Friday, 10 November 2023 1 reference for that is WITN09390100. 1 2 2 MS PRICE: Good morning sir, can you see and hear Thank you for coming to the Inquiry to 3 3 assist it in its work and for providing the 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you very much. 4 witness statement that you have. As you know, 5 MS PRICE: May we please call Ms Bernard. I will be asking questions on behalf of the 5 6 NATASHA PRUDENCIA BERNARD (sworn) 6 Inquiry. 7 Questioned by MS PRICE 7 Today I'm going to be asking you about MS PRICE: Can you confirm your full name, please, 8 8 issues which arise in Phase 4 of the Inquiry, 9 focusing on your involvement as an Investigator Ms Bernard? 9 10 Natasha Prudencia Bernard. 10 within the Security and Investigation Team in Α. Q. You should have in front of you a hard copy of 11 the criminal prosecution case study of 11 a witness statement in your name, dated 12 Mrs Oyeteju Adedayo. Before we turn to that 12 13 16 October of this year. Have you got that 13 case study, I'm going to be asking you about the there? 14 Security team and your role and the processes 14 A. Yes. 15 within that. 15 16 Q. If you can turn, please, to page 23 of that 16 You joined the Post Office in 1985; is that 17 document. Does your copy have a visible 17 right? signature? 18 18 That's correct. A. 19 Α. Yes. it does. 19 Q. As a counter clerk initially? 20 Q. Is that your signature? 20 A. In April 1998 you became an Assistant Branch A. It is. 21 21 22 Q. Are the contents of that statement true to the 22 Manager? 23 best of your knowledge and belief? 23 A. Yes. 24 24 Q. You stayed in this role until June 2000 when you A. Yes. 25 Q. For the purposes of the transcript, the 25 were promoted to an Investigation Manager; is 1 that right? 1 needed to use one of our rooms. When the person 2 A. That's correct. 2 approached me, I recognised him, I didn't know 3 Q. Are we right that an Investigation Manager is 3 where from. He said he'd come and talk to me 4 sometimes referred to as a Security Advisor --4 after he'd done the interview with his 5 A. That's correct. 5 colleague, and when he came afterwards we 6 Q. -- but they're essentially the same role? 6 realised that we went to school together, and 7 No, they weren't the same role. At one point we 7 his name was Tony Utting. So I was asking him how he got into 8 were referred to as Investigation Managers. I'm 8 9 Investigations and he told me at that time that not sure if that was at the start or in the 9 10 middle or at the end, but we were also known as 10 they were going to have -- that vacancies were 11 Security Advisors and at that point was where 11 coming out in January 2000. So I applied. Security and Investigation became one --Was it common for Security and Investigation 12 12 13 Q. I see. 13 Team members to be drawn from other non-security 14 Α. -- as in the role became combined. 14 areas of the business rather than being Q. You left the Post Office in February 2011; is 15 recruited externally? 15 16 that right? A. That was the first -- I'd seen people in the 16 A. I did, yes. 17 Security and Investigation Team in the past. 17 Q. How did you come to apply to join the Security 18 I think then it was called Post Office 18 19 Investigations Department and it seemed to be --19 team? there didn't seem to be many of them and I think 20 A. If I can -- if I recall correctly, I was working 20 21 at Acton branch office and I was -- I think 21 at that time they had a huge recruitment 22 I was the manager at the time. The -- somebody 22 campaign and I think they were -- they'd 23 from the Post Office Investigation Department 23 actually taken people from within the Post 24 came. They were going to interview 24 Office and externally. 25 25 a subpostmaster who was local in Acton and they Q. You say in your statement that when you became 3

- 1 an Investigation Manager you complete the
- 2 security foundation course; is that right?
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. How long did that course last?

weeks residential.

- 5 $\,$ **A.** If I remember correctly, I think it was two
- 7 Q. Can you recall now what topics were covered on
- 8 the course? If you need to refer to your
- 9 statement, feel free to.
- 10 A. I can -- I've still got them, actually. I think
- 11 there were 17 or so modules that had to be
- 12 complete before we started the course and then,
- on the first day of the course, there was
- 14 an exam to sit and if you didn't pass that
- 15 exam -- I think it was a multiple choice as
- 16 opposed to just an exam -- if you didn't pass
- 17 then you would have to take it a few days later
- and then, if you still didn't pass, then you
- 19 would have -- I think you'd be sent home.
- And then there was -- at the end of the two weeks there was another exam which you had to
- 22 pass
- 23 Q. You say in your statement that you were made
- aware on the course of Post Office policies,
- 25 around the duty on an investigator to
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- 1 working in Twickenham at the time so he was
- 2 based in Twickenham as well so I think, just
- 3 because we were both in the same office, he --
- 4 I could go to him about anything. I would
- 5 shadow him. He would -- if I remember correctly
- 6 I think he was reading my reports, as well.
- 7 I can't remember.
- 8 Q. Who was your line manager when you started in
- 9 the role?
- 10 A. So my line manager was Paul Fielding, who used
- 11 to deal with the physical security, and because
- 12 I was assigned to Investigations I had -- I was
- 13 kind of supervised, if you like, by Tony Utting
- 14 because he was more Investigations.
- 15 Q. In the 11 years that followed the initial
- 16 security foundation course, did you receive any
- 17 other formal training?
- 18 A. Not that I can recall.
- 19 $\,$ **Q**. Looking, then, to other forms of guidance which
- 20 were available to you, relating to the conduct
- of investigations, you say at paragraph 21 of
- your statement that two of the policy documents
- 23 sent to you by the Inquiry -- please do turn
- 24 that up if you'd like to -- two of the documents
- 25 sent to you by the Inquiry for the purposes of

- 1 investigate a case fully and what this meant in
- 2 practice. From that training, what did you
- 3 understand the duty to investigate a case fully
- 4 to mean?
- 5 A. By looking at all lines of inquiry that --
- 6 that's about all I can remember.
- 7 Q. Were any examples given of how an investigator
- 8 might seek to comply with that duty in practice?
- 9 A. I can't remember.
- 10 Q. You don't mention in your statement receiving
- 11 training on disclosure in the context of that
- 12 security foundation course. Is it right, as you
- say in your statement, that you cannot recall
- 14 whether you had any specific training on
- 15 disclosure while you worked at the Post Office?
- 16 A. I don't remember having training on disclosure
- during that foundation course. There may well
- 18 have been but I don't remember it.
- 19 Q. After you were appointed, you were assigned
- 20 a mentor, weren't you?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. This was David Posnett?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- 24 Q. What was his role as a mentor to you?
- 25 A. I could go -- I was working -- I think I was
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- 1 preparing your statement were ones which, having
- 2 reviewed, you think guided you on what needed to
- 3 be contained in the legal report; is that right?
- 4 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 5 Q. Those two documents were the casework management
- 6 policies, version 1, dated March 2000, and
- 7 version 4, dated October 2002. Before we go to
- 8 those documents can you explain, please, what
- 9 the legal report was?
- 10 A. The legal report was a report that we would
- 11 write after we'd completed an investigation,
- 12 after we'd done the interview and that would be
- 13 for the Legal team.
- 14 Q. That was prepared by Investigators, was it --
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 **Q.** -- who'd been involved? You say the Legal team:
- 17 who was that?
- 18 A. The Criminal Law Team for Post Office. So Post
- 19 Office Legal Services I think they were called
- at the time.
- 21 **Q.** Was that the process for seeking legal advice on
- 22 a case for the whole time you were
- 23 an Investigation Manager?
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 Q. Could we have on screen, please, the first of

the casework management policies. The reference is POL00104747. Looking first, please, at page 5 of this document. We can see, scrolling down, please, at section 5, this includes details of the document including an "Effective from" date of March 2000. The "Assurance Details" in the next section appear not to have been completed and, over the page, please, the final review section also appears not to have been completed. So it is possible that this document is not the final approved version. However, the material parts of the wording we're going to look at is materially the same as the later version, which we'll come on to. Going back, please, to page 1 of this document. The "Purpose" of this policy at section 1 is said to be: "The aim of this policy is to ensure that

"The aim of this policy is to ensure that adequate controls are in place to maintain standards throughout investigation processes."

Section 2 covers the "Link to

Then section 3.1, "Reporting Standards".

Accountabilities", and identifies "Security

This bullet point, the first one here, gives some background to what follows and it reads in this way:

"Industrial Tribunals have criticised the practice of refusing to disclose investigation reports to interviewees on the grounds of privilege. As a consequence, it is now business policy to release investigation reports to the subjects of those investigations during the disciplinary process. It is therefore essential that consistent standards are applied by all ... in the Security Community when compiling investigation reports to comply with business requirements whilst avoiding unauthorised disclosure of sensitive material."

Moving to the fourth bullet point here, we have this:

"In the majority of investigation cases, the investigation report alone will adequate limit. The requirements of both the prosecution and conduct processes. In some cases, however, it is necessary to protect sensitive information which, if disclosed, could damage either ongoing enquiries, the anonymity of informants or the reputation of Consignia."

Just going on to the fifth bullet point:

"For cases in England and Wales, sensitive information should be detailed in a separate report clearly marked with the level of sensitivity (In Confidence/In Strictest Confidence etc) and placed in a sealed envelope enclosed in the case papers sent to Legal Services, Criminal Law Division and must be listed on form CS006D and if necessary CS006E as sensitive information."

Just pausing there, the asterisk there, and we see where it links up further down, says:

"See Post Office Code of Practice under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996."

Do you know what that document was? Is that document as described there among those provided to you by the Inquiry?

18 A. The Post Office Code of Practice?

Q. Mm.

Managers".

20 A. I can't remember.

Q. Going further down the page please, there is, at
the bottom of the page, a list of things which
would count as sensitive information.

A. Mm-hm

25 Q. Going over the page, please, the first bullet

point we have here:

"Heads of Security should ensure that all face reports are vetted for content before copies are supplied for disciplinary purposes."

The next bullet goes on:

"In England and Wales, Legal Services will decide what information will be disclosed to the Defence in compliance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996."

The next bullet point deals with failures in security or operational procedures which are identified in the course of an inquiry. The bullet point down from that, so the fourth on this page, deals with information concerning procedural failures. It says this:

"The issue of dealing with information concerning procedural failures is a difficult one. Some major procedural weaknesses if they become public knowledge have the potential to assist others to commit offences against the Post Office, or to undermine the Prosecution case, or to bring Consignia into disrepute, or to harm relations with major customers such as the DSS or Girobank. Unless the Offender states that he is aware that accounting weaknesses

exist and that he took advantage of them, it is important not to volunteer that option to the Offender during interview. The usual duties of disclosure under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 still apply."

You said in your statement that you remembered using this document to guide you with what needed to be contained in the legal report when you reviewed it for the purposes of preparing your statement. Do you now remember the guidance given in this bullet point that we've just read through? Is that familiar to vou?

14 A. No, it's not familiar to me.

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- Q. 15 What do you understand this paragraph to be 16 instructing someone to do, where a major 17 procedural weakness has been identified in the 18 course of an investigation and it had the 19 potential to undermine the prosecution case or 20 bring the business into disrepute?
- 21 A. It seems like it's saying that you shouldn't 22 bring it up to the suspect offender during 23 an interview, like volunteering that 24 information, because it will give them a way to 25 explain their behaviour. That's what I'm

29 November 2001.

Having looked at both of these documents and having recognised them as the documents that guided you, as you say, on the content of the legal reports, can you help with the way the dates are on this document? No, not at all. I wouldn't have been involved

9 any of this. 10 Q. Going back, please, to page 1 of this document and scrolling down a little to the second bullet 11 12 point, please. We can see that this second 13 bullet point has changed from the last version 14 we looked at and it says this -- the first 15 bullet point remains materially unchanged. The

second bullet point says:

in -- I wouldn't have been involved in drafting

"As a consequence of this criticism there is now a necessity for Security Managers to prepare two reports, both of which are to be included within the case file. One report is to be clearly marked 'CONFIDENTIAL': (insert name of business) and addressed to our Legal Services. The second report is to be marked 'CONFIDENTIAL': (insert name of business) and addressed 'For the attention of the Discipline

understanding this to mean. 1

2 Q. The terminology that was being used in this 3 paragraph to describe someone being investigated 4 for a potential offence is that of an offender, isn't it, on the terms of that paragraph? Was 5 6 that the terminology that was used at the time 7 to describe a suspect.

8 A. Suspect offender.

9 Q. Do you understand that paragraph to include 10 an instruction that accounting weaknesses, which 11 might be relevant to the case against the person 12 being interviewed, should not be disclosed to 13 the suspect at least in interview? 14 Α.

Q. Could we have on screen, please, version 4 of 15 16 this "Casework Management" document, which is 17 dated October 2002. The reference is POL00104777. Going, please, to page 6 of this 18 19 document. We see at the bottom of the page, 20 a little further down, please, the date of 21 October 2002. In section 5 a bit further up, we 22 have the "Effective date" as being from February 23 2002 and a last update date of November 2001. 24 Then below that, at section 6, the "Assurance 25 Details" give the last "Assurance Date" as 14

Manager'. This is known as the Conduct report." Does that description of those two reports sound right to you in terms of the --

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Q. -- reports that you made at the time? Going over the page to page 2, please. The second bullet point down on this page is also different from the last version, and it says:

"The Prosecution Support Office will ensure 10 that all investigation reports are vetted for content before copies our supplied for 11 12 disciplinary purposes."

13 Do you recall there being a Prosecution 14 Support Office which the Post Office Security 15 Team liaised with?

A. There was one. There was something called the 16 17 Prosecution Support Office but I can't remember 18 where it was. I can't remember who was in it.

19 Q. One bullet point which remains unchanged in all 20 material respects is the fifth bullet point on 21 this page. The wording is the same, isn't it, 22 as the paragraph dealing with "information 23 concerning procedural failures" in the last 24 version we looked at, save that "Consignia" has

25 been replaced with "our Business".

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Turning, then, to the remainder of the policies you reviewed from those sent to you by the Inquiry to assist with the preparation of your statement, these are the ones listed at paragraph 20 of your statement, if you want to have that in front of you.

In respect of the Post Office policies, you say in your paragraph 21 of your statement that you do not specifically remember them, but you appreciate that you would have been aware of them at the time of your employment, but the Royal Mail Group ones you do not recall any of or you do not think you would have been aware of them at the time of your employment; is that right?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

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- 17 Q. Where were the Post Office policies kept so that Post Office employees could access them? 18
- 19 A. So I only really accessed the policies at the 20 start. I remember during -- either during 21 training, either before training, during 22 training or after training, I can't remember
- 23 when, it was when we had to look at these a lot. 24 But I don't remember where they were, where they
- 25 were kept. I don't remember.

- 1 a little blue book that used to be part of my 2 tackle kit.
- 3 Q. I'm sorry, can I ask you to explain that 4 expression as well?
- 5 A. So just all the equipment and stuff that we 6 would take with us, I would have like the Police 7 and Criminal Evidence Act in a pouch, along with 8 the CPIA, small booklet.
- 9 Q. So we can see from the title that this document covers the disclosure of unused material. 10
- Mm-hm. Α. 11

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Q. It refers in the title to the Criminal Procedure 12 Investigation Act 1996 Codes of Practice. We 13 14 can see from the bottom of the page that it's 15 dated May 2001. Going to the last page, please, 16 page 4. We can see the last "Assurance Date" is 17 4 May 2001, although again the "Final Review" 18 box appears empty.

> Going back to page 1, please, the "Introduction" here explains that:

"The rules relating to the disclosure of unused material to the Defence are laid down in the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

"In light of the Human Rights Act 1998 the

Q. One of the documents you list at paragraph 20 of 1 2 your statement as one that you reviewed when we 3 sent it to you is the "Disclosure of Unused 4 Material -- Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 Codes of Practice" 5 6 policy, dated May 2001. Could we have that on 7 screen, please. The reference is POL00104762. 8 Did you recognise this document when it was

9 provided to you by the Inquiry for the purposes 10 of preparing your statement? A. I think I recognised the wording as opposed to 11

the actual policy. Like it was -- the wording 12 13 was familiar to me.

14 Q. Is it a document you referred to in the same way 15 you referred to the casework management 16 documents, in terms of guiding you?

17 A. Not particularly this document, but perhaps the 18 little blue book that is what I would have in my 19 tackle kit. So I think that's where

20 I recognised the wording from, as opposed to 21 recognising the actual policy itself.

22 Q. Sorry, can you just say that again? The which 23 book?

24 A. The CPIA, it was like a light blue, tiny little 25 A5, I don't know, half the size of an A4 --

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Attorney General has issued new guidelines on 2 the disclosure of unused material. The Guidelines clarify the responsibilities of Investigators, Disclosure Officers, Prosecutors and Defence Practitioners."

> Then further down the page, please, the "General Principles" section. There's a section here for "Investigators and Disclosure Officers" and an Investigator is defined at that first bullet point as:

"An Investigator [being] a person involved in the conduct of a criminal investigation involving Consignia. All Investigators have a responsibility for carrying out the duties imposed on them under this Code, including in particular recording information, and retaining records of information and other material."

At the second bullet point we have this: "Investigators and Disclosure Officers must be fair and objective and must work together with prosecutors to ensure that disclosure obligations are met. A failure to take action leading to proper disclosure may result in a wrongful conviction. It may alternatively lead to a successful abuse of process argument

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or an acquittal against the weight of the evidence."

The third bullet point:

"In discharging their obligations under the statute, code, common law and any operational instructions, investigators should always err on the side of recording and retaining material where they have any doubt as to whether it may be relevant "

Moving, then to the second bullet point on this page:

"The Disclosure Officer is the person responsible for examining material retained during an investigation, revealing material to Legal Services during the investigation and any criminal proceedings resulting from it, and certifying to Legal Services that he has done this. Normally the Investigator and the Disclosure Officer will be the same person."

Do you recall that being the case, that the Investigator and the Disclosure Officer in a case were usually the same person?

A. No. I never saw myself as a Disclosure Officer;
I just saw myself as an Investigator but,
according to this, I was both.

At the time you were an Investigator, did you understand that you had a duty specifically to draw material to the attention of the prosecutor, where you were the Disclosure Officer, where you were in any doubt as to whether something might undermine the prosecution case or assist the defence?

A. Sorry, can you repeat that?

Q. I'm sorry, it was a very long question. At the time, when you were an Investigator, did you understand you to have a duty to draw material to the attention of the prosecutor where you were in any doubt as to whether it might undermine the prosecution case or assist the defence?

A. I think at the time I may not have understood it fully. After leaving the Post Office, I went and had -- I had another job and then I decided that I wanted to get a qualification, and it was only after -- it was only doing the qualification that I think I got a better understanding of disclosing information to --that would undermine the prosecution or assist the defence.

Q. The bullet point below that reads:

Q. You say similarly in your statement that you cannot recall having any official role in
 relation to disclosure, other than sourcing and
 providing documents as and when requested.
 Should we take that to mean that you do not recall having been the Disclosure Officer in the
 cases you investigated?

8 A. Yes.

Q. Having now seen the documents provided to you by
 the Inquiry, do you accept that, at least on
 some occasions, you were the Disclosure Officer
 in cases you were investigating?

13 A. Yes, I accept that now.

Q. Going down the page, please, to the bullet point
about halfway down the page, under the section
in bold, this covers Disclosure Officers making
sure that descriptions by Disclosure Officers in
non-sensitive schedules are clear. Then the
bullet point below this says this:

"Disclosure Officers must specifically draw material to the attention of the Prosecutor for consideration where they have any doubt as to whether it might undermine the prosecution case or might reasonably be expected to assist the Defence disclosed by the accused."

"Disclosure Officers must seek the advice and assistance of prosecutors when in doubt as to their responsibility, and must deal expeditiously with requests by the prosecutor for further information on material which may lead to disclosure."

Who was the prosecutor in cases you investigated on behalf of the Post Office?

A. I'm guessing it would have been the Criminal Law
 Team, but then the prosecutor was -- I just
 remember Bell -- I think it was Bell Yard,
 that's where all the barristers were. I don't
 know.

14 Q. In the context of this instruction, in this
15 document, it may be that you never went to the
16 prosecutor to ask but, had you had a disclosure
17 query and you'd been looking for someone to ask
18 who was the prosecutor, who would you have gone
19 to?

A. I would probably have asked, if I didn't -- if
 I was unsure where to put something when I was
 preparing a committal, it would be my colleagues
 or the Criminal Law Team or a manager.

Q. Were you ever in any doubt about yourresponsibilities as they related to disclosure?

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- A. I don't think I fully understood, at the time, 1 2 about disclosure. I can't -- I can't really 3 remember. 4 It is not referenced in this document but were 5 you aware, when you were an Investigator, that 6 there was an obligation on a criminal 7 investigator to pursue lines of inquiry which 8 pointed away from the guilt of the suspect? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Turning then to the process which was followed from the start of an investigation to 11 a prosecution being brought, you say at 12 13 paragraph 18 of your statement that there was 14 another team within the Post Office, you refer 15 to this team as the Casework Function Team, what 16 was that team's role? 17 A. I think that was the Casework Management Team 18 and all the cases, I think, used to start, not 19 necessarily there, because if something was 20 reported to a line manager, then they may raise 21 the case themselves and then inform the Casework 22
- Management Team. But there was a team who kind 23 of dealt with all the admin, so that when the 24 cases will come from there, they would go to 25 your line manager, they would then assign 1 explain, please, what the training covered and 2 what process you followed in your interviews? 3 If you need to refer to paragraph 15, please do. 4 A. I can't remember. I know one of the modules 5 covered -- I think it covered interviews. 6 I believe, during the actual training, the 7 residential training -- I can't remember
- 8 specifically about interviews. 9 You say in your statement that you would always inform the individual of their right to legal 10 representation and a friend? 11
- 12 A. Yes
- 13 Q. Do you recall that?
- 14 A. Yes, I do recall that.
- Q. In general terms, do you recall there ever being 15 16 an occasion when a suspect said something in 17 interview which led to further enquiries being
- 18 made by you as the Investigator?
- A. I don't recall. 19
- 20 Q. You don't recall whether that happened or you 21 don't recall making further enquiries when 22 someone said something or raised something in
- 23 an interview?
- 24 I'm just trying to think of something specific 25 and I can't think -- there's nothing that comes 27

1 an Investigator and then, during the course of 2 the investigation, the -- you may send the file 3 back to the Casework team who would then put 4 a memo in and then send it to the Criminal Law 5

6 I didn't -- I don't know what their 7 processes were but I think that's what their --8 that's what they spent their time doing.

Q. Where a case involved a shortfall having been 9 10 identified in a branch on audit, you say in your 11 statement that the Investigation Team would get a call from the Audit Team. Can you explain, 12

13 please, what happened after that call, from 14 an investigatory perspective?

15 A. So the audit -- I'm not sure if the Audit Team 16 contacted the Casework Management Team or their 17 line manager, who then may then escalate things 18 but, once the call came into the Investigation

19 team leader, it would be up to that team leader

20 to assign -- ask an Investigator to go to the 21 office to conduct the investigation.

22 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 15 that 23 your role included carrying out interviews under

24 caution of those accused of a criminal offence 25

and you had full training on this. Can you

1 to mind but I'm sure there probably were 2 occasions when that happened but I can't think

3 of any -- I can't think of an example right now.

4 Q. Coming, then, to the reports which you completed 5 once an investigation was done, it appears from 6 your statement that you recall there being at

7 least two different reports produced by

8 Investigators, and that's in line with the

9 second Casework Management policy we looked at.

10 A.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 11 you would write a report 12 to the Contracts and Services Manager, and that 13 was the conduct report, was it?

14 A. Yes

15 Q. That report was only allowed to contain facts 16 about what happened and not an opinion?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. But you would also write a report to the Criminal Law Team --19

20 A.

Q. -- in which you could express an opinion on next 21 22 steps, including a recommendation on charges; is 23 that right?

24 A.

Q. Did you have any training in criminal law to

- 1 assist you in making recommendations on charges?
- 2 A. Not that I can recall.
- 3 Q. Can you recall what test you were applying when4 making recommendations on charges?
- 5 A. If you'd have asked me this question without me
- 6 having seen any of the documents, then
- 7 I wouldn't be able to answer but, having read
- 8 this, I can recall from this information the
- 9 public interest test.
- 10 Q. You say at paragraph 17 of your statement that,
- 11 ultimately, any charging decision was up to the
- 12 Criminal Law Team; is that right?
- 13 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 14 Q. You reference at paragraph 11 that you thought
- 15 you produced a third type of report but you
- 16 can't recall now the content or purpose of that
- 17 third report. Does that remain the case or have
- 18 you remembered anything further about this since
- 19 preparing your statement?
- 20 A. I was convinced that there were three reports
- 21 and -- but, having looked at the information,
- 22 it's probably why I can't remember because there
- 23 wasn't a third report. It may have been --
- I always, I just always thought there was three.
- 25 I don't know -- I think I was probably wrong.
- 1 the person being interviewed had made any
- 2 significant statement; any kind of schedules
- 3 that had been prepared to reflect the evidence.
- 4 Q. Were the Criminal Law Team reliant on
- 5 Investigation Managers to identify potential
- 6 sources of information and documents that were
- 7 relevant for disclosure?
- 8 A. Yeah, I'd expect so.
- 9 Q. Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 19 of
- 10 Ms Bernard's statement, that's WITN09390100.
- 11 It's page 5 of that document -- a little further
- down, just to paragraph 19.
 - You say here:

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- "Once we had carried out the investigation, we would submit the case to the Criminal Law Team who would look at the evidence and draft advice on prosecution. If prosecution was going ahead, we would prepare the committal and issue
- 19 the summons."
- Who decided whether a prosecution was going ahead?
- 22 A. The Criminal Law Team or -- I don't know if it
- 23 was down to a particular person. I remember
- 24 vaguely prosecution authority but that's not
- 25 from memory, that's only through reading this

- 1 Q. You say at paragraph 16 of your statement that,
- 2 once you had written your legal report, you
- 3 would submit it to the Criminal Law Team with
- 4 the relevant documents?
- 5 A. Mm-hm.
- 6 Q. Was there a checklist of steps to take and what
- 7 information to obtain or any other guidance to
- 8 ensure that all relevant information was sent to
- 9 the Criminal Law Team?
- 10 A. I think there was something. Now, I don't know
- 11 if it was a policy or if it was something that
- 12 had been made or created by a member of the
- 13 Security and Investigation Team. So like an aid
- for us to follow. But I can recall that there
- 15 was something but I don't know who generated it
- 16 or created it.
- 17 Q. Can you remember what it said?
- 18 A. It was similar to the Casework Management
- 19 policy, so I'm guessing it was probably -- it
- 20 was based on that.
- 21 **Q.** As a matter of practice, what documents would
- you provide to the Criminal Law Team?
- 23 A. So the report; any exhibits; any witness
- 24 statements that had been taken; things like
- 25 notebook entries; if the customer -- sorry, if
 - 3
- 1 bundle. So it would come from them whether we
- 2 were going to prosecute.
- 3 Q. Sorry it would come from who?
- 4 A. The Criminal Law Team in their advice.
- 5 Q. Did that change at all, as far as you can
- 6 recall, in the 11 years you were
- 7 an Investigation Manager?
- 8 A. I don't recall.
- 9 Q. Can you recall any times where the Criminal Law
- 10 Team recommended that no further action be taken
- 11 in respect of the case?
- 12 A. Are you talking specifically about audit
- 13 shortages, or any?
- 14 Q. Well, any cases across the board, to start with?
- 15 A. Yes, I think -- I can't remember specifically
- but, yes, I'm sure there was.
- 17 Q. Can you remember any audit shortages --
- 18 **A.** Where?
- 19 Q. -- cases where the Criminal Law Team advised no
- 20 further action, as opposed to prosecution?
 - 21 A. I wouldn't be able to name a case, no.
- 22 $\,$ Q. In terms of your involvement in disclosure after
- the decision had been made to proceed to
- 24 prosecution, you say in your statement that the
- 25 Criminal Law Team would list additional

					-
1		documents and evidence that they required and it	1	A.	That's correct, yes.
2		was your job to source and provide this. Other	2	Q.	Can you confirm, please, that it is your
3		than responding to requests from them for	3		signature underneath the redaction?
4		documents, did the Investigation Team conduct	4	A.	Yes, I can confirm that.
5		any further evidential inquiries themselves of	5	Q.	This document is dated 15 January 2010. There's
6		their own initiative, after the decision had	6		just one item listed on this schedule and in the
7		been made to proceed with the prosecution?	7		"Description" column it is:
8	Α.	I think then an Investigator would if there	8		"Article relating to integrity of Horizon
9		was something that they felt needed to be	9		system, supplied with accompanying letter by
10		included that wasn't listed in the advice, that	10		defendant."
11		they would do that, yes.	11		Can you recall anything about this article
12	Q.	Could we have on screen, please, document	12		now?
13	ų.	reference POL00026980.	13	A.	No.
14		This is a "Schedule of Sensitive Material",	14	Q.	Would you have read the article, given that you
15		which appears to have been prepared by you when	15		were providing comment on it in this document?
16		acting in the role of Disclosure Officer. So we	16	Α.	If I was supplied with it I would like to think
17		can see your name at the bottom there and the	17		that I read it, yes.
18		declaration at the top:	18	Q.	The reason that this was said to be sensitive
19		"The Disclosure Officer believes that the	19		was that it could be used as mitigation, ie to
20		following material, which does not form part of	20		blame Horizon system for loss. On the face of
21		the prosecution case, IS SENSITIVE."	21		this, if a document were thought potentially to
22		The copy on screen has the signature	22		benefit the defence in this way, was this not
23		redacted out but I understand you've been	23		a case for disclosure, as opposed to against it?
24		provided with a copy without the redaction; is	24	A.	I would say, yes, now.
25		that right?	25	Q.	The placing of an item on a sensitive schedule
		33			34
1		meant that the defence would not be made aware	1		early. I've just finished one topic and the
2		of it. Did you understand that at the time, in	2		next topic is a little lengthier.
3		general, about sensitive schedules?	3	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, by all means. So what's the
4	A.	Yes, but, looking at this, I thought this had	4		time by now? Well, we'll call it 10.55, so
5		come from the defence.	5		11.10?
6	Q.	Was the only sensitivity here that the article	6	MS	PRICE: Yes, sir, thank you.
7		was unhelpful to the Post Office?	7		WYN WILLIAMS: Fine.
8	Α.	I don't know.	8		.53 am)
9	Q.	Was this the first time that you became aware of	9	`	(A short break)
10		anyone questioning the Horizon system and	10	(11	.10 am)
11				,	PRICE: Hello, sir. Can you see and hear us?
12		hlaming if for loss or had you been made aware	11	MS	
14		blaming it for loss or had you been made aware	11		•
	^	of this before?	12	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
13	Α.	of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned	12 13	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. PRICE: Could we have on screen, please,
13 14	A.	of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen	12 13 14	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is
13 14 15	Α.	of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't	12 13 14 15	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document.
13 14 15 16		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left.	12 13 14 15 16	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads:
13 14 15 16 17	A. Q.	of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left. Setting aside the fact that this document	12 13 14 15 16 17	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads: "I can also recall having training on how
13 14 15 16		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left.	12 13 14 15 16	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads:
13 14 15 16 17		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left. Setting aside the fact that this document	12 13 14 15 16 17	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads: "I can also recall having training on how
13 14 15 16 17 18		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left. Setting aside the fact that this document appears to have come from the defendant, do you	12 13 14 15 16 17	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads: "I can also recall having training on how the Horizon system worked and that it
13 14 15 16 17 18 19		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left. Setting aside the fact that this document appears to have come from the defendant, do you recognise now that the justification given on	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	SIR	PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads: "I can also recall having training on how the Horizon system worked and that it essentially worked as a giant calculator."
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left. Setting aside the fact that this document appears to have come from the defendant, do you recognise now that the justification given on this schedule was not a proper justification for	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads: "I can also recall having training on how the Horizon system worked and that it essentially worked as a giant calculator." This description of Horizon as a giant
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		of this before? I don't recall. I don't recall when I learned about the Horizon system. If I hadn't have seen this, I would have probably said that I didn't know about it until after I left. Setting aside the fact that this document appears to have come from the defendant, do you recognise now that the justification given on this schedule was not a proper justification for the inclusion of material on a sensitive	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. PRICE: Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of Ms Bernard's statement. That is WITN09390100, page 13 of that document. Paragraph 38 reads: "I can also recall having training on how the Horizon system worked and that it essentially worked as a giant calculator." This description of Horizon as a giant calculator, where or who did that come from?

whatever you put into it, it calculated it and

25

I ask that we take the morning break a little

1 threw it out.

- 2 Q. What did your training on Horizon consist of?
- 3 A. So to start with, when I first joined the Post
- 5 A. 50 to start with, when i first joined the Post
- 4 Office, there wasn't any Horizon or anything.
- 5 I don't remember when but there was a system
- 6 called ECCO that came next and I was very
- 7 familiar with that, and then, when I was working
- 8 at Acton and I was -- Acton branch office, and
- 9 I was due to start working as an Investigator in
- the June, I don't remember if Horizon had come
- 11 in to Acton at that point.
- 12 When I started work as an Investigator,
- 13 I think it was a case -- it wasn't formal
 - training, I think it was a case of just going --
- 15 I used to work at Croydon, the offices there and
- 16 there was a branch office downstairs. And
- 17 I think it was a case of just arranging with the
- 18 Branch Manager to go and sit behind someone for
- 19 a few days. So it was just sitting next to
- 20 somebody and watching them. There was no -- it
- 21 wasn't -- as far as I can recall.
- 22 Q. You say in your statement that, when you were
- 23 investigating an investigation for a shortfall,
- 24 you would usually request ARQ data from Fujitsu
- 25 as part of your investigation and that you did
 - 37
- 1 provided to the subpostmaster.
- 2 Q. You say that an extract was provided to the
- 3 Criminal Law Team rather than the full ARQ data.
- 4 So can you just explain what that extract might
- 5 be?

8

14

- 6 A. So this could be anything, not just necessarily
- 7 ARQ data. It could be a schedule that was
 - prepared, it could be, let's say, an extract --
- 9 if we had -- at the time of the audit, we'd
- 10 asked the auditor to run off the reports from
- 11 the Horizon system, it may be that you'd look
- through it and you might just photocopy
- 13 an extract from that.
- 14 Q. From Fujitsu, you recall dealing with Penny
- 15 Thomas but not Gareth Jenkins; is that right?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. How often would you speak to Penny Thomas?
- 18 A. I don't know. Not on a regular basis.
- 19 **Q.** Was she the person that you regularly spoke to
- when you asked for ARQ data?
- 21 A. Do you know, I don't remember how we had to
- 22 request the information. I don't think it
- 23 involved a phone call. There was probably
- 24 a process in place but I don't remember what

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25 that process was. I can't imagine it was

- 1 that as a matter of course. Do you recall,
- 2 though, there being a limit on the number of ARQ
- 3 requests which could be provided by Fujitsu?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Do you ever recall being told you could not have
- 6 the ARQ data in a case because of those limits?
- 7 A. Not that you couldn't have it but that you might
- 8 have to wait until the following month. I think
- 9 it was -- there was a limit to the amount that
- 10 could be requested during a particular period.
- 11 So you may have to wait until the start of the
- 12 next period to request something.
- 13 Q. You say at paragraph 46 of your statement, and
- if we can go to that, please, this is page 15,
- 15 you say:
- 16 "I cannot recall whether or not the data was
- 17 provided to the subpostmaster but I assume that
- 18 it would have been during disclosure. If
- 19 relevant, an extract from a report might be
- 20 provided to the Criminal Law Team within the
- 21 investigation documents."
- 22 So you assume that it would have been
- 23 provided during disclosure. Do you know that
- 24 that was the case?
- 25 A. No. I can only assume that it was -- that --

3

- 1 phoning her and asking her.
- 2 Q. Just trying to understand the context in which
- 3 you recall dealing with Penny Thomas, can you
- 4 help with that at all?
- 5 A. I remember speaking to her and I know I met her
- 6 but I can't recall what the conversation was
- 7 about or ...
- 8 Q. In cases involving Horizon data, how was
- 9 a financial loss or shortfall proved?
- 10 **A.** The auditors would verify the cash and stock
- 11 that was on hand at the audit, and then that
- 12 would be compared to what the Horizon system
- says and the difference would either show
- 14 an over or a short. That's my understanding.
- 15 Q. David Posnett was your mentor.
- 16 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 17 $\,$ Q. Did he remain your mentor for the whole time you
- 18 were an Investigator?
- 19 A. No, he would be somebody, as well as anybody
- 20 else in the Investigation Team. I could go to
- 21 any one of them.
- 22 $\,$ Q. Did he ever discuss with you any problems with
- the functioning of the Horizon system?
- 24 A. I don't recall that.
- 25 Q. Did he or anyone else ever discuss with you the

- 1 potential for problems with the system to impact
- 2 upon a subpostmaster's ability to balance in
- 3 branch?
- 4 A. I don't remember any conversations about the
- 5 Horizon system.
- 6 Q. It may follow but were you ever aware, in the
- 7 time you were an Investigator with the Post
- 8 Office, that balancing problems could result
- 9 from bugs, errors or defects in the system?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. I'd like to turn, please, to your involvement in
- 12 the investigation of Mrs Adedayo. You say in
- 13 your statement that you have no direct memory of
- 14 this case. Does that remain the case now?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Having seen the documents sent to you by the
- 17 Inquiry, can you explain, please, how you came
- 18 to be involved in Mrs Adedayo's case?
- 19 A. I think -- looking at the documentation, I was
- 20 asked to attend the office. I don't know who
- 21 asked me but I was asked to go and attend the
- 22 office. I don't remember how I got there.
- 23 I don't remember if I took a train or if
- somebody picked me up. I don't remember at all.
- 25 Q. You cover your involvement in your statement
 - 41
- 1 signed by Mrs Adedayo and witnessed by the
- 2 auditor on the day of the audit. Have you now
- 3 seen a copy of that note?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Was this provided to you by the auditor on the
- 6 day of the audit?
- 7 A. That's what I would assume, yes.
- 8 Q. Can we have that note on screen, please. It is
- 9 OADE0000001. We see at the bottom left there
- 10 "Witnessed by JR Valan". That was the Auditor,
- 11 was it?
- 12 A. Well, it says "Deepak". I don't know who
- 13 JR Valan is. I'm guessing. I think it says
- 14 Deepak Valani.
- 15 Q. We have the audit report from 5 September and
- 16 that is signed by the Branch Auditor Deepak
- 17 Valani --
- 18 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 19 Q. -- and we can see that it is signed, although
- 20 that signature is redacted, by Mrs Adedayo
- 21 a little further down.
- 22 At the top of this note, Mrs Adedayo used
- 23 the word "confessed". It says, "confessed the
- 24 auditor". Was it usual for a subpostmaster to
- 25 sign confession documents in front of an Auditor

- 1 starting at paragraph 54, so please do have that
- 2 in front of you if it would help. It appears
- 3 from paragraph 54 and the underlying documents,
- 4 that you went to the branch on 5 September 2005
- 5 to commence an investigation after the audit
- 6 identified an apparent shortfall of £52,864.08.
- 7 It's the figure you give in your statement. Is
- 8 it right that you attended with your colleague,
- 9 Adrian Morris?
- 10 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 11 Q. You say that you introduced yourself to
- 12 Mrs Adedayo, do you know what you would have
- 13 said to her about your role?
- 14 A. That we're here to talk to her about the audit
- shortage, probably something like that.
- 16 Q. You say she agreed to a voluntary interview.
- 17 What steps did you take to investigate the case
- 18 before you interviewed Ms Adedayo?
- 19 A. I would probably have spoken to the auditors.
- 20 I don't recall.
- 21 Q. Did you seek to obtain any evidence before the
- 22 interview?
- 23 A. I don't -- I can't remember. I don't know.
- 24 Q. It appears from the content of the interview
- 25 that you were in possession of a note which was
 - 4
- 1 on the day of an audit revealing a shortfall?
- 2 A. I've known Auditors in the past who, if the
- 3 subpostmaster says something, they may either
- 4 write a note at the time or ask the person
- 5 making the statement to write it out at the
- 6 time.
- 7 Q. There are obvious problems, are there not, with
- 8 this being done on the spot like this, before
- 9 a subpostmaster has had the opportunity to
- 10 consider the position or take legal advice;
- 11 would you agree with that?
- 12 A. I wasn't there when -- I don't know what the
- 13 circumstances of this was. I wasn't there.
- 14 Q. Did you ask what the circumstances were?
- 15 A. I don't remember.
- 16 Q. Because Auditors are not trained in the conduct
- 17 of criminal investigations, are they, and none
- of the safeguards of an interview are present in
- 19 these circumstances --
- 21 Q. -- are they?

20 **A**.

22 A. I agree with that, yeah.

Mm-hm.

- 23 Q. Do you recall being told anything by the Auditor
- 24 about the circumstances in which this note came
- 25 into being?

- 1 A. I don't remember.
- 2 Q. Did you give any consideration to the
- 3 possibility that an Auditor may have said or
- 4 done something that made both the written note
- 5 and the subsequent confession in interview
- 6 unreliable?
- 7 **A.** No.
- 8 Q. Coming to the interview, you have said in your
- 9 statement that your practice was always to
- 10 inform an individual being interviewed of their
- 11 right to legal representation and a friend.
- 12 What did you say to Mrs Adedayo about her legal
- rights at the start of and during the interview?
- 14 I think you've had the opportunity to read the
- 15 transcripts of that interview now.
- 16 A. I'm sorry, can you say that again?
- 17 Q. Putting it a different way. In this case, did
- 18 you do that? Did you tell Mrs Adedayo about her
- 19 legal rights at the start of the interview?
- 20 A. Er..
- 21 Q. We can look to that interview, if it helps you.
- 22 A. Yes, please. I mean, yes, I would say I did,
- 23 without looking at it.
- 24 Q. So the reference is POL00066742.
- 25 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. It's page 25 of the document we just had up
- 2 POL00066742, page 25, please.
- 3 A. Oh, yes.

5

- 4 Q. So you say, three entries down:
 - "Yeah, I've got that note here in front of
- 6 me. Can you read it out for me please?"
- 7 Mrs Adedayo does read it out.
- 8 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 9 Q. Just beneath that, you say:
- 10 "All right, and you signed that?"
- 11 The response is, "Yup".
- 12 "You agree you wrote that?
- 13 "Yes, oh yes."
- 14 Then you note it's been witnessed by the
- 15 Auditor. Over the page:
- 16 "Okay, he's signed that as well."
- 17 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. Looking further down that page, did you ask
- 19 Mrs Adedayo about the circumstances in which the
- 20 note came to be written and witnessed by the
- 21 Auditor?
- 22 A. It doesn't appear so, no.
- 23 Q. Did you ask her whether what she said in it was

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- 24 correct?
- 25 A. I don't think so.

- 1 Q. Starting on page 3 of that document, going about
- 2 halfway down and in bold, by Natasha Bernard at
- 3 00.01.43, you appear to be providing the
- 4 caution.
- 5 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 6 Q. Do you have the hard copy in front of you?
- 7 A. Yes, I do.
- 8 Q. You do. Do you want to just have a look through
- 9 and check if you can answer the question based
- 10 on having a look? Looking, for example, at
- page 7, if we can have page 7 on the screen as
- 12 well, please.

13

- Further down the page, please.
- 14 A. Yeah, she was offered a solicitor.
- 15 Q. I'm sorry, your answer wasn't quite caught there
- by -- it won't be caught by the transcriber.
- 17 Can you say that again?
- 18 A. She was offered -- yeah, she was asked if she
- 19 wanted to speak to a solicitor or if she wanted
- 20 legal representation.
- 21 Q. The note which we've just looked at, you asked
- 22 Mrs Adedayo to read that note out in her
- 23 interview, didn't you? If we need to go to that
- section of interview, we can.
- 25 A. Yes, please.

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- Q. But you did, on page 26, if we can go to the top
- 2 of the page again, please, three entries down,
- 3 give Mrs Adedayo an opportunity to explain the
- 4 shortage that we have in the Post Office
- 5 Accounts.

1

- 6 A. Sorry, can you say that again?
- 7 Q. Yes. Yes, that third entry there says:
- 8 "Okay, um, well what I want to do now, is to
- 9 give you an opportunity to explain erm, the
- 10 shortage that we have in the post office
- 11 accounts."
- 12 So you were giving her an opportunity to
- 13 explain the shortage.
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 Q. Before you asked that question -- or at any
- 16 point before this -- did you explain to
- 17 Mrs Adedayo what the basis was for saying there
- 18 was a shortage?
- 19 A. No, it doesn't appear so.
- 20 Q. What explanation was given by Mrs Adedayo in
- 21 this interview to you?
- 22 A. The explanation for?
- 23 Q. For the shortage?
- 24 A. The shortage? That she'd used the money to pay
- people that she'd borrowed money from.

Did you manage to pinpoint with any precision 1 2 what amounts Mrs Adedayo was saying were paid to 3 her lenders and when? 4 A. Only from what's in the tape summary. So it 5 seems like there was £10,000 initially, followed 6 by two amounts of £20,000, during the months 7 just before the audit shortage was identified. 8 Q. Did you seek any further evidence following the 9 interview with Mrs Adedayo as to the payments of 10 those amounts? A. I'm sorry, I don't know what you mean. 11 Did you ask Mrs Adedayo for any documentation 12 13 relating to the payment of those sums? A. During the interview. 14 Q. After the interview, did you make any further 15 16 enquiries? 17 A. I can't remember. Q. Was any data sought from Horizon -- sorry, was 18 19 any data sought from Fujitsu in this case, 20 whether any ARQ data or other type of data? A. I don't know if there was but if, there was, it 21 22 would have been -- it would have made up part of 23 the case file. It would have been in the 24 exhibits 25 Q. You wrote your report for the Criminal Law Team 1 report and, if we can turn to page 5 of the 2 document, it's one line at the top: 3 "Given the admissions made by Mrs ADEDAYO 4 there is no reason why she should not be charged 5 with false accounting." 6 What was the basis for this conclusion? 7 A. I would probably have looked at false accounting 8 and see if it met all the points, if that makes 9 sense. 10 Q. Mrs Adedayo having said what she did in 11 interview and having read the note, as far as you were concerned, was that the end of the 12 13 enquiries into the shortfall? 14 A. I don't remember. Q. Mrs Adedayo was prosecuted following advice from 15 16 the Criminal Law Team in this case. What 17 further involvement did you have in the case 18 once this decision was made? If you need to refer to your statement, please do. 19 20 A. Is this after -- are you asking after she was prosecuted? 21 22 Q. Yes.

2 screen, please. It is POL00044366, and if we 3 can go, please, to the fifth page of that. 4 Scrolling down, please, you can see your name there and the date of 8 September 2005. Going 5 6 back to the first page, please and scrolling 7 down a bit, we can see there the identification 8 of the "Designated Prosecution Authority" --9 Mm-hm 10 Q. -- who is listed as Tony Utting. Mm-hm. 11 Is that right? 12 Q. 13 Yes, it is. Q. The discipline manager is Keith Long. Have you 14 reviewed this document for the purposes of 15 16 preparing your statement? Have you read it? 17 A. I read it but I don't know if I read it before or after we did the -- I think probably during 18 19 the witness statement, yes. 20 Q. Okay. But you have, at this point in time, read it --21 22 A. I've read it, yes. 23 Q. -- since the Inquiry sent it to you? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. You gave a recommendation as to charge in this 1 If you can look, please, to paragraph 67 of your 2 statement. 3 If we can have that up, please, on screen 4 it's WITN09390100, page 21, please. 5 Just before we come to paragraph 67 you, say 6 at paragraph 66: 7 "I do not think that I was the Disclosure 8 Officer in this case and I cannot remember ever 9 holding this official title." 10 We've been to the other schedule and I think 11 you've revised your evidence on that point. 12 Do you remember giving any consideration to 13 disclosure in this case? 14 I don't remember. 15 Q. Paragraph 67, you refer here to a memo from Debbie Helszajn, which states that: 16 17 "... Mrs Adedayo appeared at Chatham 18 Magistrates Court on 19 January 2006 and pleaded 19 guilty to the three charges and accepted the 20 further offences set out in the Schedule of 21 TICs. She advises that I should attend the 22 sentencing hearing. This was a normal course of 23 action as all Investigation Managers were asked 24 to attend sentencing hearings and write 25 something up after the sentencing to conclude 52

after the interview. Can we have that on

A. I don't recall having anything further to do,

unless there was any kind of financial

23

24

1		the case. I have no direct memory of the	1	Q.	Could we have the transcript of Mrs Adedayo's
2		sentencing hearing and therefore cannot confirm	2		oral evidence to the Inquiry on screen, please.
3		whether or not I did actually attend. However,	3		It is INQ00001039. I'm going, please, to
4		it would not have been unusual for me to arrange	4		page 21 of that document.
5		for someone else from the team to go in my place	5		There are some internal page numbers on the
6		if I could not attend."	6		bottom of each of the four squares of this page.
7		Can we take it that you can't help any	7		At internal page 81, Mrs Adedayo was asked about
8		further than that as to whether you actually did	8		her interview with you and Adrian Morris. At
9		attend the sentencing?	9		the top of page 82, she is asked what evidence
10	A.	I don't think I did because but then I don't	10		was produced to her to evidence the shortfall
11		know. I've seen in the documentation there was	11		and she says underneath that, three lines down:
12		some reference to somebody doing a full report	12		" the cash accounts, the report from the
13		and I think that person was called John	13		computer [that] was the only thing they showed
14		Thornewell, following so I think maybe it	14		me"
15		wasn't unusual because I lived in Croydon and	15		Then she is asked this is line 13:
16		this was Maidstone or somewhere, that Legal	16		"Did you ask whether anyone else had
17		Services may have said that we're going to be	17		experienced discrepancies?"
18		sending somebody anyway. So I don't remember	18		The answer was this:
19		going.	19		"I did. When we went downstairs and the
20	Q.	You have now, I think, read the statement from	20		argument was going backwards and forwards
21		Mrs Adedayo that she gave for the purposes of	21		I turned around and I said, 'Has anyone else
22		this Inquiry and read the transcript of her	22		experienced this?' They turned around, they
23		evidence given in the Human Impact hearings; is	23		said 'Have you heard of it? Have you heard of
24		that right?	24		it anywhere?' I said 'No', which is true,
25	A.	Yes.	25		'I didn't hear anything about it'. They said,
		53			54
1		'Well, there you are, it's peculiar to you'.	1		to do is look at what was said to you about the
2		"And that was when I thought, 'In the whole	2		supposed £50,000 that was mentioned first of all
3		of the United Kingdom only me?' I didn't know	3		in the written document, and then questions were
4		what to do. That was when I started inventing	4		asked in the interview about it. So if we go to
5		the story because if I'm the only one in the	5		POL00066742, please. If we go down, first of
6		United Kingdom, who is going to listen to me?"	6		all, to page 28, Mrs Adedayo says:
7		Can you recall a conversation to this effect	7		"So that I can put the money back. It
8		happening before the interview or at any point?	8		wasn't intentional, doing it at all. So I get
9	A.	Not at all.	9		them the £20,000 at that point, again."
10	Q.	Are you saying that that conversation didn't	10		You say:
11		happen or that you can't recall whether it did?	11		"And when was that?"
12	A.	I think if it did happen, I would have	12		She says:
13		remembered it.	13		"Oh, it was the right period of time.
14	MS	PRICE: Sir, those are all the questions that	14		"No, but when?"
15		I have for Ms Bernard. There are some questions	15		She says:
16		from Core Participants. Shall I proceed to turn	16		"I would say in the last, everything can
17		to them?	17		change in the last couple of months, two
18	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, please. Yes.	18		months."
19	MS	PRICE: I think starting with Ms Page.	19		Then:
20		Questioned by MS PAGE	20		"So when did you give them this £20,000?"
21	MS	PAGE: Ms Bernard, I act for a number of	21		The reply is:
22		subpostmasters, including Ms Adedayo who sits to	22		"I gave them roundabout, I would say about
23		my right.	23		June."
24		Now, I'd like to go back to the interview	24		So that's the first extract. If we could
25		transcript, first of all, because what I'd like	25		then, please, hold that thought and go down to
		55			56

1		page 35, where you pick up that thought, and if	1		She says:
2		we go down to yes, just if we pick up at	2		"No, no, no."
3		27.50. Your question is:	3		You say:
4		"Okay, so you've, you've paid off the	4		"Okay, so tell me exactly what you did."
5		£20,000, that accounts for £20,000."	5		She says:
6		Mrs Adedayo says:	6		"I did the £10,000, because I thought if
7		"No, 30, so far that I've given them the	7		I can get a mortgage, remortgage, I will put the
8		remaining 20 to get them off me."	8		£10,000 back in the Post Office."
9		You say:	9		Just pausing there for a moment, at this
10		"So how much have you given them?"	10		point we've had 20,000, 30,000, and now we're
11		Mrs Adedayo says:	11		back to 10,000, as the opening gambit, if you
12		"I've given them 50."	12		like. If we go a bit further down to page 39,
13		If we go over to the next page, again	13		and if we go to a little further down to 30.54,
14		following this same thread, if we go down	14		and you say:
15		a little bit, just stop there. Thank you,	15		"So you paid £10,000 in June to these
16		sorry, just tiny bit up. Your question at	16		people, and when did you pay the rest?"
17		28.13:	17		"I, I gave them £20,000 in July."
18		"So how did you take this money? How, how	18		Then you say:
19		did?"	19		"And you gave them £20,000. So £10,000 in
20		Mrs Adedayo says:	20		June, £20,000 in July?"
21		"I, I told Joan."	21		If we just go over the page. We then get
22		You say:	22		Mrs Adedayo says:
23		"No, no how did, what exactly did you do?	23		"Yes."
24		What did you come in, did you just come in and	24		"Natasha Bernard: And?"
25		take £50,000?"	25		Mrs Adedayo says:
		57			58
		WA 144 050 000 1.1	4		
1		"And the remaining £50,000 was in July,	1		already applied for £50,000 loan to pay back to
2		August, I gave it to them", and then she	2		the Post Office as this has never been my
3		continues with her explanation.	3		intention to steal or take somebody else's money
4		So, in other words, we're getting a very,	4		which I have never done before in all my 6 years
5		very scrambled account, aren't we, of how much	5		here."
6		money was paid and when; would you accept that?	6		Would you accept that actually that does not
7	Α.	Absolutely.	7		confess to theft or, indeed, any other crime?
8	Q.	When you get that sort of question and answers	8	A.	I can't remember what the points to prove for
9		in an interview, does it cause you any concern?	9	_	theft are, I don't know.
10	Α.	Looking back at this interview, reading this,	10	Q.	You can't recall what the points to prove for
11		I was very confused. So I can only imagine that	11		theft are, is that what you just said?
12		I was probably confused during the interview.	12	A.	Yes.
13	Q.	That can come down. Thank you.	13	Q.	Well, do you recall that it's to take money and
14		We've looked at the document that was	14		to not give it back, in layman's terms?
15		apparently signed before the interview and we	15		I remember it was part of it.
16		can read it out again, if you like. In fact,	16	Q.	What we have here is somebody saying they were
17		I think it probably makes sense if we do that.	17		going to give it back, don't we?
18		So let's just go to OADE0000001, please. If we	18	A.	Yes.
19		read it out in full, it says:	19	Q.	All right. Well, the Auditor who took this
20		"I have today 5th of September 2005	20		"confession" evidently was not trained in what
21		confessed [probably 'to'] the auditor regarding	21		you call the points of theft, was he?
22		the sum of £50,000 taking, with my mentioning it	22		I don't know.
23		to my assistant that I was going to be	23	Q.	Well, would you have expected an Auditor to be
24		repossessed and since [probably 'have'] equity	24		trained in the points of theft?
25		no mortgage on the Rainham Road property have	25	A.	No.
		59			60

- 1 Q. Had you been trained in what ought to happen if
- 2 a suspect makes statements prior to a formal
- 3 interview?
- 4 A. To make a note of it, yeah.
- 5 Q. So when confronted with an Auditor who has
- 6 carried out some form of interview prior to your
- 7 arrival, what should you have done?
- 8 A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. Sorry?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. You don't know now or didn't know then?
- 12 A. I don't know now.
- 13 Q. Did you know at the time?
- 14 A. I don't know.
- 15 Q. You don't know whether you were trained in what
- 16 you should do in that situation?
- 17 A. I can't remember.
- 18 Q. Do you recall ever, in that situation, making
- 19 a note to yourself of what has been said?
- 20 A. I don't recall.
- 21 Q. Do you remember anything about the principles
- 22 around taking contemporaneous notes or notes as
- 23 soon as possible thereafter and asking suspects
- 24 whether they are prepared to read over them,
- 25 whether they accept them, whether they signed to
- 1 and their investments on the line, didn't they,
- 2 when you interviewed them?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. All of that could disappear pretty much
- 5 overnight for them, couldn't it?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Did it ever occur to you that they were
- 8 vulnerable and that you were wielding quite
- 9 a lot power over them?
- 10 **A.** No.
- 11 Q. Did it ever occur to you that they might be
- 12 particularly susceptible to inducements or
- 13 threats?
- 14 A. I don't know whether it occurred to me. I'm
- 15 guessing that in their position they were open
- 16 to -- they may well have been threatened.
- 17 Q. Well, then, just considering what was said in
- 18 interview, the confusing, as you say, nature of
- 19 it, and considering a few other points, let's
- 20 just look at how the actual loss, the figure of
- the loss, was arrived at.
- We are told that the audit cash shortage was
- 23 £53,000, just a little over £53,000, and that
- was a £52,864 cash shortfall, after stock
- 25 differences were taken out of the equation. So

- 1 say they're true? Do you know anything -- do
- 2 you recall anything about having done that at
- 3 all in your time at the Post Office?
- 4 A. I can remember contemporaneous notes but not all
- 5 the things that you've just mentioned, no.
- 6 Q. When you were trained in interviewing, were you
- 7 also trained in other aspects of interviews?
- 8 Were you trained, for example, in the provisions
- 9 around unreliable confessions?
- 10 A. No, I don't remember that at all.
- 11 Q. So you never were taught anything about the
- 12 possibility that things that might be said or
- done that might render confessions unreliable?
- 14 A. I don't remember that, no.
- 15 Q. No. Leaving aside your training, did it ever
- 16 occur to you that the people you encountered in
- 17 these particular types of cases, these audit
- 18 shortfall cases, were not just managers of post
- 19 offices but were proprietors? They owned their
- 20 businesses
- 21 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 22 Q. They had everything to lose, didn't they?
- 23 A. Yes
- 24 Q. They could be suspended, dismissed, prosecuted.
- 25 They had their reputations and their livelihoods

- 1 52,864 cash shortfall. The note signed by
- 2 Mrs Adedayo mentioned £50,000 --
- 3 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 4 Q. -- and that was what was then picked up and
- 5 picked over in interview. Why did you consider
- 6 the confession to be reliable, given that it
- 7 could only explain the removal of £50,000 and
- 8 not £52,000 or even the overall shortfall of
- 9 £53,000?
- 10 A. I'm sorry, I don't understand.
- 11 Q. Well, there was a confession note -- quotes
- 12 "confession note" -- that mentions £50,000 --
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. -- but the shortfall was said to be at least
- 15 £52,000?
- 16 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 17 Q. How could the confession to £50,000 be reliable
- 18 if the cash shortfall was larger than that?
- 19 **A.** It was Ms Adedayo that wrote the £50,000. The
- 20 audit shortage was £52,000. I don't --
- 21 $\,$ Q. Yes, well you had told her about the £52,000
- shortfall and yet, nevertheless, her
- 23 "confession" never amounted to £52,000, did it?
- 24 A. This what she wrote, though.
- 25 Q. Well, that's right.

1	A.	Mm-hm.	1		account came from the fact that none of it was
2	Q.	Did it not occur to you that it was unreliable?	2		true?
3	A.	No. This is she wrote this herself.	3	A.	I didn't I think it's quite clear in my
4	Q.	Yes, as we've just, I hope, established, with	4		report that I didn't believe what she was
5		the Auditor there and with you yourself	5		telling me.
6		recognising a certain susceptibility, in the	6	Q.	But you believed it enough to rely on the
7		circumstances, to inducements and threats. Yes?	7		"confession" elements?
8	A.	(No audible answer)	8	A.	It was the "confession" isn't my word, it's
9	Q.	We've looked also at your report to the lawyers	9		hers.
10		in which you recommended that Mrs Adedayo could	10	Q.	Looking back, do you think you were really
11		be charged on the basis of this confession. So	11		trained in investigative interviewing or were
12		what that was, effectively, was cherrypicking	12		you just trained to get "confessions"
13		from her account interview and the confession	13	A.	No.
14		document, in the sense that you said it could be	14	Q.	in whatever manner you could?
15		relied upon to charge her with false accounting	15	A.	No. I wouldn't describe it like that at all.
16		but, obviously, all the parts where she put	16	MS	PAGE: Thank you, sir. Those are my questions.
17		forward her explanations, which would undermine	17	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Page. Anyone else?
18		dishonest intent, which would undermine any	18		Questioned by MS PATRICK
19		dishonesty at all, were to be disregarded. Do	19	MS	PATRICK: Sir, it's Ms Patrick. We have number
20		you take my point?	20		of questions. We should be very short.
21	A.	I thought my in the report, I just reported	21	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine.
22		what she said and what I said. I wasn't	22	MS	PATRICK: Thank you.
23		cherrypicking anything.	23		Good morning, Ms Bernard, my name is Angela
24	Q.	Did it ever occur to you that the problems in	24		Patrick and I act for a number of subpostmasters
25		her account and the contradictions in her	25		who were prosecuted and convicted but who have
		65			66
1		since had their convictions overturned. I only	1		Court of Appeal, so that we can shortcut a lot
2		want to ask you about two documents.	2		of other information.
3	A.	Okay.	3		Paragraph 19 of the judgment, it reads:
4	Q.	They relate to a case for a client we represent	4		"On 7 June 2007, Mrs Stonehouse was
5		called Mrs Pauline Stonehouse. You weren't the	5		interviewed. She agreed she'd inflated her cash
6		investigating officer in her case and I just	6		figure to conceal the shortfall. She denied
7		want to give a bit of background before we go to	7		stealing any of the money. She said that she
8		the documents, to perhaps save some time in	8		knew it was wrong to declare a false figure but
9		context.	9		she did not know what else to do."
10	A.	Okay.	10		Then at paragraph 20:
11	Q.	The Inquiry is familiar with the findings in	11		"In a defence statement dated 15 February
12		Allen & others in the Court of Appeal where on	12		2008, Mrs Stonehouse denied dishonesty and
13		10 December 2021, Ms Stonehouse's conviction in	13		expressly raised the reliability of Horizon.
14		2008 for false accounting was overturned. In	14		She said that she would require an expert to
15		that case, the Post Office accepted that hers	15		analyse the POL accounts and the accounting
16		was an unexplained shortfall case and evidence	16		system which was open to abuse. In
17		from Horizon was essential to the prosecution.	17		correspondence of the same date, her solicitors
18		She was entitled to a proper investigation of	18		emphasised concerns about Horizon."
19		the reliability of Horizon and to receive	19		It goes on to explain what the solicitors
20		disclosure in relation to Horizon Issues.	20		had said.
21		The Post Office accepted that this did not	21		Now, if we turn to the two documents I'd
22		happen and that Mrs Stonehouse's prosecution was	22		like to ask you some questions about, the first
23		therefore unfair and an affront to justice.	23		of those is FUJ00122540. You can see it's
24		To understand the documents we're going to,	24		a short two-page email thread. Can you see that
25		I'm just going to read two paragraphs from the	25		there, Ms Bernard?
					•

1		I can.	1	Q.	You see what Mr Dunks says and I'm going to read
2	Q.	, , , , ,	2		it out for the transcript:
3		you can see there's a reference to	3		"Please find the attached WS [witness
4	_	an attachment. Can you see that, Ms Bernard?	4		statement] which I hope covers the request for
5	Α.	Attached is	5		the working condition of the Horizon system.
6	Q.	A WS Seaburn, can you see that?	6		Please let me know if this is ok, and I will put
7	A.	Yes.	7		a copy in the post."
8	Q.	I only raise that because Seaburn was	8		Can you recall who Mr Dunks was?
9		Mrs Stonehouse's branch.	9	A.	No.
10	A.	Right, okay.	10	Q.	We'll return to that. Another document might
11	Q.	If we can go to the very end and start at the	11		help your memory but, looking at this, does it
12		end, at page 2, it may make more sense. You can	12		seem that a witness statement was being sought
13		see there at the very end, there is an email	13		by the Post Office and produced by Mr Dunks for
14		from Andy Dunks to you, Ms Bernard. Can you see	14		that purpose, to cover the working condition of
15		that there?	15		Horizon?
16	A.	Oh, yes, yeah. I can see me, yeah.	16	A.	Yes.
17	Q.	The date, we can see it a little bit below your	17	Q.	Can you recall now if it was you that asked for
18		name there, is 25 March 2008. Can you see?	18		that witness statement?
19	A.	Yes.	19	A.	I don't know.
20	Q.	So, logically, if Mrs Stonehouse's defence	20	Q.	Does it seem from this email correspondence that
21		statement had been produced in February 2008,	21		it was you who had asked for that witness
22		this exchange would have been after the	22		statement?
23		production of the defence statement; is that	23	A.	Yes, I guess so. I don't remember the case
24		fair?	24		though.
25	A.	Mm-hm, yeah.	25	Q.	So this is in 2008.
		69			70
1	A.	Mm.	1		to read a little there. Can you see that,
2	Q.	If you were making that request, is it	2		Ms Bernard, before we scroll on? Is it on your
3		reasonable to assume you'd have been aware that	3		screen?
4		there was a need for the Post Office to have	4	A.	Yes.
5		evidence to support the data being produced by	5	Q.	We can see it starts:
6		Horizon?	6		"As discussed regarding Seaburn SPSO."
7	A.	Yeah, so if whenever we asked for the Horizon	7		Does that suggest to you that Ms Dickinson
8		data, we would normally ask for a witness	8		would have talked to you about the statement
9		statement in order that the evidence could be	9		before sending you this email?
10		produced.	10	A.	I don't know what she means by "as discussed".
11	Q.	Okay. If we go back to the email document and	11		It suggests that maybe we did discuss something
12		we scroll up a little, we can see that you	12		but I can't remember.
13		forward this on to Ms Dickinson to consider on	13	Q.	If we read on, it says:
14		25 March 2008. I think we can see that at the	14		"Please see attached a slightly amended
15		bottom of page 1 and the top of page 2.	15		witness statement required for court on Friday,
16	A.	Yes.	16		18 April.
17	Q.	Can you see that there, Ms Bernard?	17		"All I have done is increase the time period
18	Α.	Yeah.	18		to a starting date of 1 July 2005. This is
19	Q.	Can you help us: who is Ms Dickinson?	19		because the defence have requested Horizon data
20	Α.	I think she was another Investigator.	20		from the previous year for comparison.
21	Q.	You think she was an Investigator in	21		Therefore the amount of calls will more
22	٦.	Mrs Stonehouse's case?	22		likely increase from the 20 mentioned in the
					,

23 A. Yeah.

24 25

Q. If we scroll up again we see Ms Dickinson

replies to you on 14 April 2008, and I'm going

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discussion with Ms Dickinson covered that the

Is it likely, looking at that, that your

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draft."

		3
2		a greater period starting from 1 July, and
3		a greater volume of calls were going to be
4		required to be covered by Mr Dunks?
5	A.	I don't remember any of this. All I can think
6		is, during my later years before I left the Post
7		Office, I was working in the Banking Fraud team
8		and I don't know, and I did say this in not
9		in my witness statement but when I was preparing
10		my witness statement, that I may well have been
11		involved with ARQ requests but I couldn't

defence was seeking more information about

And I just think, looking at this, it may be that I was just the person who was passing the information to Andy Dunks. I was just kind of, like, the middle person. I wasn't doing investigations, I don't think, at this time.

So that's all I can think of. I don't know if she would have discussed anything with me at length because I just would have been pass -obtaining information and passing it on.

22 Q. Okay.

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23 A. If that makes sense.

remember.

- 24 Just going on to what you said earlier today Q. 25 about when you became aware of challenges to the
- 1 about without reading -- like having a huge 2 discussion because I wouldn't have needed to 3 know all of that.
- 4 Q. But by 2008, you accept that this does appear to 5 suggest that you and your colleagues would at 6 least have been aware that there were challenges 7 to the integrity of Horizon happening?
- 8 A. I really can't remember if I was aware or not 9 about the Horizon challenges, even with this in 10 front of me.
- MS PATRICK: No further questions, Ms Bernard. 11 12 Thank you.
- 13 MS PRICE: Sir, I think those are all the questions 14 from Core Participants.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. 15

16 On reflection, I just want to ask one or two 17 questions in order to clarify my mind.

18 Questioned by SIR WYN WILLIAMS

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So I think you agreed with both 19 20 Ms Price and Ms Page in the questions they put 21 to you that -- but I'll try and put it as 22 neutrally as possible -- the answers which were 23 given to you by Ms Adedayo in the interview 24 under caution about the circumstances in which 25 she'd apparently taken £50,000 in order to repay

Horizon data being produced and its integrity? 1

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. By April 2008, when we're having this exchange, 4 you would have been aware that a defence in this case, prosecution was seeking access to Horizon 5 6 data for the purposes of comparison? 7

A. Sorry, was that your question?

8 Q. Sorry. By this time, 2008, looking at this 9 exchange, do you accept you would have been 10 aware that there were cases where the defence 11 was seeking Horizon data for the purposes of 12 trial?

13 A. So because I believe, looking at this, I was the 14 person just passing information from one person 15 to another, I may have been the person that they 16 contacted. I wouldn't have been looking into 17 too much about what's actually being said here. 18 I would just have been passing the information 19

So I cannot say, hand on heart, that I knew what they were talking about. Because, when we requested information, I, in the past, have had to ask witness statements from Fujitsu in order to -- for them to produce their discs, and that's maybe what I would have assumed this was 74

1 it to someone, were somewhat confusing. Yeah?

2 Yes, sir.

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SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. So am I right in thing 3 4 that, notwithstanding that that was the state of 5 affairs, you didn't think it appropriate or 6 necessary to chase up on what she'd done with 7 that £50,000, for example by getting from her 8 the name or names of the person to whom it had been paid and checking with them whether, in 9 10 fact, they'd received such sums; is that right? 11 Have I got that right?

A. From the documents that have been presented to 12 13 me in the Inquiry, I believe we -- and I did --14 ask for the names of the creditors.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. 15

A. Looking at the taped transcript, Mrs Adedayo 16 17 says that she needed to talk to her husband 18 first, is what I -- it's not what I remember, this is what is in there. 19

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, yes. 20

A. And she was going to send them to us afterwards, 21 22 and then I think in my report I'm just saying 23 "To date, this has not been received". So it 24 was kind of left up to her to present those 25 names to us.

1	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. So I can be clear about	1 to be referred to in the Inquiry, but I am just
2	it, your state of mind was that it's for	2 wondering whether you did actually make
3	Mrs Adedayo (or Ms Adedayo) to provide this	3 a witness statement?
4	information and, unless she does, there's	4 A. I don't I think I don't think so, because
5	nothing much I can do about it; is that fair?	5 she pleaded guilty.
6	A. I think because it seemed that she was reluctant	6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So she pleaded guilty in the
7	to give us the names at interview, when it would	7 Magistrates Court, as I understand it, yeah?
8	have been quite easy for us to check with these	8 A. Right, yeah.
9	people, had we had the names because she	9 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So, from memory and
10	appeared to be reluctant, I think if I'd have	10 I appreciate this is a long time ago but I just
11	put more pressure, I would have probably been	11 want to get your best memory your memory is
12	accused of being oppressive.	that you didn't actually get to the point of
13	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right.	making a witness statement?
14	A. So that's probably why I didn't	14 A. Honestly, I don't remember. But it's I don't
15	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I'm asking these questions	15 think so.
16	because and if I've misheard you, this the	16 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right.
17	chance to put it right I think you said to	17 A. That's about the best I can do.
18	Ms Page that you didn't actually believe what	18 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Okay, thank you very much.
19	Mrs Adedayo was telling you in interview, yes?	19 Well, thank you for coming to give evidence
20	A. Yes, that's true, sir.	20 before me, and for making a witness statement in
21	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right, okay. Did you make	21 advance of that. I think that concludes the
22	a witness statement for the criminal prosecution	22 evidence for the day.
23	of Mrs Adedayo? (Pause)	23 I want to recognise the fact that
24	It hasn't been referred to, sometimes that's	24 Mrs Adedayo is in the hearing room today to hear
25	quite deliberate because there's no need for it 77	evidence about her case, so I'm glad she was 78
1 2	able to do that and, as with all other Core Participants, I welcome her to the Inquiry	INDEX NATASHA PRUDENCIA BERNARD (sworn) 1
3	proceedings.	
4	So, with those final remarks, I think we'll	Questioned by MS PRICE 1
5	bring today's session to a close.	
6	Ms Price, we're due to start again on	Questioned by MS PAGE 55
7	Tuesday?	
8	MS PRICE: Yes.	Questioned by MS PATRICK
9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: But am I right in thinking that	
10	we are still contemplating whether or not that	Questioned by SIR WYN WILLIAMS75
11	is possible, in the light of disclosure issues	
12	which are well known, at least to the lawyers in	
13	the room?	
14	MS PRICE: Yes, sir.	
15	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Do you have and if you	
16	haven't, that's fine but do you have any	
17	current information about the likelihood of us	
18	being able to resume on Tuesday?	
19	A. No, sir.	
20	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine, all right. Well, then,	
21	I'll wait to be kept informed.	
22	Thank you all very much.	
23	(12.21 pm)	
24	(The hearing adjourned until	
25	Tuesday, 14 November 2023)	
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