Horizon System or 10 refute the allegations from -- that were being 11 made against it. 12 Q. Thank you. That document can come down and we 13 can go back to FUJ00121482. This is the email. 14 Scroll down, please. So we dealt with 15 paragraph 1 about the deletion. Paragraph 2: 16 "Similarly, there will be no Helpdesk logs 17 since these are also deleted after 18 months." 18 Do you know whether that's true or false? A. I don't know. 19 20 Q. Did you see in the claim Helpdesk logs produced, 21 in order for Mr Coyne to opine on their

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contents?

A. I can't remember, I'd have to go -- I'd have to

commentary on his report.

look at their respective -- his report and our

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22 24

1 better ask Fujitsu to not delete or destroy the 2 data"? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Did you ever come to know why the Post Office did not ask that of Fujitsu? 5 6 A. No, I don't know why they didn't. I think in 7 some of the documentation Jan Holmes' part of 8 the issue was that it took such a long time to 9 get Fujitsu engaged in providing information, 10 that by that time it was too late. Q. As we've said, the first involvement that we can 11 trace certainly for you, was the email of 12 13 20 August 2003? 14 Which was after the date. Which was too late? 15 Q. 16 A. Too late. 17 Q. But you later, I think, came to learn of the failure of the Post Office to ask Fujitsu to not 18 19 delete or destroy of the data. Was there any 20 conversation between Fujitsu and the Post Office 21 about how this had come to pass? How this state 22 of affairs had occurred? 23 A. No, by which time, I think it was almost 24 a pointless conversation because they knew it 25 had been deleted and, therefore, the 110 1 Okay, well, we'll get to that in the chronology 2 but keep that in mind. Mr Holmes says that 3 records of transactions cannot be retrieved if 4 a counter has been switched off for 35 days. 5 Did you know whether that was accurate or not? 6 A. I believed it was around a month, that the 7 transactions would sit on the counter for 8 a month. 9 Q. Paragraph 4, Mr Holmes says: 10 "Under no circumstances would we allow a 3rd party direct access to a counter. The file 11 12 store is encrypted and for a 3rd party to make 13 sense of the data we would have to release to 14 them details of the encryption key. This we 15 would not do." 16 So the third party access, who did you 17 understand that to refer to? I'm not sure because I haven't got the faxed 18 questions that had come in from Post Office as 19 20 to what this is answering. So I'm not sure who 21 he's referring to in terms of a third party. At

23 Q. If we go further down, on the page, please: "How we can help:

25

"1. If this is to be pursued then the work

that point it wasn't an expert, I don't think.

would have to be undertaken by our technical specialists in Bracknell, possibly with the 3rd party in attendance as an observer. Said 3rd party would require to be security cleared before being allowed access?"

Again, does that help you to understand what was being sought here, who the third party might be?

A. I'm not sure who the third party would be.

Q. Again, if we can pause this for the moment and jump ahead a little and look at something that was written later about this stage in the episode, can we look at FUJ00121485. This is just to date the document that we're about to look at. It's six or seven months later. It's an email from Jan Holmes to you and he says that:

"Colin,

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"[It's an] Early view of where I am with a reply to Keith's letter."

We're going to come back to that when we get to it but, in the course of this, he says something about "this early stage". If we can go back to FUJ00121486, thank you. This is the attachment to the email, so we can treat this as

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"On 20 August a fax was received from [Post Office] explaining the situation and requesting a Witness Statement to the effect that there was nothing on the equipment that would assist the [postmaster] in her claim and that it should be returned.

"The following day I replied, by email, stating that I was loath to produce a Witness Statement at this stage but explaining what information existed on the equipment, what would happen if it was switched on and that we would not allow 3rd parties access. I also explained how we could help POL. I received no reply to this email."

Again, from that, does it appear that not only was your first involvement in August 2003 but Mr Holmes' first involvement was 2003.

18 **A.** Yes, in response to the fax.

19 Q. Does that again accord with your recollection
 20 that the first involvement of Fujitsu was only
 21 in August 2003?

22 A. Yes.

Q. That highlighted paragraph there, the last one,
 that "The following day I replied with

25 an email", that looks like the email that we've

1 being February 2004 --

2 A. Yes.

15

3 Q. -- 18 February 2004. It's the "Background"4 section. Mr Holmes says:

"POL have been in dispute with [postmaster]
of this Outlet since mid-2000. Essentially,
[Post Office] have made a claim against the

8 [postmaster] for losses at the Outlet, against

9 which she had counter-claimed that the problem

10 was caused by the Horizon System and she was

11 refusing to release the equipment as she

12 believed an examination of it would vindicate

her. A court order was made on 19 February 2003that a computer expert examine the equipment.

"POA's first involvement ..."

16 I think that essentially means Fujitsu's.

17 A. Post Office Account, yes.

18 Q. "[Fujitsu's] first involvement was a request

19 made 8 August 2003 by [Post Office] that we

20 provide a Witness Statement 'about the Horizon

21 equipment and what it contains (or doesn't) and

give [Mrs Wolstenholme] a chance to object'.

23 [Post Office] wanted the Court to overturn the

24 Court Order so that [the Post Office] could

25 recover the equipment.

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1 just looked at, doesn't it? The one saying,

2 "The following day I replied", that looks like

3 the draft we just looked at, doesn't it?

4 A. Can we look at the email again?

5 Q. Sure. You will see that he doesn't say that

6 he's loath to produce a witness statement.

7 FUJ00121482. Yes, thank you. Scroll down

8 please, at the draft.

9 A. On the next page, does it go on?

10 Q. Yes, thank you.

11 A. No. Back again, sorry. So "How we can help".

12 **Q.** Sorry?

13 A. I was just looking at "How we can help".

14 I can't see a reference to the fact that we're

15 not going to produce a witness statement.

16 Q. No. Do you know why Mr Holmes would have been

17 loath to produce a witness statement?

18 A. At this stage, he says. No idea.

19 $\,$ Q. We saw from the document we just looked at that

20 Mr Holmes added "After I sent this reply, there

21 was no reply from the Post Office".

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Does that accord with your recollection, that

24 the Post Office didn't reply?

25 A. I-- well, I don't know that because he sent it

to -- who did he send this to in Post Office? That's right. 1 1 A. 2 Q. We can look at the actual email sent, 2 Q. If we look at the second page, please. We can 3 WITN04600202. see it's from Keith Baines, Contract Manager. 3 A. To Jim Cruise. So I wasn't copied on it, so 4 4 Back to the first page, 5 February 2004: 5 I don't -- I'm not aware --5 "Dear Colin 6 Q. You wouldn't know whether --6 "You may be aware of the above case which 7 A. I wouldn't know he got a copy -- whether he got 7 relates (among other matters) to the recovery by 8 8 Post Office Limited of some Horizon equipment a response or not. 9 belonging to Fujitsu Services which a former Q. That's the final email sent, and it's the -- the 9 10 addition is second paragraph, second sentence: 10 subpostmistress at Cleveleys post office branch "Under the circumstances it might be best to 11 (Mrs Wolstenholme) has refused to return. There 11 12 fully understand the position before I commit to 12 has been previous correspondence with Jan Holmes 13 writing a Witness Statement that you may later 13 of Fujitsu ... relating to this case." 14 [rely on] in Court." 14 That's presumably a reference to the August 15 2003 exchange of emails? 15 A. Yes, okay, so that's kind of a toned down 16 version of his internal statement, "I'm loath to 16 A. Yes. 17 produce a statement". 17 Q. "Mrs Wolstenholme has counterclaimed against the Q. So this is the email that was, in fact, sent to Post Office, and the essence of her claim is 18 18 19 Jim Cruise, the lawyer at the Post Office on 19 that deficiencies in the Horizon System and in 20 21 August 2003. Let's assume that there was no 20 the service provided by the HSH resulted in her 21 21 reply. The next stage in the process is in incurring costs and losing income because of the 22 2004, in February. Can we move to POL00095375. 22 waste of her time. She is claiming that the 23 I think this is a letter you've referred to 23 Horizon System itself has caused losses in the 24 already. It's a letter to you from Keith 24 sub post office accounts which [Post Office 25 Baines. 25 Limited] is claiming against her as being due to 117 118 1 her fault and she wants the computer equipment 1 "An early response would be appreciated." 2 to be examined by an expert witness before she 2 When you got this, presumably you realised 3 will agree to its release to Fujitsu Services 3 that there'd had been no correspondence between 4 from her premises. 4 August 2003 and now, February 2004? 5 "The County Court instructed the parties 5 A. Correct. 6 jointly to commission a report from an expert 6 Q. This was a potentially commercially sensitive 7 7 approved by the court. I enclose a copy of his matter for both the Post Office and Fujitsu, 8 report. As you will see, the expert's opinion 8 wasn't it? 9 is that the Horizon System installed at 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Were you aware at this time that any other post Cleveleys branch was defective and that the HSH 10 was more concerned with closing calls than 11 11 offices or subpostmasters were claiming that the 12 12 Horizon System was causing errors in their preventing recurrence of faults. As I'm sure 13 you will understand, Post Office is concerned by 13 branch accounts? 14 these findings, not only in relation to this 14 A. I can't specifically say whether there were at 15 particular case, but also because of any 15 the time. All I know -- all I can state is what 16 precedent that this may set and that may be used 16 I've put in my witness statement, is that 17 by Post Office's agents to support claims that 17 I think, at a commercial level, there were very 18 the Horizon System is causing errors in their 18 few that were raised between Keith Baines and 19 19 myself where he required commercial -branch accounts.

"Please can you advise me of Fujitsu
Services' view of the main points in the report
and, if you do not agree with them, please can
you suggest what information or advice Fujitsu
Services can provide to the expert that might
lead him to change his findings.

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Q. You put it, I think, at less than five?
A. Less than five, yes. I mean, over the time 120

seven years.

additional commercial discussions that -- beyond

what was happening at the operational level, in

terms of witness support. Very few over the

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1		I was with on Post Office Account.	1		I think the position I was in mirrored what
2	Q.	For that six and a half year period?	2		Keith Baines had reflected in his witness
3	Α.	Yeah.	3		statement, was to say that the system had gone
4		Were you aware, by this time, February 2004,	4		through acceptance. It had been accepted by
5	u.	that there had been Acceptance Incidents	5		Post Office, gone through acceptance tests by
			6		
6		relating to accounting integrity and			Post Office. It was found to be working and it
7		discrepancies that had emerged during	7		was rolled out, and that was kind of the
8		development into rollout and had persisted even	8		position overall. It was understood that within
9		after rollout?	9		an IT system at this stage of this size that
10	Α.	No.	10		issues would arise, they'd have can be
11	Q.	Were you aware at this time of the work that	11		corrected. It's in the nature of software that
12		something called the EPOSS Taskforce had carried	12		it was going to have issues that would be
13		out during the development of Horizon and	13		corrected. But it was the then the degree of
14		subsequent management decisions taken as to the	14		impact that that would have.
15		ongoing Electronic Point of Sale, the EPOS	15		But, certainly, the position from
16		System problem?	16		a commercial perspective, it may be that was
17	A.	No.	17		what we felt at the time, and mirrored exactly
18	Q.	When you became responsible for managing the	18		what I felt and what Keith felt, that, actually,
19		contract, from March 2001, would you not look	19		the system was working. It was not an issue.
20		back at what had occurred to lead you and Post	20		There were no issues that significantly
21		Office to that point, in terms of contractual	21		issued or significantly caused problems, and
22		amendments, changes that had been made to the	22		that was the stance. That was where how we
23		contract because of, for example, Acceptance	23		were supporting Post Office, in terms of
24		Incidents?	24		providing data to them to substantiate any
25	A.	There's two things, I think, to say is that	25		issues.
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	_			_	
1	Q.	So to summarise, your position is that, because	1	Α.	No.
2	Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must	2	A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement
	Q.	• •			Had you been told about the counter replacement bug?
2	A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes.	2	Q. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No.
2	A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well	2	Q. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was
2 3 4	A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes.	2 3 4	Q. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No.
2 3 4 5	A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system	2 3 4 5	Q. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was
2 3 4 5 6	A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be	2 3 4 5 6	Q. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches?	2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q. A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q. A. Q. A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q. A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it. Had you, by 2004, been told about something	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern between Post Office and Fujitsu, that this would
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it. Had you, by 2004, been told about something called the lock bug	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern between Post Office and Fujitsu, that this would have been raised at a number of forum. But I'm
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it. Had you, by 2004, been told about something called the lock bug No.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern between Post Office and Fujitsu, that this would have been raised at a number of forum. But I'm not aware that that happened.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it. Had you, by 2004, been told about something called the lock bug No or the outstanding lock on the run?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern between Post Office and Fujitsu, that this would have been raised at a number of forum. But I'm not aware that that happened. That can come down off the screen. Thank you.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it. Had you, by 2004, been told about something called the lock bug No or the outstanding lock on the run? No.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern between Post Office and Fujitsu, that this would have been raised at a number of forum. But I'm not aware that that happened. That can come down off the screen. Thank you. Taking a step back, at this point, the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	it had been through acceptance, the system must be working sufficiently well Yes save that it was a large and complex system and therefore there would inevitably be glitches? Yes. Nothing greater than that? No. Had you been, by February 2004, informed of something called the Callendar Square bug? No. Had you ever heard of that? Never heard of it. Had you, by 2004, been told about something called the lock bug No or the outstanding lock on the run? No. Had you, by 2004, been told about the data tree	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. A.	Had you been told about the counter replacement bug? No. These are all bugs that the High Court was subsequently to find existed and predated, in part, 2004? Right. You hadn't been told about any of those? No. Would you expect to be told about those: bugs, fundamental bugs in the Horizon System that either were capable of or did cause discrepancies in postmaster accounts? I think if it had become an issue of concern between Post Office and Fujitsu, that this would have been raised at a number of forum. But I'm not aware that that happened. That can come down off the screen. Thank you. Taking a step back, at this point, the position was as follows, wasn't it: the court
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The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry 1 Post Office and Mrs Wolstenholme --A. Yes. So I was not aware of the depth and 1 2 A. 2 intensity of their activity. As I said, the 3 Q. -- and he had produced a report that suggested only ones that came up to me through Keith, 3 4 that the discrepancies about which 4 through the commercial function, were a minimal 5 Mrs Wolstenholme complained may well be as 5 number 6 a result of defects in Horizon? 6 Q. Why did some come up to you? 7 A. I believe that's what it says. I can't 7 A. It's difficult to remember. I can't remember 8 remember. It was only recently I got his 8 the specific -- I know there were a few, as 9 9 mentioned. Why there was -- why they were report. 10 Q. I'm sorry, it was only recently? 10 there, I can't remember. I'm trying to remember A. It was in the bundle, his report --11 but I can't remember. 11 Yes, but of course you got it back in 2004, Why might they come up to you as the contract 12 12 Q. 13 didn't you? 13 manager? A. I got it in 2004 but I couldn't precisely A. Because there was either an obligation or 14 14 remember what he said, other than how we perhaps something that we were not fulfilling or 15 15 16 responded to it. 16 they wanted to ask for additional assistance 17 Q. Were you aware at this time that the Post Office 17 that was beyond the scope or maybe witness 18 was prosecuting subpostmasters? 18 statements, which were beyond -- perhaps were 19 A. I was aware of one or -- of these instances that 19 getting more frequent, or perhaps the number of 20 there was anything -- there was a great number 20 data extractions were beyond the limits that 21 21 of them. they had -- we had agreed. 22 Q. I think the figures are between 2000 and 2015. 22 If we go back to the letter from Mr Baines to 23 A. Right. 23 you, POL00095375. Look at the last paragraph on 24 Q. So the entire period some 844, resulting in some 24 the first page and the last sentence: 25 705 convictions? 25 "As I'm sure you'll understand, Post Office 125 126 1 is concerned by these findings, not only in 1 that would support communities. 2 relation to this particular case, but also 2 Q. I'm looking at it the other way around: that it 3 because of any precedent that this may set and 3 was said that the existence and continuing 4 that may be used by Post Office's agents to 4 operation of Horizon was essential to the 5 support claims that the Horizon System is 5 maintenance of the full Post Office estate. If 6 causing errors in their branch accounts." 6 there were problems with the integrity of it, 7 Did you gain any sense at this time that the 7 that represented --8 Post Office was seeking to cover up any defects 8 It was never --9 in Horizon --9 Q. -- an existential threat. 10 A. 10 A. It was never put forward like that. Q. -- because admitting the contrary might be 11 Q. So here they're raising, in this last paragraph, 11 rather difficult, in the round? 12 12 if we just go back, please, the Post Office, 13 Α. 13 a twofold concern: (1) the impact on the case 14 Q. That if the system was found to not be reliable, 14 and, secondly, the use by others of the report 15 then it couldn't be used to trade and that might 15 to say that Horizon is causing errors, yes? 16 lead to significant financial impacts on the 16 Α. Yes. 17 Post Office as a whole? 17 Q. They are the two things that are pointed out? 18 Α.

Post Office as a whole?
A. No.
Q. Was it ever expressed to you that Horizon and the continued operation of Horizon was essential to the maintenance of a substantial number of Post Office branches, in particular rural branches?
A. Well, it was always -- clearly, it was always

25

the objective that there was a working system
127

(32) Pages 125 - 128

The one thing that isn't said in the letter is

the Post Office is concerned by this report

A. No, because I think, even going back to Keith

Baines' Witness Statement, it didn't occur that

it wasn't. It was -- the statement was that it

was working and, therefore, it could not have

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because it might be right?

19 **Q**.

20

21

22

23

24

- 1 been anything to do with Horizon.
- 2 Q. So the one thing that we don't see in this
- 3 letter is "The Post Office is concerned because
- 4 an independent expert commissioned jointly by us
- 5 has pointed out defects in the Horizon System.
- 6 He might be right and we're operating a computer
- 7 system that may be faulty". You're saying that
- 8 that wouldn't have occurred to the Post Office
- 9 in your view, because of an unshakable belief in
- 10 the system?
- A. Well, there was that but also, I think, they 11
- wanted us to respond to the expert's report to 12
- 13 try to balance what we thought -- what both of
- 14 us thought were inaccuracies or perhaps issues
- 15 with the report. And, therefore, as it stood,
- 16 it was not something that needed -- they wanted
- 17 to cause a precedent.
- 18 But they don't say in this letter there's Q.
- 19 anything inaccurate in the report, do they?
- 20 A. They say -- well, he says that the expert -- no,
- 21 he's talking about the expert's opinion that
- 22 there is an issue with the system and the HSH.
- 23 So he's asking us to respond to those comments.
- 24 But he's not asking you to respond in a neutral Q.
- 25 way, is he?

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- 1 you can see between us and the Post Office,
 - regarding the report, was trying to create what
- 3 we thought was a more balanced position on it,
- 4 rather than letting the expert's opinion stand
- 5 as it stood, which we felt didn't -- hadn't gone
- 6 into enough detail around the system to give it
- 7 full credibility.
- 8 **Q.** Can we move forwards, please, and look at
- 9 FUJ00121486. This is the report that Jan Holmes
- 10 sent to you on 18 February 2004. Remember,
- 11 I showed you the email before.
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. If we pick up where we left off, we left off
- 14 above "The Expert's Opinion", at the foot of the
- 15 page. So this is Jan Holmes's response or
- 16 commentary upon Mr Coyne's report.
- A. Yes. 17
- Q. Did you ask Mr Holmes to look at this? 18
- Yes, so in response to Keith's Baines' letter, 19 Α.
- 20 we would have then discussed this.
- Can you recall what your instructions were to 21 Q.
- 22 Mr Holmes?
- 23 Α. To take -- to review the expert's report.
- 24 Were they loaded in any way or were they simply
- 25 to look into it and report back?

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- Neutral? Δ
- 2 Q. "Please tell us whether the expert is right or
- 3
- 4 A. No, he's not asking that. Just "Please
- 5 comment".
- 6 **Q.** Would you agree that the way this is written is
- 7 rather myopic -- narrow in perspective?
- 8 A. It feels as though it is one of concern. You
 - know, "surely not".
- 10 Q. Was that an attitude that was prevalent in your
- dealings with the Post Office? 11
- In the reliance on the system? 12 A.
- 13 Q. Yes.

9

- A. Yes. Well, from a commercial perspective, from 14
- 15 the commercial function, yes.
- 16 Q. Did you ever get the sense that the Post Office
- 17 thought that it must defend the system at all
- 18 costs because, if it didn't, then the viability
- 19 of the Post Office Counters business was at
- 20
- 21 A. I think they were looking for assurance that the
- 22 system was correct.
- 23 Not independence and neutrality as to whether
- 24 the system contained errors?
- 25 I think there was a -- I think the dialogue that

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- 1 No, I don't -- I wouldn't say that we were
- 2 loaded. I wouldn't want to do that. So I think
- 3 we would say that we were trying to produce
- 4 a balanced response.
- 5 Q. Let's look at what Mr Holmes's opinion or
- 6 comments on the opinion were. He says:

"Taking each opinion as it occurs in the report I would offer the following by means of

explanation, confirmation or refutation." 9 10 First heading "'Reasonableness' of calls to

HSH": 11

7

8

12 "The Expert was unable to make direct

13 comparisons between similar Outlets due to the 14 absence of records. While this was true of

15 audit data formally available to POL, [Fujitsu]

16 are able to review an unregulated archive of

17 records of the other installed 6 Counter Outlets

18

over a comparable period. The table below shows

19 the output from that analysis ..."

20 Then if we go over the page to the analysis, 21 you can see that Cleveleys is in the fifth and

22 sixth row. Cleveleys [1] is all reports to the

23 HSH and Cleveleys [2] is if you strip out calls

24 to the HSH in the course of rollout; do you see

25 that? Do you see 1 and 2?

1	A.	I see 1 and 2, yes.	1
2	Q.	There's an explanation at the foot of the page	2
3		if we just scroll down.	3
4	A.	Yes, yes.	4
5	Q.	So if we go up, please. You'll see that,	5
6		assuming that it's appropriate to strip out the	6
7		calls during rollout, Cleveleys has a total of	7
8		85 calls, and I think that puts it right at the	8
9		top, doesn't it? It's the third highest?	9
10	A.	Yes.	10
11	Q.	Showing 85 calls in a 10-month period?	11
12	A.	Yes.	12
13	Q.	So quite a high number of calls asking for help?	13
14	A.	Quite a lot, yes.	14
15	Q.	So Cleveleys was third highest and broadly	15
16		comparable with other outlets, wasn't it?	16
17		That's what it shows?	17
18	A.	Yes, I mean, I can't analyse the ratios of all	18
19		the different types of calls, but yes.	19
20	Q.	If we scroll down, we can see what Mr Holmes	20
21		thought of it:	21
22		"Discounting Rollout Helpdesk calls, which	22
23		should have not been addressed to the HSH, it	23
24		can be said that in terms of total calls made	24
25		(3rd highest from 12) [percentage] that were	25
		133	
1		would be hard to dispute the opinion of the	1
2		Expert."	2
3	Α.	Yeah.	3
4	Q.	Then over the page	4
5	A.	That was the statement from somebody else,	5
6	_	wasn't it?	6
7	Q.	Yes, he's quoting Elaine Tagg.	7
8	Α.	Elaine, yes.	8
9	Q.	Thank you. "Operator advice to 'Reboot'",	9
10		you'll see what Mr Holmes says. Then in his	10
11		second paragraph, Mr Holmes says:	11
12		"In this context the opinion of the Expert,	12
13		that 'this instruction treats the effect and not	13
14		the cause' is correct."	14
15	Α.	Yes.	15
16	Q.	But it is incorrect to assume that no further	16
17		work is being done?	17
18	Α.	Yes.	18
19	Q.	Under Mr Coyne's heading of "Defective	19
20		Equipment":	20
21		"The criticism that the technology installed	21
22		at Cleveleys was 'clearly defective' is	22

subjective and based on the raising of 70 HSH

calls over a 10-month period. There is no

attempt to substantiate the claim nor to draw

135

23

24

25

2		[percentage] that were Software based (5th
3		highest), Cleveleys numbers are broadly
4		comparable with the group of Outlets."
5		What did that say to you? What's it
6		supposed to show?
7	A.	There was nothing particularly standing out,
8		differentiating Cleveleys from anything else.
9	Q.	They were all getting a high number of calls?
10	A.	Well, I don't know whether they're high or not.
11		They're just a number of calls. I don't know
12		whether they're respectively high or not.
13	Q.	Wouldn't you want to know that to draw anything
14		from it?
15	Α.	Well, on the basis that other outlets were not
		reporting problems or that we at least Post
		Office was not dealing with commercial, in terms
		of prosecution or then it was broadly the noise
		level of the system. So there was nothing
		significantly about Cleveleys compared to
		anything else.
	0	, ,
	Œ.	foot of the page:
		"Based on the analysis [last line], and
		without analysing each and every call record it
25		134
1		any comparisons with external benchmarks."
2		Whereas this report does compare it with
3		some other benchmarks and finds that it's
		broadly comparable?
4		•
4 5	A.	Yes.
	A. Q.	Yes. Then "Summary":
5		
5 6		Then "Summary":
5 6 7		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement
5 6 7 8		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report
5 6 7 8 9		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is
5 6 7 8 9		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be
5 6 7 8 9 10 11		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this.
5 6 7 8 9 10 11		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time it has fallen when confronted by transaction
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time it has fallen when confronted by transaction data"
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time it has fallen when confronted by transaction data" This is hardly a withering attack on the
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q.	Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time it has fallen when confronted by transaction data" This is hardly a withering attack on the expert, is it? No. For the most part he says, "We can't really argue with what he says"? Correct.
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time it has fallen when confronted by transaction data" This is hardly a withering attack on the expert, is it? No. For the most part he says, "We can't really argue with what he says"? Correct. In particular, "Because we haven't got the
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q.	Then "Summary": "It's difficult to comment on the statement made by the Expert in this part of his [report about worrying discrepancies] although he is alluding to the fact that system errors may be responsible for this. "This has been put forward by a number of [postmasters] in the past and each time it has fallen when confronted by transaction data" This is hardly a withering attack on the expert, is it? No. For the most part he says, "We can't really argue with what he says"? Correct. In particular, "Because we haven't got the underlying data, we can't argue with what he
	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	5 6 7 A. 8 9 Q. 10 A. 11 12 13 Q. 14 15 A. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 Q. 23 24 25

non-Advice & Guidance (4th highest) and the

1	Q.	There's no arguing about the qualifications of	1	A.	I'm picking up the last paragraph, yes.
2		the expert?	2		Why was your first reaction to seek the data and
3	A.	No.	3		response that had previously been deployed
4	Q.	He's not inappropriately qualified or	4		successfully to counter the postmasters' system
5	A.	No, no.	5		problem allegation?
6	Q.	inexpert?	6	A.	I think it was because the expert's report was
7	A.	No, not at all.	7		an allegation and so we had responded to that,
8	Q.	There is no quibble on his figures?	8		and, you know, it was an allegation without any
9	A.	No.	9		evidence, therefore did we have any evidence?
10	Q.	The figures that he does give are comparable to	10	Q.	Can we move forwards then, to FUJ00121512. This
11		other branches and there is no arguing with his	11		is a copy of the final report that you sent to
12		general approach?	12		Mr Baines, we're now on 20 February. If we see
13	A.	No.	13		the foot of the page, your letter to him. Then
14	Q.	Can we look, please, at FUJ00121490. If we see	14		up at the top of the page, dated 20 February:
15		the foot of the page, thank you, we've got	15		"Dear Keith
16		Mr Holmes' email to you of 18th, and then your	16		"I'm writing in response to your letter of
17		email, eight minutes later in the morning; can	17		[you say 6 February, I think it was 5 February]
18		you see that?	18		and note Post Office's concern in respect of the
19	A.	Yes, I can.	19		Expert's opinion that the Horizon System
20	Q.	"Jan, do we have the data/response that we/POL	20		installed at Cleveleys branch was defective and
21		have used before which has countered the PM	21		that the HSH was more concerned with closing
22		system problem allegation?	22		calls than preventing recurrence of faults.
23		"Colin."	23		"An Appendix is attached which sets out
24		You're picking up that last paragraph,	24		Fujitsu Services' view of and response to the
25		aren't you, there?	25		main points in the Expert's report.
		137			138
1		"In respect of the earlier correspondence	1		lines from the bottom of that paragraph it says:
2		between Jan Holmes and Jim Cruise we	2		" rebooting the Counter often meets that
3		would be prepared to discuss this further if	3		objective, this does not mean that a problem is
4		this would help progress the situation."	4		closed at that point in time, as a detailed
5		Again, I think that's a reference back to	5		scrutiny of overall problem management process
6		the August 2003 correspondence?	6		would reveal."
7	A.	Yes.	7		Then under the heading "Transaction Handling
8	Q.	If we go over the page, please, to see the	8		on Reboot", there's an explanation of what
9		appendix, to see what has now become of	9		happens if a postmaster reboots. If we look at
10		Mr Holmes' report. Can you see it says, "Basis	10		the foot of the page, it is said that:
11		of Response"?	11		"If a Session is interrupted pre-settlement,
12	A.	Yes.	12		perhaps through a fault that requires a reboot,
13	Q.	"Before addressing individual points from the	13		the Session and consequently the Session
14		Expert's report there are two key areas of	14		Stack is not maintained and has to be
15		understanding to be established; the first is	15		restarted once the system has been returned to
16		the function and objectives of [HSH], the second	16		the postmaster. In 2000 the only exception to
17		is the way that the Horizon System handles	17		this were Automated Payment transactions."
18		transactions should a reboot be required partway	18		Then the next paragraph:
19		through a customer [service]."	19		"Simply put, the design of the system
20		Under the heading "Horizon System Helpdesk",	20		precludes the possibility of a Session Stack
21		there's an explanation of it being the first	21		being partially, or doubly committed and thus
22		line support, and then, in the second paragraph,	22		accounting errors cannot be introduced through
23		the one beginning "Depending on", there's	23		a system crash or forced reboot."
24		an explanation of the second, third, and fourth	24		Then the table is reproduced, if we scroll
25		line supports. Then in the last sentence, three	25		down under "The Expert's Opinion", yes?
		139			140

A. 1 Yes. 2 Q. Over the page, please. A line has been added 3 after "Cleveleys numbers are broadly comparable 4 with the group of Outlets", namely: 5 "It is worth noting that Fujitsu Services is 6 not aware of similar complaints or claims being 7 made from other Outlets in the above list, some 8 of which have higher call profiles than 9 Cleveleys." 10 Did you understand that to mean that we've picked eight or ten other branches and we are 11 12 not aware of any problems or complaints of 13 a similar nature being raised from them, or was 14 it more broadly there are no similar complaints 15 to the ones raised by Mrs Wolstenholme ever 16 having been made to Cleveleys? 17 A. I think he's referring to the above list. 18 Q. Why wouldn't you address whether problems of 19 a similar type or complaints of a similar type 20 being made by any other branch? 21 A. I couldn't say. 22 Wouldn't that be the fair thing to do, rather 23 than pick ten and say, "We haven't had any 24 similar complaints from them, we're not going to 25 tell you about any similar complaints from the 141 1 that we saw. "Summary: Defective Equipment", 2 I think that's the same as the previous draft. 3 Do you remember the passage from Elaine 4 Tagg's witness statement? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. That seems to have been omitted. Do you 7 remember the passage from her witness statement? If we just look at FUJ00121486. Second page at 8 9 the foot, "Statement by Ms Elaine Tagg". You 10 rightly corrected me that this was her speaking and not Mr Holmes: 11 12 "A total of 101 HSH calls were raised 13 between [9 February] (install date) and 14 [20 November 2000] (termination date) of which 15 15 are classified as Advice and Guidance and 16 16 are to do with the Rollout itself. Based on the 17 analysis, and without analysing each and every 18 call record it would be hard to dispute the 19 opinion of the Expert." 20 If we just go back to FUJ00121512, page 2, 21 and then 3, and then 4, and then 5, it's been

other 17,000 branches"? 1 2 A. Possibly this analysis was about comparable outlets. So I think it was looking at system 3 problems from comparable outlets, rather than 4 5 everything else. If it was everywhere else, 6 17,000 outlets, I think the volumes, if there 7 had been such issues, would have been much worse 8 and would have been escalated anyway. 9 Q. But there's none of that referenced in here. 10 I mean we know now that the things of which 11 Mrs Wolstenholme complains -- blue screening, balances, double counting on a reboot, money 12 13 disappearing on a reboot -- was a complaint that 14 many, many postmasters made to Fujitsu. What 15 this appendix does is it picks ten and says, "We 16 haven't had any complaints from them". Do you 17 know why the full picture wasn't revealed? 18 I couldn't say. 19 If we carry on looking at this page, you'll see 20 that, under a series of headings, "Operator 21 advice to 'Reboot'": 22 "In this context the opinion of the Expert 23 that 'this instruction treats the effect and not 24 the cause' is correct." 25 Then exactly the same as the previous draft 142 So her comment was about HSH calls, wasn't it? 2 Yes, and it being difficult to refute what the 3 expert says. 4 A. Just go up a little bit. 5 Q. Yes. 6 A. I'm not sure whether it added anything having it 7 in or taking it out. 8 Q. You don't think it made any material difference? A. No. 9 Q. Why? 10 A. Because we're saying it's broadly comparable 11 12 with everything -- you know, whatever's 13 happening at Cleveleys is broadly in line, and

14 that's what she's saying, effectively.

15 Q. Okay, go to the last page, please. The 16 "Conclusion" is now:

> "The report presented by the expert is based on a simple analysis of HSH records and not a detailed understanding of how the ... system works, or even the prime objectives of the ... Helpdesk. Consequently the opinions expressed in the report, while not always incorrect, do not present the whole story and are presented from a single perspective."

What had led to the hardening up of this 144

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cut. Do you know why that was?

down, Frankie.

Can we go back to the previous page?

Previous page on here? Yes. Please do scroll

22

23 Α.

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1		report, compared to the first version we looked	1		are presented from a single perspective.
2		at?	2		I don't know what that means, but it seems
3	A.	So, of course, the previous versions were	3		rather critical, doesn't it?
4		internal versions. I think we were trying to	4	A.	Yes, it's critical of the report.
5		get to the position where we might try and	5	Q.	So what had led to the hardening up?
6		expand the analysis and understanding of the	6	A.	It can only be well, I'm not absolutely sure.
7		expert and whether, in fact, this was if	7		I don't absolutely remember but, of course,
8		there were elements that we didn't quite agree	8		Fujitsu is trying to defend Horizon, all the
9		with, while we're saying that they're not always	9		systems that go around it, support systems and
10		correct, they don't present the whole story that	10		everything else and, therefore, we trying to
11		a balanced report could and should do.	11		position it to put a position to Post Office
12	Q.	We're moving forwards now and we're going to end	12		that we want to present the whole story.
13		at a point when Fujitsu accused him of bias,	13	Q.	
14		essentially, of lacking impartiality. That's	14		an email of 4 March and what we're going to see
15		where we're going to end up in the questions in	15		is, in this chain, you getting back the expert's
16		about 45 minutes' time. What I'm asking now is	16		response to your response.
17		what had led to this hardening up of a position?	17	A.	· · · · ·
18		There was the internal document, which didn't	18	Q.	
19		question his qualifications, didn't really	19	Ψ.	sending you and others an attachment. Then if
20		question his methodology and said, "We're in the	20		we go to FUJ00121534, we can see what the
21		same position as him: we haven't got that much	21		attachment is. It's an email which itself had
22		data to go on, we can't really question what he	22		an attachment, and this is the response from
23		says".	23		Susanne Helliwell, the solicitor at Weightmans',
24		Now, that's being ratcheted up a bit, isn't	24		Secretary:
25		it? They do not present the whole story, they	25		"The response to the initial report of Jason
20		145	20		146
1		Coyne of Best Practice Group has been sent to	1		"Reasonableness of calls.
2		him and his reply is attached. He has not taken	2		"It has always been my expressed position
3		on board any of the points made and has not	3		that direct comparisons of calls to HSH are
4		revised his report at all.	4		required and your clients position that they
5		"I would welcome any further points you have	5		have been destroyed, barring direct comparison,
6		to make on his further report but it seems to me	6		and that I should give opinion on the surviving
7		that his report cannot be accepted by [the Post	7		material that is available
8		Office] and that an application needs to be made	8		"Now it seems that your client has located
9		to the court for Fujitsu to give evidence about	9		data that they believe enables comparison.
10		the Horizon System and its working in view of	10		Although the raw data has not been made
11		the stance taken by the expert witness."	11		available to me they say it displays that
12		Then if we can go to FUJ00121535. This is	12		Cleveleys is 'broadly comparable'. As I do not
13		Mr Coyne's reply. Under the heading "Horizon	13		have the raw data I am unable to say if my
14		System Helpdesk", he says:	14		opinion is effected or not."
15		" this is a matter for the Post Office	15		At the foot of the page he says:
16		and Fujitsu", ie describing the system of	16		" all of these issue factors are
17		escalating help and service desks:	17		significantly higher for Cleveleys than the
18		"[But] nothing contained within this section	18		respective mean which is inconsistent with the
19		of the letter alters my current opinion.	19		statement of broadly comparable when considering
20		"Transaction Handling on Reboot.	20		these measurements."
21		"Whilst this section is helpful and assists	21		Then over the page:

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my understanding ... it would not be proper of

explanation, the supporting evidence of which

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me to alter my opinion based on this

has been destroyed.

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"Although I must stress that no raw data has been presented so I am disadvantaged, is it your

clients intention to rely upon this data sample

referred to in this letter?"

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Next two paragraphs I can skip over,"Worrying discrepancies":

"I'm unsure how this can be resolved as the documentation suggests the [postmaster] reported discrepancies that seem to fall after a reported upgrade ...

"In short, to answer the question posed in your letter, No my opinion, currently, remains as state in my original note."

So this is a pretty firm reply from the independent expert, isn't it?

12 A. It is

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13 **Q.** Did you think it called for a rethink by

14 Fujitsu?

15 A. I think we waited for Post Office to see whattheir instruction was going to be and how they

wanted us to support them.

18 Q. Was there ever any discussion of bringing in
 19 somebody else, somebody independent of Fujitsu
 20 to look at what this expert was saying, to see
 21 whether it was entirely off the wall or there

whether it was entirely off the wall or there

22 may actually be substance in it?

23 A. Not with me.

Q. Were you aware of any discussions amongst otherpeople?

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1 "I've done a bit more to this but if 2 I continue I fear I might call him a git, or 3 something worse."

Did you take that to be a good sign of objectivity of thought?

6 A. I think I just took it as being a moment of7 irritation.

8 Q. Why would you be irritated? Why would he be irritated?

10 A. I don't know.

11 **Q.** Why did you take it to be a moment of

12 irritation?

13 A. I think I ignored it.

14 Q. Why?

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15 A. Well, he was going on holiday and he was tryingto do something to get something out, and what

17 have you, so I think we -- it was just in the

18 heat of the moment.

19 Q. No, he's been on holiday. This is when he's20 come back?

21 **A.** Oh, sorry.

22 **Q.** He went on holiday on the 4th and said, "These

23 are my initial thoughts".

A. I'm not sure. I don't know why he's irritatedby it.

1 A. I'm not aware of any other -- I don't know.

2 I couldn't say yes or no.

Q. You were disappointed with this response fromthe expert, weren't you?

5 A. Yes

Q. If we look, please, at FUJ00121549, in fact we'd
 better look at FUJ00121541, first, thank you.

8 4 March, same day at 11.30, you send Mr Holmes

9 the disappointing response from the expert.

10 Yes?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we then go to FUJ00121549, he replies at

13 1.45, so 2 hours 15 minutes later, attaching his

14 initial thoughts. Then if we go to FUJ00121550,

this is Mr Holmes's initial response. I'm not

16 going to go through all of this but would

17 a summary be, "We need to try to get the expert

in to Fujitsu premises to see whether we can get

19 him to alter his opinion"?

20 A. Yes.

21 $\,$ **Q.** Mr Holmes then goes on holiday for a week, and

22 produces a final version of this document,

23 FUJ00121557. This is now dated 11 March and is

24 the final version. I should have shown you the

25 covering email, thank you:

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1 Q. He's come back on the 11th after a week,

presumably being refreshed, thinking that --

3 A. Sure. I don't know why he's irritated by it.

4 Q. -- the expert is a git?

5 A. Well, I don't know.

6 $\,$ Q. Is this emblematic of what was really going on

7 within Fujitsu --

8 **A.** No.

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9 Q. -- people that criticise us are to be condemned?

10 **A.** No

11 Q. People that have the temerity to question the

12 quality of our product are to be condemned?

13 **A.** No.

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14 Q. Let's look at the substance of what he said.

15 FUJ00121558, please. I'm going to take this

shortly. You have seen this. It has been

17 disclosed to you. You've read it.

18 **A.** Yes.

19 Q. Would you agree that the suggestion that "Let's

20 have him in and see whether we can get him to

21 alter his view" has gone and that, in its place,

is essentially a hardening up still further of

the position against the expert? If you want to

take a moment to read it all, then please do.

25 A. No. So I think we were trying to provide

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1 further information and clarity to the expert, Does that make somebody impartial? 2 to provide him with the access to the data and 2 A. Yes. 3 Why? the records that we said we had and he said he Q. 3 4 A. Well, not that the -- the brevity of it doesn't hadn't got access to. 4 5 Okay. If we move on, please, to FUJ00121561. Q. 5 make it impartial. 6 The next day, 12 March, Mr Holmes emails you, 6 Q. He continues: 7 setting out at the bottom of the page, if we 7 "... in truth, we have a problem because 8 just scroll down, a draft email for you to 8 there is little we can do to dispel some of his 9 consider. Then go back to the top of the page. 9 assertions other than say 'rubbish'. We can't 10 He says: 10 demonstrate that everything worked correctly 11 "Colin, 11 because we don't have the data. In addition, 12 "Draft email to Jim Cruise for you to 12 any proving that we do now is at a 2004 system 13 consider. I've transferred the contentious 13 baseline and not a 2000 baseline. POL have to 14 statements from the paper to the email because 14 decide what they want to see happening here. 15 it's not in our interests to piss the Expert 15 I understand the reputational aspects of the 16 off. That said it has to be pointed out to Jim 16 situation but I fear that POA [that's Fujitsu] 17 that his report is far from impartial ..." 17 are on the back foot." 18 Did you agree with that, that the expert's 18 A. Yes. 19 report was not impartial? 19 Why did he think that Fujitsu was on the back 20 Α. I'm not sure about "far from impartial". 20 What about a little bit from impartial? 21 Q. 21 A. Because we hadn't had the opportunity to try to 22 A. Well, I think a little bit from impartial, yes. 22 provide additional material to the expert. 23 Q. Why was he not impartial? 23 Q. You hadn't had the opportunity to? 24 Α. Because I think the -- having read the report 24 A. Provide the data that we had come up with to 25 again, I thought it was quite high level. 25 the -- which the expert said he hasn't got. 154 1 Q. Why hadn't you had that opportunity? 1 next step is to make available to him the 2 A. Because we had only invited -- through Post 2 people, data and resources at Post Office 3 Office, we'd invited the expert to Fujitsu's 3 Account and allow him to address his doubts to 4 premises to review the data. So it was 4 the true experts and practitioners." 5 5 an invitation to Post Office to carry that You approved this and it went out in this 6 forward. 6 form, correct? 7 Q. Well, that was on the internal draft. That 7 A. 8 never got sent, did it? "Let's get him in", 8 Q. Mr Holmes is suggesting that Mr Coyne be allowed 9 to address his doubts to the "true experts". that draft. 9 No, at the top of the last one, it said, "We 10 Did you think that Mr Coyne was not a true 10 A. even invited him to Bracknell" or -expert? 11 11 That one? So Mr Coyne was an IT expert and not a Horizon 12 Q. 12 13 Α. Yeah. 13 14 Q. Did you think that was the solution to the 14 Q. So you didn't think he was a true expert? problem? A. No, I didn't say that. 15 15 A. I thought it might help. Q. He wasn't sufficiently expert in Horizon? 16 16 17 Q. Scrolling down on this page, just before we take 17 A. Correct. 18 the break, you'll see in the draft, you'll see 18 Q. So the "true experts" were located only within in the draft email it says in the third 19 the Fujitsu premises at Bracknell, were they? 19 20 20 A. They would only -- the ones who would know --

paragraph of the draft email:

"The attached paper provides detailed feedback to his reply but in truth we can only reiterate what has been already said. Given that he has assumed the moral high ground, and appears not to want to shift his position, the

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"In conclusion it has to be said that his 156

well, not necessarily, but mostly that they

went around it.

Q. It continues:

would know the system and the processes that

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offered, the visits were offered and, you know,

analysis of the situation is at best selective

2		and at worst simply wrong, and his conclusions	2		from our particular position, he has his own
3		are partial."	3		view his view, and not necessarily we're
4		So again, accusing him of lacking	4		saying that maybe his conclusions are partial.
5		impartiality, yes? You understand what	5		Okay. You know, that's his view.
6		partiality means, don't you?	6		We said that he was not we didn't think
7	A.	Yes.	7		he was completely correct, so that in which
8	Q.	Favouring one size in the dispute over the	8		instance that must be that he must be partial.
9		other?	9	Q.	So somebody who is incorrect is always partial
10	A.	Yes.	10		and therefore biased?
11	Q.	In other words, are you being biased?	11	A.	You can come to conclusions from data that is
12	A.	Yes.	12		not complete.
13	Q.	On what evidence were you happy to sign this	13	Q.	Does that make you partial and therefore biased?
14		off, that the independent expert was biased?	14	A.	
15	A.	Probably because of his his responses were	15		biased.
16		unshifting.	16	Q.	Was the thought process that you have just
17	Q.	Un?	17		explained to us one that was common within
18	A.	Unshifting.	18		practitioners within Fujitsu, who were
19	Q.	So somebody who doesn't move from their opinion	19		discussing this issue?
20		is biased?	20	A.	
21	A.	No, what I've said is what I've said.	21		it in Fujitsu, I think we were trying to make
22		Potentially, I go back to this data available	22		all opportunities available in order to come up
23		availability, it's kind of a cross between	23		with a rounded position.
24		the and the email the email chain, really,	24	MF	R BEER: Yes, thank you.
25		here, that the data that was available was 157	25		Sir, I wonder whether we could take the 158
1		afternoon break now until 3.20.	1		their payment-in to court to £25,000
2	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, certainly.	2		"The hope is that she will accept the
3	MR	BEER: If it helps, I'll conclude by 4.00,	3		increased payment-in and the case will be
4		allowing some time for other Core Participants	4		concluded. If she does not and persists with
5		to ask questions if they wish.	5		her counterclaim, and she has indicated that she
6	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: All right, fine.	6		is looking for a figure of £187,500 so she may
7	MR	BEER: Thank you. 3.20.	7		not settle, she is on increased risk as to the
8	(3.0	95 pm)	8		costs in the case if she does not beat the
9		(A short break)	9		payment-in at trial. As [Post Office] is no
10	(3.2	20 pm)	10		longer pursuing her for losses, I hope that she
11	MR	BEER: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and hear	11		will be left to pay any further evidence/reports
12		us?	12		from the expert witness, which should be
13	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.	13		a further discouragement for her."
14	MR	BEER: Thank you.	14		So that was updating you in April and if we
15		Mr Lenton-Smith, can we turn to FUJ00121602,	15		move on to FUJ00121637, an email directly to you
16		please. We've now moved forward to April 2004,	16		from Jan Holmes of 7 June 2004, with the subject
17		and there's an email from Jim Cruise at the foot	17		of "Cleveleys". He says:
18		of the page to Jan Holmes and Keith Baines,	18		"I've just updated myself with the latest on
19		which is forwarded by Jan Holmes on the same day	19		this case and the news is not good.
20		to you. Can you see that?	20		"Jim Cruise has taken early retirement so
21	A.	Yes, I can.	21		I ended up speaking to Mandy Talbot, who was his
22	Q.	In the email from Jim Cruise, he says:	22		boss. The [postmaster] rejected the offer that
23		"The latest development in this case is that	23		was made to her some time ago and a trial date
24		POL have written off the losses of just over	24		has been set for August The [Post Office]
25		£25,000 at the above SPO and have increased	25		are still taking advice as to how best to deal

with this and Mandy's view/belief was that the safest way to manage this is to throw money at it and get a confidentiality agreement signed. She is not happy with the 'Experts' report as she considers it to be not well balanced and wants, if possible, to keep it out of the public domain. This is unlikely to happen if it goes to Court.

"She was talking about taking the option to admit the report and concede that the contents are an accurate reflection of what happened (the HSH transcripts are an accurate reflection of what happened it's just the 'Expert' opinion is the problem). The liability question is removed and then it's just about 'how much [money] to go away and keep your mouth shut'.

"One concern I have is while they've been dickering about waiting for guidance from their agents, the trial date has been set and it is now too late for them to enter a Witness Statement that might further repudiate the Expert's original report. This means that their Counsel might have to have thorough briefing, by us, before going to Court.

"Do we need to involve Masons at this

- A. It was his question to me, so he's not
 a commercial person. He's just asking me
 a question.
- 4 Q. Yes, what did you think of the suggestion?
- 5 A. Do we have my response to him? No. So this is
- 6 just an update and that didn't go any further
- 7 than that.
- 8 Q. Do you think it was necessary to involve 9 solicitors?
- 10 A. No

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- 11 Q. What did you think as to the strategic of paying
- 12 Mrs Wolstenholme enough money to "keep your
- 13 mouth shut"?
- 14 A. So, remember, Fujitsu was a supplier to Post15 Office, maybe a big supplier. So we are a third
- 16 party, effectively, who -- we don't get involved
- 17 in persuading or suggesting to our clients how
- 18 they should conduct their legal matters.
- 19 Q. Was there any sense at this stage -- did you
- 20 pick up any sense from Mr Holmes at this
- 21 stage -- that the Post Office might be trying to
- 22 blame Fujitsu for being in this position?
- 23 **A.** No.
- Q. Can we look, please, at FUJ00121668. This isan email to you from Mr Holmes of the following

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1 stage?"

Did the contents of this email reflect your
 understanding of POL's principal desire, namely
 to keep the adverse expert's report out of the

public domain?

- 6 A. I didn't know what POL's objective was.
- Q. Did you engage in any telephone discussion withanyone at POL, Keith Baines, for example --
- 9 **A.** No.

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- 10 Q. -- about this case?
- 11 **A.** No.
- 12 Q. Who were Masons?
- 13 A. Pinsent Masons, solicitors.
- 14 Q. Why would it be necessary to involve a firm ofsolicitors at that stage?
- 16 A. I think this is just Jan's question to me, high
- 17 level question, internally. I don't think we
- 18 did.
- 19 Q. What was the risk for Fujitsu in this process?
- 20 A. In what process?
- 21 Q. A claim was being brought by the Post Office
- 22 against one of its former subpostmistresses, she
- 23 had counterclaimed, what's the risk to Fujitsu?
- 24 A. On that basis, none.
- 25 Q. Why might you involve solicitors?

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- 1 month:
- 2 "The PO Legal person, Mandy Talbot, is on

holiday today but will be back on Monday ...
"I've also spoken to Keith Baines who

- 5 alluded to a number of other calls that he was
- going to have to make on the case but didn't
 pass any details to me. He said that Dave Smith
- pass any details to me. He said that Dave Smwould be speaking to lan on the subject ..."
- 9 Can you help us who this Dave Smith referred 10 to here is?
- 11 A. Dave Smith was the lead in Post Office for
- 12 effectively managing the Horizon System.
- 13 Q. Who would lan be?
- 14 **A.** lan Lamb.
- 15 Q. What role did Ian Lamb perform?
- 16 **A.** He was the Managing Director, effectively, of
- 17 Post Office Account.
- 18 Q. In Fujitsu?
- 19 A. In Fujitsu.
- 20 Q. So a high level discussion --
- 21 **A.** Yeah.
- 22 Q. -- at proper director level?
- 23 A. Director level, yeah. Although I don't think
- 24 Ian was, in fact, a director, a registered
- 25 director as such.

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1	Q.	He continue:	٠.
	LJ.	ne commue:	-

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"... it seems that Dave believes 'we' (not sure whether that's the Royal we or just us) have conceded what 'we' should not have done and POL are now in a difficult position. Given our late involvement by POL I trust he's not trying to park it all on us."

That's what I was referring to a moment ago when I asked whether you had any sense from Mr Holmes that POL would be trying to blame Fujitsu for being in the position they were in.

12 A. No, I don't believe so. I don't read it like

13 that. I think this is Ian -- this is Jan's

14 interpretation of a conversation but this is,

15 you know, a fourth-hand conversation between

16 Dave Smith and Ian, and Dave Smith and Keith

17

Baines, and Keith Baines and Jan Holmes, and then me, so I think it must -- you know, it

19 could -- it's kind of hearsay, really.

20 Can we move forwards, please. FUJ00121724. Q.

21 We're now in the next month, August, on the

22 20 August, an email from Jan Holmes to you and

23 Bill Mitchell; can you see that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What role did Bill Mitchell perform?

- 1 Fujitsu providing litigation support to Post
- 2 Office?
- 3 A. Could be either -- could be that, I don't know.
- 4 I couldn't say.
- 5 Q. It's difficult to say, isn't it --
- 6 A. Yes.

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- 7 Q. -- through that fantastic use of the word
- 8 "around"? He continues:
- 9 "1. Although Cleveleys may appear to be 10 closed it could be construed that [Post Office] bought off Mrs Wolstenholme rather than defend 11 12 their system."

Do you agree with the suggestion that it appeared or may appear that Post Office had bought off Mrs Wolstenholme rather than defend their system?

17 A. Again, I'd go back to the comment before. It's

simply down to Post Office how they would have 18 19

defended their legal cases, effectively, and

20 whether they decided to settle out of court or

go to court is a matter for them. 21

- 22 Q. That's an answer to a different question, namely
- 23 whose responsibility and function is it to
- 24 decide whether or not Post Office defend or
- 25 settle cases? The answer is the one you've just

167

A. I'm not sure. I think there is a witness 1

statement from him in the bundle and I'd have to

- 3 refer to that to --
- 4 Q. Okay, you can't remember now?
- 5 A. I can't remember his role, no.
- 6 **Q.** The title is risk position on litigation
- 7 support.
- A. He -- well, he could have been -- he could have 8
- 9 been the Risk Manager, I guess, but I'd have to
- 10 go and check that.
- Q. He says: 11
 - "Colin, Bill.
- 13 "Following on from the Cleveleys outcome,
- 14 what looks like the reappearance of Shobnall
- 15 Road and the possible outcome of that case
- 16 I believe we should consider a risk position
- 17 around litigation support."
- 18 What do you understand "a risk position
- 19 around litigation support" to mean?
- 20 So my initial -- I mean, I can't remember
- 21 precisely 2004, but I think it would be
- 22 assessing to see whether we needed -- whether
- 23 Fujitsu needed litigation support, if there was
- 24 a risk in trying to defend the system.
- 25 Q. Oh, I see, rather than assessing the risk of 166

1 given: it's a matter for Post Office.

My question was a different one. Did you

3 agree with the suggestion that it may appear

4 that the Post Office had bought Mrs Wolstenholme

5 off, rather than defend their system?

6 A. I don't think it's for me, on behalf of Fujitsu,

7 to construe anything for them, why they -- how

8 they defended their case.

Q. Mr Holmes continues in his email to you: 9

"Even if a gagging order is placed on the 10 11 woman ..."

12

I think "the woman" is Julie Wolstenholme,

13 yes?

14 Α. Yes.

15 Q. "... she apparently had a gaggle ..."

I think a "gaggle" here in this context 16

17 means a group of disorderly people, rather than

18 a flock of geese, agreed?

A. Mm-hm. 19

20 Q. "... lined up to support her case and they [may

21 well be aware] of what the final outcome was."

22 Is that how Fujitsu viewed matters, that the

23 subpostmistress was to be referred to as "the

24 woman" --

25 A. No.

- Q. -- who had a "gaggle", a disorderly group of 1 2 people, surrounding her? 3 A. No. 4 O He continues: 5 6
- "I'm sure they will not be keeping quiet. It is not clear why Post Office chose to settle 7 rather than fight although I suspect they 8 realised that to expose the HSH transcripts in 9 Court would not help their case -- personally 10 I can understand that position."

11 Why would exposure of the HSH transcripts in 12 court not help their case?

13 A. Oh, I don't know, I don't think it would. I think -- I don't think it undermines the case. 14

Q. So the revelation of 85 transcripts of 16 Mrs Wolstenholme calling over a 10-month period, 17 setting out a succession of recurring problems,

causing unexplained discrepancies and balancing errors, would have helped their case, would it?

20 Α. 21 Q. So what he's saying is right, isn't it,

22 Mr Holmes (sic)? 23 A. What Mr Holmes is saying is right, yes.

24 Exposing the transcripts wouldn't have helped 25 their case?

169

1 A. Yes.

15

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2 Q. Why would revelations of transcripts therefore, 3 if that was true, not help the Post Office's 4 case?

5 A. Well, I've got nothing to compare -- I don't

6 know what the transcripts said. You told me

7 that there are number of pages, but I don't know 8

whether they're comparable to the other

9 transcripts of the other examples that were

10 shown in the table.

Q. According to Mr Holmes, the number of them were. 11

A. There were comparable number of calls, so the 12 13 transcripts were probably comparable.

14 Q. I don't understand, you see, the reports that he 15 was giving to you, a version of which you sent 16 on, was saying to the Post Office "There's 17 nothing to see here with these HSH calls".

A. Exactly, yes. 18

Yet here, you're discussing internally, "I can 19 20 completely understand, I can understand that 21 public revelation of the transcripts in court

22 won't help the Post Office's case". It doesn't

23 add up, does it?

24 Α. So it's kind of -- I'm in speculation here, so 25 I've got nothing to substantiate it. But 171

It wouldn't have done, no.

2 Q. No. He's right, isn't he?

He's right. 3

4 Q. By throwing money at the problem, buying "the woman" off, with or without a gagging order, the 5 6 Post Office were ensuring that what was revealed

7 by these transcripts was not likely known,

8 wasn't it?

9 A. It would appear so.

10 He continues in paragraph 2 --

11 I mean, that's his language, not mine.

Did you write back to him and say --12

13 I don't know, is there another email?

14 Q. No.

15 A. No. I don't know.

16 Can you help us with this: we've seen the 17 earlier report from Mr Holmes to you commenting 18 on Mr Coyne's document, and then we've seen the 19 version that was sent to the Post Office. In 20 both of those, it was said that the number and

21 nature of the calls were all perfectly normal, 22 that they weren't indicative of any system

23 problem and that, in general terms, they were

24 usual in the operation of a complex computer

25 system?

170

1 I don't know whether there's anything 2 significant about the HSH transcripts for 3 Cleveleys, compared to the HSH transcripts for 4 the other examples that were in the table. So 5 I can't comment whether it's just the extent of 6 transcripts is an issue or whether there is 7 anything more significant than that.

8 Q. He continues:

9 "Shobnall Road has come back." 10 Do you know what Shobnall Road was?

Δ

11 I assume it was another Post Office. 12 "Bill has apparently been asked to provide 13 a Witness Statement to the effect that nothing 14 contained in the HSH calls over the period in 15 question could have caused, or be described as, 16 a system malfunction. I'm attaching a brief 17 analysis of the HSH transcripts that I did in 18 April. Comments made by engineers that 19 'keyboards can cause phantom transactions' do 20 not help the Post Office's position. I suspect 21 that we cannot make the statement required ..."

That's the statement that nothing contained in the calls over the period in question could have caused or be described as a system malfunction.

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1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	" and when [Post Office] read the transcripts
3	ų.	in detail they may well think that they could
4		not submit them anyway.
5		"3. How many more Cleveleys and Shobnall
6		Road howlers exist in the HSH archive? Two out
7		of two is a bit of a worry.
8		"4. How long before Post Office realise
9		that they cannot rely on HSH transcripts to
10		counter claims made by postmasters that they
11		want to prosecute, or have to defend against
12		claims of wrongful dismissal, and seek to
13		recover settlement costs from Fujitsu?
14		"I think this warrants a bit more thought."
15		Was a bit more thought given, after receipt
16		of this email, to your recollection?
17	Α.	There was the report that was an internal report
18	Α.	which was written about the Cleveleys case.
19	Q.	Yes, the September 2004 report?
20	Q. A.	Yes
21	Q.	That doesn't really make any recommendations,
22	Q.	does it?
23	Α.	No.
24	Q.	It's just a straight up and down narration of
25	ų.	what happened?
20		what happened:
		173
1		a request for assistance from Post Office
2		173
2	A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't.
2 3 4	A. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping
2		a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report?
2 3 4 5 6	Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping
2 3 4 5	Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed"
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A. Q. A.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme. I believe so. The court appointed him, didn't
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme. I believe so. The court appointed him, didn't it? Requested it, I believe so. It's just the use of the language "He was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme. I believe so. The court appointed him, didn't it? Requested it, I believe so. It's just the use of the language "He was supposed to be jointly appointed". Was there
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme. I believe so. The court appointed him, didn't it? Requested it, I believe so. It's just the use of the language "He was supposed to be jointly appointed". Was there any suggestion that he wasn't jointly appointed
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme. I believe so. The court appointed him, didn't it? Requested it, I believe so. It's just the use of the language "He was supposed to be jointly appointed". Was there any suggestion that he wasn't jointly appointed and he was only appointed by Mrs Wolstenholme
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. Q.	a request for assistance from Post Office counsel. Do you know what that was? No, I can't. le the Post Office and their counsel helping Fujitsu update its internal report? Well, we haven't got previous versions. No. I can't remember. If we go to page 4, please, and look under "The Expert's Report", the report says: "The Expert, who was supposed to be jointly appointed" To your recollection, was he jointly appointed, ie by Post Office and not Mrs Wolstenholme. I believe so. The court appointed him, didn't it? Requested it, I believe so. It's just the use of the language "He was supposed to be jointly appointed". Was there any suggestion that he wasn't jointly appointed

A. I can't comment on it.

Q. Over the page, please. Third paragraph:

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A. It -- yeah. 2 But I'm talking about whether this opportunity was seized to grip the problems that had been 3 4 revealed? So, on the face of it, none of this is 5 6 a commercial issue, in other words affecting 7 discussion between Post Office Commercial and 8 Fujitsu. It's kind of an operational matter dealt with through the service organisation. So 9 10 any taking forward of these issues would have 11 been done at that level. Q. Can we look at that report, please. 12 13 FUJ00121747. You'll see this is dated 14 1 September, it's written by Jan Holmes and at the foot of the page you gave approval for it? 15 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. In the abstract it states that it: "... describes the involvement of Fujitsu 18 19 ... with Post Office Security Investigation in 20 the matter of Cleveleys post office and the dispute between the Post Office and the 21 22 postmaster." 23 If we look at the second page, please. It 24 appears to have been initially drafted on 29 March and then updated on 3 August following 25 174 1 "We have offered to host him at any of our 2 locations so he can analyse HSH data directly, 3 speak to the experts and walk through the 4 problem management cycle for himself. He will 5 not have seen this offer since it was contained 6 in the email that accompanied our final response 7 and this has not been passed on to the Expert 8 pending the outcome of an out-of-court settlement by [Post Office] to the 9 [postmaster]." 10 11 So it was known by you within Fujitsu that the offer to the expert to come and visit the 12 13 premises and meet the real experts had not got 14 through to him? A. So it had -- so it transpired, yes. 15 Q. Wasn't that the basis of some of your criticism 16 17 earlier, that he hadn't taken up the offer? 18 A. No, I said he had not been able to take up the offer. 19 20 Q. Because it had never been made to him? 21 A. Yes, we had made it -- I said we had made it to 22 Post Office to pass on to him.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I've got this right, I think.

You made the suggestion that various offers

should be made to the expert, put them to Post

- 1 Office, but Post Office never put them to the 2 expert; is that correct?
- 3 A. That's correct sir, yes.
 - MR BEER: Thank you.

- 5 Can we lastly turn to FUJ00121636. These 6 are the minutes of a meeting called the Horizon 7 Commercial Forum held on 28 April 2004, jointly 8 between the Post Office and Fujitsu. Can you 9 explain what the Horizon Commercial Forum was, 10 please?
- A. Yes. So this was the two commercial Teams 11 meeting periodically, I think monthly, or 12
- 13 thereabouts, to review ongoing commercial issues
- 14 coming out of the contract and financial matters
- 15 coming out of the contract to do with invoicing
- 16 and various other matters like that. So it was
- 17 an ongoing set of minutes on discussions taken,
- 18 actions taken, noted and a follow-up of actions.
- 19 We can see that there's three from each party 20 present, three members of each party present --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- one of which is you?
- 23 A. Yes. That's right.
- Q. How frequently did the Commercial Forum meet? 24
- 25 A. I was going to say monthly, but it's probably
- 1 that email.
- 2 A. I thought in that document we had said that, in
- 3 my witness statement, we put that KB advised
- 4 that Post Office were trying to negotiate
- 5 a settlement at the time, they suggested
- 6 a discussion should be held with both parties at
- 7 some future time to understand how the situation
- 8 regarding the expert could be avoided in the
- 9 future. That was that.
- Q. Yes, if you just look at page 3. 10
- A. Yes. 11

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- Q. So if we go back to FUJ00121636, and look at 12
- page 3, and look at the third box down. There's 13
- 14 the passage that you're just referring to:

"KB advised that the Post Office were trying 16 to negotiate a settlement with regard to the

17 Julie Wolstenholme case.

> "[Keith Baines] further suggested that a discussion should be held between both parties at some future date to understand how the situation regarding the 'Expert' could be avoided in the future."

> > 179

- 23 A. Right.
- 24 Q. That seems to be a suggestion, would you agree, 25 that Fujitsu and POL need to discuss how

- 1 there or thereabouts. Monthly or two monthly,
- 2 but frequently.
- 3 Q. Can we turn, please, to page 5, and look three 4 rows from the bottom:
- "KB, [that's Keith Baines] suggested that 5 6 when the 'Cleveleys' court case had been 7 concluded, a review is undertaken to find
- 8 improvements in information storage for future
- 9 cases."
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Was such a review undertaken?
- A. I don't remember specifically, unless we have 12
- 13 access to the subsequent minutes of the Forum
- 14 beyond this.
- 15 Q. To your knowledge, was there ever anything more
- 16 broadly contemplated, rather than a review about
- 17 storage of information but a review of the
- 18 substance of what the independent expert had
- 19 said?
- 20 A. This is the final version of 16, is it?
- 21 Q. Yes. If we go to FUJ00121632, this is the email
- 22 distributing the "Commercial Forum Minutes No 16
- 23 (Final)". If we scroll down, please. It says,
- 24 "Pam, please find 'final' minutes attached", and
- 25 the document I've shown you was an attachment to 178
 - an expert like this might be appointed in the
- 2 future, and how we could avoid getting an expert
- 3 like this rather than examining the substance of
- 4 what the expert said and seeing whether it might
- 5 be accurate or not, which is what I was asking
- 6 about?

1

- 7 Yeah, so I think it's reliance on non-expert
- 8 data, so not relying on an expert.
- 9 Q. What did you understand that the discussion in
- 10 the future between both parties to be about --
- 11 A. Ensure that there was enough data evidence to
- 12 support the system, given the context of how
- 13 Commercial Fujitsu and Commercial Post Office
- 14 viewed the system at the time.
- Q. Did that happen? 15
- A. As I say, I'd have to go back to the subsequent 16
- 17 minutes after 16 to review what happened to that
- 18 action point.
- Q. You've got no independent recollection. We've 19 20 got the minutes.
- 21 If you have the minutes -- I don't know but,
- 22 I mean, if you can share the minutes.
- 23 Q. Well, the subsequent minutes don't translate 24 that action into an action.
- 25 Potentially, I think that the matter passed

1		away, in other words there wasn't the	1	Q.	What was that view based on?
2		requirement for the expert because the number of	2	A.	Based on the fact that they had produced data
3		instances that were raised at a commercial level	3		or they hadn't come up to commercial, there had
4		in terms of prosecutions was so few.	4		been instances where they had used the system's
5	Q.	What about the fact that the Post Office was	5		data to show that transactions were not that
6		using the self-same system as the basis for	6		the system was correct.
7		prosecuting people?	7	Q.	I think what you're referring to here is, in
8	A.	Can you just repeat the question?	8		particular, Mr Baines's witness statement; is
9	Q.	Yes. What about the fact that the Post Office	9		that right?
10	-	was using the self-same system, Horizon, and the	10	Α.	Partially that but also the point that there
11		data that it produced, as the basis for	11		were, in discussions we've had earlier on from
12		prosecutions? Did anyone mention that in this	12		Jan Holmes, was that in the past, that the use
13		context, "We've had an expert report from	13		of transaction data had been successfully used
14		somebody, we don't much like it, but we ought to	14		in prosecutions.
15		check somehow to see whether what he's saying	15	0	So if we just look at given that you've
16		might have substance because we're using this	16	Œ.	mentioned it couple of times what Mr Baines
17			17		said. It's POL00118219. It's page 3. It's
		system to prosecute people, some of whom are	18		a rather short witness statement, if we scroll
18		going to go to prison, some of whom families			·
19		are going to be broken up, some of whom are not	19		down. He says who he is in paragraph 1. He
20		going to see their children".	20		says that the contents are true to the best of
21	A.	I understand that. I understand all of that.	21		his knowledge in 2. He explains Horizon in 3.
22		But at this point in time, I think there was	22		Over the page, please. He says:
23		just reliance on the system. I go back to the	23		"Before January 2003, the Post Office was
24		witness statements, you know, the commercial	24		aloud 50 audit extraction requests per year
25		view was the system was reliable. 181	25		within the fixed price of a service and, subject 182
1		to capacity limits of Fujitsu could purchase	1		Mr Jacobs and not from Mr Henry or Ms Patrick.
2		others at additional cost. The system would	2		So just one set of questions from Core
3		have been fully checked before being issued at	3		Participants, if you just wait there.
4		Cleveleys	4	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Over to you, Mr Jacobs.
5		"Every branch has the same type of equipment	5		Questioned by MR JACOBS
6		"	6	MR	JACOBS: Thank you, sir.
7		(5), and I think this is the paragraph that	7		Mr Lenton-Smith, I represent 157
8		you're referring to:	8		subpostmasters and I'm instructed by Howe+Co.
9		"Any faults that occurred in the Horizon	9		I want to ask you about the Post Office's
10		System were eliminated once they were	10		objectives in relation to Mr Coyne's evidence.
11		identified. Whilst it is possible for mistakes	11		Now, you were taken to we don't need to turn
12		to occur, this usually through incorrect	12		it up again a letter from Jan Holmes to you,
13		inputting to the computer system in the office	13		dated 7 June 2004, in which Jan Holmes told you
14		affected by the mistake. All subpostmasters	14		what Mandy Talbot's view was, that the Post
15		were fully trained in the use of the Horizon	15		Office view was the safest thing to do was to
16		equipment. The system was fully tested before	16		throw money at it get a confidentiality
17		it was used by the Post Office and it is fit for	17		agreement and "how much to go away and keep your
18		its purpose. The system itself does not create	18		mouth shut"; do you recall that?
19		losses as is claimed by Mrs Wolstenholme."	19	A.	Mm-hm.
20		Is that the long and the short of what you	20	Q.	
21		describe as the commercial view?	21	u .	didn't know what Post Office's objectives were.
22	A.	Yes.	22		Can I ask you to look at a document which you've
23		BEER: Mr Lenton-Smith, thank you very much.	23		already seen today and which Ms Helliwell looked
24	WILK	They're the only questions I ask.	23		at earlier on. It's POL00095375.
4		rney to the only questions rask.	24		at daniel on. its i Octobboots.

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I think there are some questions from

183

If we can go down to the bottom of the first

page, and here we have Mr Baines saying to you, in relation to the expert opinion:

"As I'm sure you will understand, Post Office is concerned by these findings, not only in relation to this particular case, but also because of any precedent that this may set and that may be used by Post Office's agents [subpostmasters] to support claims that the Horizon System is causing errors in their branch accounts."

So is it right to say that Mr Baines, in this letter, was telling you that Post Office's objectives in relation to Mr Coyne's evidence was to keep this away from the "gaggle", as they were subsequently described, of subpostmasters, so that they wouldn't be able to defend themselves against allegations that concern alleged shortfalls generated by Horizon?

- 19 A. Can you go back to the previous page, please?
- 20 Yes. The highlighted section:

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- 21 "... Post Office is concerned by these 22 findings, not only in relation to this 23 particular case, but also because of any 24 precedent that this may set ..."
- 25 Α. So this is in the absence of transaction data, 185

Holmes' draft response to you, I believe, in respect of the letter that Keith Baines wrote to you that we just looked at. We see some more about precedent here but it's more specific. So it says:

"POL are concerned that the Expert's opinion (that the system was at fault) might set a precedent against future ... prosecutions."

So it's quite clear, isn't it, that both Mr Holmes and you knew what Post Office's objections were, or objectives amounted to, in respect of the expert report? It didn't want this being used by subpostmasters in relation to

14 defending themselves in prosecutions? A. So the expert report as it stood, which he 15 hasn't changed and which we were unable to 16 17 persuade Post Office to provide him more data, was the de facto basis that would be set as the 18 precedent --19

- 20 Q. Do you accept --
- 21 Α. -- or a precedent.
- 22 Q. -- that is a very serious issue. As Mr Beer has 23 said: people were being prosecuted --
- 24 A. I understand.
- 25 -- they were being put in prison, were not

2 the Post Office's position and, in the absence

that was thought that would have substantiated

3 of that, we have a report which Post Office

4 subsequently found unacceptable but that, in

5 itself, as it is published, would cause

6 a precedent to be set, in other words reliance 7 on an expert's --

8 Q. Yes, we heard evidence from -- and I don't know

9 if you heard, but Mr Coyne give evidence

10 yesterday. He stood by his report. He stood by

11 his report at the time. There was a report

12 which the Post Office didn't accept.

- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. But it was capable of being used by

subpostmasters to defend themselves against the 15

16 Post Office when the Post Office bought actions

17 in relation to shortfalls; that's right, isn't

18

19 A. I would have thought so, if it was in the public 20

21 Q. Then if we could also turn to FUJ00121486.

22 We'll wait for it to come up on the screen. If

23 we can go to the section that says,

24 "Background", and it's right at the bottom

25 there, it's the last paragraph. So this is Jan

1 seeing their children. You were asked earlier

2 on in your evidence today why didn't Fujitsu

3 have a rethink, given that, at least on one

4 view, what the expert was saying was right, and

5 we know, don't we, that what he said about blue

6 screening, money vanishing on reboot, that that

7 all came to pass. We know that it ultimately

8 was right?

9 Yes, but we're talking about at the time, so

this is -- we're talking about 2004. 10

Q. Yeah. 11

12 **A.** What came to pass in the future, we obviously

13 weren't aware of. The fact that there were

14 technical issues around -- I can't comment

15 because I wasn't a technical person but I think

16 in the statement Jan Holmes has made the point 17

that when -- as the technical issues arose, they

18 were being dealt with through the Fujitsu

19 support system.

Q. But don't you think that it would have been best 20

21 practice, instead of calling the expert a "git",

22 which Mr Holmes did, instead of trying to

23 dismiss what he'd said, to have a review based

24 on the potential at the time that this, that

25 what Mr Coyne was saying could be right, as it

1		subsequently turned out to be?	1		done; is that fair?
2	A.	So I'm not aware of what activities took place	2	A.	On the basis that nothing was happened
3		within the service function to take on board	3		nothing no recommendations came out of the
4		those comments. You talked about the blue	4		Cleveleys report, potentially.
5		screens, which I think they said were being	5	Q.	My clients take the view that, when one looks at
6		rectified or any other issues that had been	6		the views of Mandy Talbot, when one looks at the
7		raised in his report, so that that would be	7		correspondence that we've looked at between
8		a one for record of the service function and/or	8		Mr Holmes and yourself, it's quite clear that
9		software development to come up with or may have	9		Post Office were seeking to cover up their own
10		dealt with. But, at a commercial level, these	10		expert opinion that showed that Horizon was
11		matters would not arise because they were not of	11		defective because they didn't want that to get
12		a commercial issue.	12		out to subpostmasters. Do you accept that's
13	Q.	Why didn't you, just as a matter of good	13		a fair summary of what Post Office were doing at
14		practice, have a rethink about the Horizon	14		the time?
15		System as a result of the issues that the expert	15	A.	He didn't conclude that the system was
16		had raised?	16		defective. He construed that it might be
17	A.	I don't know that we didn't.	17		defective but he didn't have proof to say that
18	Q.	Well, you said you didn't?	18		it was defective. But sorry, just say your
19	A.	I don't know. I didn't personally. I'm talking	19		question again, sorry?
20		about me personally. I didn't. But I'm not	20	Q.	
21		sure whether the functions that were	21		seeking to cover up the expert report because
22		surrounded the system did.	22		they didn't want subpostmasters to find out what
23	Q.	Well, we know that in September 2004 there was	23		Mr Coyne had found.
24		a review of the Cleveleys case and that there	24	A.	
25		were no recommendations made. So nothing was	25	Q.	I have to suggest to you that your actions in
		189			190
1		failing to respond appropriately to Mr Coyne	1		or your department to take forward
2		were complicit in this cover-up, in failing to	2		an investigation of the extent to which
3		undertake a review and in seeking to dismiss,	3		Mr Coyne's opinions might be valid, all right?
4		rather than investigate?	4	A.	Yes.
5	A.	As I said, I don't know whether we didn't do	5	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Tell me whether you think there
6		that. I mean there may not have been	6		was a department or a person within Fujitsu who
7		recommendations in the internal report on the	7		would have been charged to take forward such
8		Cleveleys case but I can't comment, and we	8		an investigation if it was carried out? In
9		have but we have described that, as a result	9		other words, can you point me in the right
10		of particular issues, they were pushed through	10		direction so that I can investigate whether the
11		the first, second, third and fourth line of	11		appropriate person in Fujitsu carried out any
12		support issues and to rectify some of it to	12		investigation?
13		rectify some of the issues. So I can't say that	13	A.	So I think within the service infrastructure,
14		they were not acted upon. There's no evidence	14		service department, that managed the first,
15		to say that they were not acted upon.	15		second and third line support functions, the
16	MR	JACOBS: Well, thank you, I might just have some	16		Service Director may well have is possibly
17		further questions for you.	17		the person to whom they those corrective
18		No, I haven't. That all I have for you.	18		measures should have been applied. Any software
19		Thank you.	19		development, bugs, issues, which I'm sure you've
20	THE	E WITNESS: Thank you.	20		been through, would fall to the software
21		Questioned by SIR WYN WILLIAMS	21		development, Software Services Director.
22	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: The impression I get,	22	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: So I don't want to make this too
23	٠٠	Mr Lenton-Smith, is that you consider and for	23	J	simplistic but through Mr Holmes and
-		,,			

25 **A.** Yes.

24

25

all I know at the moment, you may be right --

that it would not have been for you personally

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Mr Holmes is a technical man, isn't he?

1	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Inrough Wir Holmes, il Fujitsu	i wir beer: it is, yes, thank you.
2	wanted to, they would be able to ascertain	2 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, 10.00 tomorrow.
3	sufficient information about the expert's	3 (4.10 pm)
4	opinion and then, through Mr Holmes, engage the	4 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
5	right people in Fujitsu to carry out such	5 the following day)
6	investigation as was necessary, in order to	6
7	validate or disprove what the expert had been	7
8	saying.	8
9	A. Yes.	9
10	Q. So I understand it could have been done and	10
11	I understand your evidence to be that you don't	11
12	know if it was done?	12
13	A. That's correct.	13
14	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Thank you very much.	14
15	Thanks for coming to give evidence to me,	15
16	and thanks for the witness statement.	16
17	THE WITNESS: Thank you.	17
18	MR BEER: Thank you, sir, that's all of our evidence	18
19	today. We resume I think at 10.00 tomorrow.	19
20	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: You gave me a shock then,	20
21	Mr Beer.	21
22	MR BEER: It would have had given Mr Blake a shock	22
23	too because he's asking the questions tomorrow.	23
24	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So it's just Mr Holmes tomorrow,	24
25	is it?	25
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