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1 Thursday, 16 November 2023 2 (9.58 am) 3 MS PRICE: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear 4 us? 5 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you. Before 6 you begin the evidence session, was price, 7 I wish to make an announcement, all right. 8 MS PRICE: Yes, sir. 9 **SIR WYN WILLIAMS:** It is with considerable regret 10 and frustration that I have to announce that the 11 session scheduled for Monday and Tuesday next 12 week will have to be postponed. That is 13 Mr Jarnail Singh will not be called to give 14 evidence next Monday and Tuesday. I have 15 reached the decision that his giving evidence 16 next week is not possible because there is every 17 likelihood that the Post Office will, in the 18 course of the next either hours or days, 19 disclose many documents which are relevant to 20 21 My current understanding is that these 22 documents may number in the hundreds and it 23 would clearly be impossible for Mr Singh to 24

receive those documents in time for him to give evidence on Monday and Tuesday since, as yet,

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Mr Jenkins, as the Inquiry was informed by his leading counsel, Ms Dobbin, has made a draft witness statement in respect of his evidence due to be given on 30 November, but that witness statement has not yet been signed and it would be unreasonable of me to expect that Mr Jenkins sign that witness statement until he has had the opportunity to digest all these new documents.

I have taken the decision that it is practically impossible for the Inquiry to be ready to receive Mr Jenkins' evidence on 30 November, given this late disclosure.

It may be -- and I stress "may" -- that the four days during which Mr Jenkins was due to give evidence, beginning on 30 November, can be used for other witnesses. I will update everyone about that possibility as soon as I know whether that is a realistic possibility.

So I would ask all participants in the Inquiry to keep open the possibility that we will sit on the days designated between 30 November and 6 December, albeit that we won't be hearing from Mr Jenkins.

I should also say that, given the obvious importance of Mr Jenkins to my Inquiry, that

the Inquiry does not have them.

We had been promised by the Post Office that there would begin the disclosure of those documents, or disclosure of those documents would begin, rather, yesterday, but that has not occurred and I am unclear, as I speak, as to when disclosure will begin.

Fairness demands that Mr Singh sees those documents before he gives evidence. Fairness also demands that Core Participants see those documents before Mr Singh gives evidence and, as I have said, the Inquiry is not yet in a position to process those documents and disclose them to Mr Singh and Core Participants.

Hence, to repeat, the sessions on Monday and Tuesday will not take place.

It is also with considerable regret and frustration that I inform everyone that Mr Gareth Jenkins will not begin his evidence on 30 November. In the case of Mr Jenkins, the Post Office has disclosed 3,045 new documents, I believe, yesterday to the Inquiry. The Inquiry will need to process those documents and then disclose them to Mr Jenkins and all other Core Participants.

I have decided that there should be a substantial period of time which should now elapse before I try to reschedule Mr Jenkins. I cannot contemplate what has occurred so far recurring, namely that shortly before Mr Jenkins gives his evidence there is a flurry of activity which includes the late disclosure of documents.

Accordingly, I have decided that some months are likely to go by before I call Mr Jenkins to give evidence, because I want to be absolutely certain, or at least as certain as I can reasonably be, that every single relevant document relating to him has been disclosed to all relevant parties before his evidence begins.

As I have said, therefore, it may be some months before Mr Jenkins appears to give evidence at this Inquiry. That is a source of frustration to me. I'm sure it will be a source of frustration to many Core Participants and perhaps a source of frustration to Mr Jenkins himself. But I think everyone who has followed this Inquiry will appreciate that it is crucial that Mr Jenkins' evidence is heard with the benefit of all documents which is relevant to that evidence.

1		To repeat, I am sorry to have to have made	1	Q.	Are there any corrections that you wish to make
2		this announcement this morning but I felt it	2		to the statement?
3		necessary to do it orally, as opposed to simply	3	A.	I'd just like to add that, on recent disclosure,
4		sending out a notice so that (a) everyone is	4		documents have become known to me. In this
5		clear about what I am saying and (b) those who	5		statement, I initially say that I wasn't aware
6		are watching can see for themselves how	6		of any challenge to Horizon right up until the
7		frustrated I have become by all that is going on	7		time I left Post Office Limited in January 2012.
8		in relation to disclosure.	8		However, as I say, these recent disclosures have
9		Thank you, Ms Price. You can now call your	9		shown that I was aware of some action in regard
10		witness.	10		to questioning the integrity of Horizon,
11	MS	PRICE: Thank you, sir. Can we please call	11		particularly in sub post offices in North Wales,
12		Mr Whitaker.	12		actually before I left, and it wasn't until
13		PAUL GRAHAM WHITAKER (affirmed)	13		I saw those documents that that refreshed my
14		Questioned by MS PRICE	14		memory.
15	MS	PRICE: Could you confirm your full name, please,	15	Q.	With that correction made, are the contents of
16		Mr Whitaker.	16		that statement true to the best of your
17	A.	Paul Graham Whitaker.	17		knowledge and belief?
18	Q.	You should have in front of you a hard copy of	18	A.	Yes.
19		a witness statement in your name, dated	19	Q.	For the purposes of the transcript, the
20		8 October this year. If you can turn, please,	20		reference is WITN05050100.
21		to page 42 of that statement, do you have a copy	21		Thank you for coming to the Inquiry to
22		with a visible signature?	22		assist it in its work and for providing the
23	A.	l do.	23		witness statement that you have. As you know,
24	Q.	Is that signature yours?	24		I will be asking questions on behalf of the
25	A.	It is.	25		Inquiry. Today, I'm going to asking you about
		5			6
4		issues which arise in Phase 4 of the Inquiry	4		There was Post Office Limited Devel Mail
1		issues which arise in Phase 4 of the Inquiry, focusing on your involvement as an Investigator	1 2	A.	There was Post Office Limited, Royal Mail Letters and Parcelforce.
2					Letters and Parcendice.
2				^	Vou say in your statement at paragraph 9 that
3		within the Security and Investigation Team in	3	Q.	You say in your statement at paragraph 8 that
4		within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including	3 4	Q.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each
4 5		within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey.	3 4 5	Q.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but
4 5 6		within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as	3 4 5 6	Q.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post
4 5 6 7		within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right?	3 4 5 6 7	Q.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had
4 5 6 7 8	Α.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes.	3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with
4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce
4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right?
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct.
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please,
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100.
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this:
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q. A.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was? Yes.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had an initial period of induction training which
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was? Yes. Your role was initially that of an Assistant	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had an initial period of induction training which covered relevant aspects of investigation,
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.A.Q.A.Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was? Yes. Your role was initially that of an Assistant Investigation Officer; is that right?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had an initial period of induction training which covered relevant aspects of investigation, evidence
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was? Yes. Your role was initially that of an Assistant Investigation Officer; is that right? Correct, yes.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had an initial period of induction training which covered relevant aspects of investigation, eg law, principles of investigation, evidence gathering, PACE etc, before being assigned to
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.A.Q.A.Q.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was? Yes. Your role was initially that of an Assistant Investigation Officer; is that right? Correct, yes. Can you explain, please, the three separate	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had an initial period of induction training which covered relevant aspects of investigation, eg law, principles of investigation, evidence gathering, PACE etc, before being assigned to an established officer for 'on the job'
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A.	within the Security and Investigation Team in the relevant criminal prosecutions, including the prosecution of David Blakey. You joined the Post Office in 1985 as a postal cadet; is that right? Correct, yes. From 1986 to 1994 you worked as a postman delivering and processing the mail? Yes. Between 1994 and 1998, you worked within Royal Mail Letters, dealing with postal franking machines in the main? Yes. Then in September 1998 you joined the Post Office Security and Investigation Service, as it then was? Yes. Your role was initially that of an Assistant Investigation Officer; is that right? Correct, yes.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	Royal Mail Letters and Post Office Limited each had their own investigation function but Parcelforce did not. So in 1998, the Post Office Security and Investigation Service had Parcel Group sections, which dealt with investigations into crime within the Parcelforce network; is that right? That's correct. You deal with your role within the Post Office Security and Investigation Service at paragraphs 9 to 11 of your statement to the Inquiry. Could we have those on screen, please, page 3 of Mr Whitaker's statement WITN05050100. Starting at paragraph 9, you say this: "On joining POSIS I recall that I had an initial period of induction training which covered relevant aspects of investigation, eg law, principles of investigation, evidence gathering, PACE etc, before being assigned to

such as witness interviewing and suspect interviewing, etc. As I recall, I received no specific training to do with POL work at this time, as, within Parcel Group I was not expected to undertake or assist with any POL investigations."

You go on at paragraph 10:

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"In 1999 Parcelforce introduced its own investigation function, and in September of that year POSIS Parcel Group (North) was disbanded. Its operational staff in Leeds were then compulsorily transferred to different Royal Mail investigation functions. Some staff went into Parcelforce, and others to Royal Mail Cashco (the Royal Mail Group's cash carrying function). Despite having a background in mails work and no previous POL experience, I was sent to work for POL, initially based at their regional headquarters in Leeds in September 1999."

Going to paragraph 11, please:

"I had no say whatsoever in where I was placed at this time."

How did you feel about being sent to the Post Office Security and Investigation Team in 1999?

- 1 Initially I was based in Leeds.
- 2 Q. What part of the country were investigations run 3 from the -- apologies.

What part of the country were investigations covering out of the Leeds office?

- 6 A. It was the investigations in the counties in the 7 sort of north-eastern quadrant of England. So 8 up to the Scottish Borders around Berwick and 9 down as far as just south of Sheffield, that 10 sort of area, and across to the east coast.
- Q. Who did you report to when you were based at the 11 12 Leeds office?
- 13 Α. Initially my first team leader was a gentleman 14 named Les Thorpe.
- Q. He was based in Durham; is that right? 15
- A. I think it was Peterlee, yeah, County Durham, 16 17 yeah.
- Mr Thorpe, in turn, reported to a Senior 18 Q. 19
- Investigation Manager based in Glasgow, Rashid
- 20 Sarwar; is that right?
- A. As I recall, yes. 21
- 22 Q. Who, in turn, reported to the North Area Head of
- 23 Security, also based in Glasgow, and you say
- 24 that was a man called Duncan McFadyen?
- 25 A. I believe so, yes.

A. I recall a certain amount of apprehension for 1

the reasons stated in the statement. I'd not

worked behind a Post Office Counter at that 3

4 time. However, obviously, I was happy to go

- 5 wherever they sent me.
- 6 Q. You worked as a Post Office Investigation
- 7 Manager, later named a Security Manager, from
- 8 1999 until January 2012, save for a brief period
- 9 when you were a temporary team leader for the
- 10 South Investigation Team, in around 2009; is
- 11 that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Then in 2012, you took up the role of
- 14 Investigation Manager with Royal Mail Letters?
- 15 **A**.
- 16 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 13 that
- 17 when you were a Post Office Investigation
- Manager, Post Office Security was split into 18
- 19 three areas: East, West and North; is that
- 20 right?
- 21 A. That's as I recall it, yes.
- 22 Which was your area when you first started as
- 23 an Investigation Manager?
- 24 A. The North.
- 25 Where were you based at first?

- 1 You say in your statement that the Security
- 2 Department was split into physical Security and
- 3 Investigation departments, and it was the latter
- 4 of these which you worked within, that being the
 - teams responsible for the investigation of
- 6 suspected criminal losses to the Post Office?
- 7 Correct.

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- 8 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 16 that
- perhaps a year after you joined the Post Office, 9
- 10 the security function within the Post Office
- 11 began a period of rapid change. Can you
- 12 explain, please, the key changes which were
- brought in at that stage? Please do feel free 13
- 14 to refer to your statement if you need to.
- 15 If I may, yeah. Yeah, as I recall, there was
- a number of geographical boundary changes and 16
- 17 staff changes as well, movement of staff.
- 18 I mean, I do recall, actually, at that time
- 19 I spent some time doing some investigations in 20 the northwest and, in terms of hierarchy, as
- 21 I say, at the time, Tony Marsh headed it, and
- 22 Phil Gerrish became his Head of Investigations. 23 So I believe at that time Mr Thorpe went and
- 24 I recall the sort of line for Investigations 25
 - became more sort of centred around Mr Gerrish

being the Head of Investigation function.
 I can't recall Mr McFadyen or Mr Sarwar having
 such input around that time.

As I say, I can't recall specifics but I do recall that there seemed to be plenty sort of happening, as it were.

- Q. As a result of those changes, you moved from
 being based in Leeds to being based in
 Sheffield; is that right?
- A. Yes. But that was -- I was on my own in
 Sheffield. It wasn't that there was an office
 in Sheffield that moved from Leeds; it's just
 that I happened to work from an office in
- that I happened to work from an office inSheffield.
- 15 Q. Is it right that your manager was never based inthe same location as you in Sheffield?
- 17 A. No, that's correct.
- 18 Q. But you say you saw them regularly and were in19 contact by email and telephone?
- 20 A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. You recall Tony Marsh leaving the Post Office to
 become head of Royal Mail Group Security in
 around 2007 --
- 24 A. Yes.

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25 **Q.** -- and Phil Gerrish leaving shortly thereafter

1 at -- proactively looking into losses and also 2 into physical security, so we were looking at 3 dual training the managers. And I think during 4 that time, because of the people that he bought 5 in, who may have been more attuned to that new 6 type of role, I think we lost a lot of 7 experience in regards to actual Investigators 8 and people who were able to work to reactively

- 9 investigate a loss.
 10 Q. What happened to the geographical remit of the
 11 Security team in general and in relation to your
 12 team in particular under John Scott?
- A. It just widened. It went from just being in the
 north. I was coming down to London. I was
 taking on investigations in Wales. So it just
 widened. I think there were -- at different
- times, different geographical barriers were
- brought in but they did change quite a lot.
- 19 Q. You say at paragraph 22 of your statement that
 20 the remit expanded into Scotland and Northern
 21 Ireland as well?
- A. Certainly, yeah. I did investigations orassisted with the investigations in Northern
- 24 Ireland and in Scotland.
- 25 Q. You deal at paragraphs 23 and 24 in a bit more

to join Royal Mail Letters as Head ofInvestigation?

3 A. Yes.

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- 4 Q. How did the Post Office Security Team change
 5 under the leadership of John Scott, who replaced
 6 Tony Marsh?
- A. John Scott brought in more of an ethos of
 analysis in regard to losses. It was more
 proactive and on the front foot, looking at ways
 to stop losses, and less focus on reactive
 investigation once losses had occurred. Within
 that, he again, he reorganised, he was -- he
 brought in sections that, as I say, looked at
- forecasting, if you like, and using techniques
 to be able to anticipate where losses might
 occur, as opposed to just straight investigating
 losses reactively once the loss had occurred.
- 18 Q. You say in your statement that you also noticed
 19 a change in the type of experience which your
 20 Investigation colleagues had. Can you explain
 21 the nature of this change, please?
- A. Yeah, I think Mr Scott wanted to bring in
 Security Managers that were potentially dual
 trained, so they were not just Investigators.
 As I say, they had more background in looking

detail with some of the changes in approach to investigation brought in by John Scott. Could we have those paragraphs on screen, please, it's page 7 of WITN05050100. You say here:

"I feel that Mr Scott focused more on

"I feel that Mr Scott focused more on bringing to POL Security a data driven model to proactively analyse and seek out risk and loss within post offices as opposed to using the POL Investigation Team to investigate losses reactively. Mr Scott brought in much more data analysis in his loss management strategy and set up a dedicated team to do this, I recall Helen Rose being part of that team but unfortunately cannot recall other names."

What and who do you understand was driving the new approach of proactively analysing and seeking out risk and loss within post offices, rather than investigating reactively?

rather than investigating reactively?
A. Certainly Mr Scott was driving that: John Scott.
His reasons why he was doing that, I'm only
speculating in that potentially an Investigation
Team were expensive, essentially what -- he
could have looked at what value they did
actually bring to the organisation. POL was
changing very, very quickly around that time,

. .

16

I recall. The network was shrinking, they'd lost number of contracts. They were examining how they worked and where they sat within the country, and how they were to operate going forward

So I think it was -- I think -- and, again, it's only my speculation of how I looked at it -- I think it was to do with that and looking at repositioning the organisation and, as I say, an Investigation Department, purely Investigation Department, was an expensive tool, perhaps.

Q. At paragraph 24 of your statement you say this:

"Mr Scott also brought in a team to try to recoup losses through the Proceeds of Crime Act and some Investigators were trained as financial investigators. From memory, I recall these included Ged Harbinson, Graham Ward, Helen Dickinson and Paul Southin."

Do you recall where the agenda for recouping losses through criminal enforcement proceedings came from?

A. Again, it could be speculation because I don't
 recall ever being told, but I believe that
 obviously, in order to enact the Proceeds of

experienced, with many of the managers having come through 'the ranks', as it were. They knew the Investigators' role and the challenges it brought. However, I feel that when Mr Marsh, and others left POL, my line management under the leadership of Mr Scott, though reasonable in so much as they were someone to manage staff, many lacked the experience and understanding within the investigation and criminal justice fields. Managers I remember and consider in respect of that statement were Andrew Daley and Alison Drake."

Did this lack of experience and understanding within the investigation and criminal justice fields have an impact on the fairness and adequacy of investigations, in your view?

A. Not personally, I don't think, because I think when that came in, I was -- not of a standing, but I had enough experience of the job to be able to, you know, work through that. But anybody who came in, into an Investigator's role or a role that had an investigation element, they may have felt -- they may have struggled somewhat with line management and leadership,

Crime Act and to use the Proceeds of Crime Act, there has to initially be a crime committed. So I think it was -- in fact, that was probably one of the reasons why elements of the Investigation Team remained.

But, ultimately, I think Mr Scott was all about, you know, affecting the bottom line of the organisation and trying to stop losses. So that was a strategy brought in, in regard to that.

Whilst I understand that, in terms of the proceeds of crime, you know, an element of that, any recouped would go to the Government. Also, some would not.

15 Q. You refer to the bottom line of the business.
16 Did you ever feel that the interests of the
17 business, particularly financial interests,
18 influenced the way Investigators did their job?

19 A. It certainly didn't influence me at all.20 I never gave it a thought.

Q. Going over the page, please, to paragraph 28 ofthe statement, you say this:

"I felt that within the tenure of Mr Marsh as Head of Security, I found the line management within POL investigation to be supportive and

1 who didn't fully understand the role.

Q. How did the various investigation teams
operating across the country communicate with
each other about any matters of concern arising
on their patch?

A. All sort of communication tended to come from
the centre, as it were. We did get together
occasionally for conferences and suchlike, at
which, you know, things would be chatted
through, and I did feel that I could speak to
Investigators throughout the country if I wanted
to and ring them up.

But, essentially, a lot of the information of which you speak there would come from the centre, so it would feed in from someone on the South Coast or something and it would get up, if relevant -- if deemed relevant by whoever was disseminating it, it would get disseminated out to everyone else.

Q. Why did you leave the Post Office to go to RoyalMail Letters?

A. I think I was getting a bit disillusioned with
 Post Office Limited. I was not particularly
 a fan of the leadership. As I say, the
 organisation was going through a lot of change.

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- 1 I thought there was slightly more job security
- 2 in Post Office Limited and a job came up in
- 3 there, so I applied for it and got it.
- 4 Q. Turning to the training you received in the
- 5 conduct of investigations, please. Before you
- 6 joined the Post Office Security and
- 7 Investigation Service in 1998, did you have any
- 8 experience in criminal investigations or
- 9 criminal law?
- 10 A. Not directly. Elements of the job within
- 11 franking machines, there was elements of
- 12 inspection and that linked into elements within
- 13 POSIS but not directly as an Investigator or
- 14 within that sort of field.
- 15 Q. We have seen from paragraph 9 of your statement,
- 16 which we had on screen earlier, that you had
- 17 some initial induction training when you first
- 18 joined the Post Office Security and
- 19 Investigation Service in 1998. How much time
- 20 did the initial induction training take up?
- 21 A. I recall it was two weeks' residential training
- 22 in Croydon.
- 23 Q. You say in paragraph 34 of your statement that
- this was classroom-based learning. Who was it
- 25 who provided this training?
 - 21
- 1 **A.** He was leading investigations into, in the main,
- 2 Parcelforce losses.
- $3\,$ $\,$ Q. How did Parcelforce losses differ from those you
- 4 dealt with later with the Post Office?
- 5 A. They were very much losses from the course of
- 6 post, so examining the theft of parcels, from
- 7 course of post. In fact, that was the main body
- 8 of the work, the old charge of delaying the
- 9 mail. That was one that was looked at. There
- were a couple, I think, because part of the
- 11 remit of Parcel Group was also to do group
- enquiries. So anything that came under the
- 13 Royal Mail Group that didn't fall within
- Letters, or anything like that, tended to getsort of handed to Parcel Group to pursue. But
- there was certainly nothing that was in any way
- 47
- 17 accountancy based or anything like that.
- 18 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 35 that,
- 19 when you were moved to Post Office
- 20 Investigations in 1999, you were given some
- 21 counter clerk's training on the counter clerk
- 22 role and Post Office working practices, and that
- 23 was before the introduction of the Horizon
- 24 system, wasn't it?
- 25 A. I recall that it was, yes.

- A. It was -- I think there was an in-house training
- group within POSIS and it was their trainers
- 3 that did that.
- 4 Q. You've said already that the training did not
- 5 cover Post Office investigation work, as within
- 6 the Parcel Group you were not expected to
- 7 undertake or assist with any POL investigations,
- 8 but you say there were further modules covered
- 9 over the course of that first year in
- 10 investigations when you were allocated to Parcel
- 11 Group work. You give examples of the topics
- 12 covered in your first year as suspect
- interviewing, witness interviewing, searching
- 14 and report writing in your statement.
 - Did any of the training you did in your
- 16 first year cover disclosure?
- 17 A. I don't recall that it did.
- 18 Q. You say at paragraph 9 of your statement that
- 19 you were assigned to an established officer for
- 20 'on the job' training. How long did this on the
- 21 job training last for?
- 22 A. It lasted for a year, I believe.
- 23 Q. Can you recall now what kind of work the person
- you were shadowing was doing in that first year
- 25 when you were still with Parcel Group work?
 - 22
 - Q. When you were moved to Post Office
- 2 Investigations in 1999, were you given any
- 3 training, in particular on your duties as
- 4 an Investigator working on Post Office, as
- 5 opposed to Parcel Group investigations?
- 6 A. I don't recall any specific training where I was
- 7 taken to one side and said, "This is the
- 8 training that you're about to receive". I was
- 9 placed under the sort of tutorship, if you like,
- 10 of a longstanding Investigator and another
- 11 Investigator who were very experienced, and
- 12 I was sort of mentored, if you like -- though it
- was never officially called mentoring -- in
- regard to those sort of taking me along and
- 15 introducing me to the work.
- 16 **Q.** Who were those more experienced investigators?
- 17 A. John Hart was the most experienced one and then
- 18 John Hart, who -- sorry, and John Downie, he was
- 19 an Assistant Investigation Officer at the time
- with, as I say, John Hart being the lead
- 21 Investigator, if you like.
- 22 Q. You say at paragraph 36 of your statement that,
- 23 when the Horizon system was introduced, you
- 24 recall going on a course over a week or so on
- 25 the Horizon system; is that right?

24

A. 1 Yes. 1 Again, can you remember any topics you 2 2 Q. That training was not specifically for covered when doing that training? 3 3 A. Investigators, there being other Post Office In regards to investigation, there was a topic 4 4 staff on the course, including subpostmasters? around the law but it wasn't specifically 5 Yeah, I recall it was -- I was sat amongst an investigation-based course, it was security A. 5 6 subpostmasters, other Post Office staff. It 6 and risk management, so it was more in keeping 7 wasn't exclusively investigation based. 7 with, I suppose, Mr Scott's view about looking 8 Q. Did you have any training on the Horizon system 8 at risk management within the organisation. 9 after this? 9 Q. Turning, then, to policies and guidance 10 Not that I can recall. 10 applicable to the work of Post Office Α. Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 32 that 11 Investigators, were any investigation or 11 in around 2006 you completed a Level 4 National prosecution policies provided to you during the 12 12 13 Vocational Qualification in investigation 13 training you had in your first year as 14 management. Can you recall what topics you 14 an Investigator, in 1998? 15 covered during that qualification, of relevance? 15 A. I recall policies were -- would have been 16 A. Again, it was a vocational qualification so it 16 available. I don't recall an online -- I don't 17 was demonstrating competency in interviewing, 17 recall a sort of repository. So I would imagine 18 witness interviewing, managing investigations, 18 they would be available for us to look at and 19 those sort of modules. Again, there was nothing 19 expected that we, you know, had a knowledge of 20 specific about Horizon or anything in there. 20 21 21 Q. You also say that, before you left the Post Q. You say you think they would have been 22 22 Office, in 2010 you started a post-graduate available. Where do you think they were 23 diploma in security and risk management at 23 available? 24 Leicester University, which you completed after 24 A. I'm just trying to think because, 1999, it may 25 you had moved to Royal Mail. 25 not have been online. In 1999 when I was 26 1 working in Parcel Group, we were actually in 1 Can you recall when email Investigation 2 an office, and there was a number of us in 2 Circulars were first introduced? 3 there. So they may have been available in there 3 It was very, very early on. It may have been 4 but possibly in binders or something like that. 4 around 1999. It may have been earlier but I do 5 But I can't recall, to be perfectly honest. 5 recall them occasionally coming out and saying, 6 Q. Were any investigation or prosecution policies 6 you know, "Investigation Circular D15", or 7 provided to you when you moved to Post Office 7 whatever, and whatever it referred to. Q. These circulars, were they summarising what was 8 Investigations in 1999? 8 9 A. Not specifically. Again, because I was working 9 in a new policy, for example, or were they 10 in Leeds, which was a sort of regional office, 10 attaching the policy itself? 11 they may have been available within the office 11 A. I seem to recall that they were summarising. It 12 12 somewhere but I don't specifically recall that, would be new policy or changes within the law, 13 yes, they were in the third cabinet from the 13 or I suppose anything that -- because I think 14 left, or anything like that. 14 they were issued centrally through Group 15 Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 38 of 15 Security. So it would have been anything that 16 Mr Whitaker's statement. That's page 11 of 16 Group Security felt the need to disseminate 17 WITN05050100. You say here at paragraph 38: 17 officially in one of these documents. 18 "... I don't recall there being a 'central Q. Can we have on screen, please, document 18 reference POL00104762. This is a document 19 repository' or such where Investigators could 19 20 specifically view policies. The dissemination 20 entitled "Disclosure of Unused Material --

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of information contained within policy, as

sent via email to Investigation staff."

I recall and understand, was mainly through

training, team meetings and special directives

called 'Investigation Circulars' which would be

27

preparing your witness statement. Have you had 28

Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996

Codes of Practice", and it is dated May 2001.

sent to you by the Inquiry for the purposes of

This is one of the policy documents which was

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1	
2	Α.
3	Q.
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5	A.
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7	Q.
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23	A.
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this page:

sent it to you?
I don't recall. However, if I had, it would
have been almost 20 years ago.
Under "Purpose", this document explains that:
"The aim of this policy is to ensure that
Security Managers know and understand the
Investigation Procedures in relation to the
Disclosure of Unused Material as described in
the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act
1996 Codes of Practice, which must be adhered to
by all Consignia staff undertaking
investigations."
Just pausing there, you listed the Criminal
Procedure and Investigations Act as governing
your role as an Investigator at paragraph 39 of
your statement. Were you aware, in 2001, that
there was a CPIA Code of Practice which Post
Office Investigators were required to adhere to,
in addition to the Act itself?
I'm not sure if you'd have asked me at the time
that I'd be able to say, "Yes, I am adhering to
the CPIA Code of Practice". However, my
29
Consignia. All Investigators have
Consignia. All Investigators have a responsibility for carrying out the duties
a responsibility for carrying out the duties
a responsibility for carrying out the duties imposed on them under this Code, including in
a responsibility for carrying out the duties imposed on them under this Code, including in particular recording information, and retaining
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."
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." Then at the second bullet point, we 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." Then at the second bullet point, we have this:
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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." Then at the second bullet point, we have this: "Investigators and Disclosure Officers must be fair and objective and must work together
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." Then 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
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." Then 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
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." Then 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 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." Then 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
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." Then 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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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." Then 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 or an acquittal against the weight of the evidence." Then at bullet point 3, we have this: "In discharging their obligations under the statute, code common law and any operational instructions, Investigators should always err on

an opportunity to read this document?

Yeah, I've looked at the document, yeah.

Had you seen this document before the Inquiry

1		understanding was that generally, that we
2		would. I don't know if that makes sense, you
3		know. If someone were to have asked me then,
4		"Are you adhering to this?", I would say, "Well,
5		I believe I am", but if they'd asked me to stand
6		there and recite the Act, I don't think I would
7		have been able to do it.
8	Q.	The introduction at 3.1 in the first two bullet
9		points identifies the Act, so the Criminal
10		Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, and then
11		also covers the Attorney General's Guidelines on
12		the disclosure of unused material. It may be
13		that you can't say but in 2001 were you aware of
14		the existence of the Attorney General's
15		Guidelines on disclosure of unused material?
16	A.	Well, I can't say. However, in 2001, I would
17		have probably been sort of 15 months into the
18		role and quite new. So there's a strong chance
19		that I wouldn't have been.
20	Q.	Going further down the page, please, to the
21		general principles section, there is a section
22		on "Investigators and Disclosure Officers", and
23		at bullet point 1 an Investigator is defined:
24		"An Investigator is a person involved in the
25		conduct of a criminal investigation involving 30

"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." Just pausing there, you've addressed in your statement your understanding of your role in relation to disclosure at the time of your involvement in Mr Blakey's case, that is in

paragraph 139 of Mr Whitaker's statement, that's
 page 33 of WITN05050100. That's 139. You say
 this:

2004. Could we have on screen, please,

"Regarding disclosure, without really knowing it I was the Disclosure Officer in the case. Within POL Investigations, if you were the officer in the case, you were also Disclosure Officer, exhibits officer, report writer, witness liaison, and all the other roles combined to support an investigation. As such, when it came time to review evidence and produce disclosure schedules for a criminal prosecution,

Moving, then, to the second bullet point on

it was down to each Investigator to do this."

You say you were the Disclosure Officer without really knowing it. Do you mean by that that it fell to you to complete the disclosure schedule as one of number of tasks Investigators did but you gave no conscious thought to the fact that you had an additional but distinct role as a Disclosure Officer.

A. No, what I meant by that was that, basically, you were expected to do everything. It was never said to me that "You are the Disclosure Officer", but I knew I had, you know -- disclosure fell under the remit of what I was expected to do. So it was simply that I -- you know, as a Post Office Investigator, you were expected to do everything.

I know in other roles, in other organisations, the roles that I've mentioned there, exhibits officer, report writer, would often be someone different and an Investigator would stand to one side of them, leading the investigation. But within every one of my Post Office Investigations, no matter how big or small or how complicated or how simple, I -- those roles were expected to be completed by the

"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."

At the time you were an Investigator, did you understand that, because you were also the Disclosure Officer, you had a duty specifically 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 recall that -- I would have been aware of that because in filling in the disclosure schedules, you know, it specifically mentions that. So I think it's safe to say that I would have had an understanding that that was something I should have been doing.
- 20 Q. The bullet point below says this:

"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 1 Investigation Manager.

Q. So you knew that you had a disclosure task but
 were you consciously aware that you had
 a distinct role with applicable additional
 duties as a Disclosure Officer?

A. I don't think it was ever pointed out to me that
"You are Disclosure Officer". It's not a role
or a term that I probably would have been
familiar with. However, as you say, I knew
I had a role in regards to providing disclosure
and considering disclosure all the way through
an investigation.

Q. Going back, please, to the May 2001 Disclosure
of Unused Material Policy, that's POL00104762,
page 2 of that document, please. The third
bullet point on this page, about halfway down,
deals with a Section 9 statement and underneath
that, underneath the paragraph in bold, it is
explained:

"In meeting the obligations in paragraph 6.9 and 8.1 of the Code, it is crucial that descriptions by Disclosure Officers in non-sensitive schedules our detailed, clear and accurate."

Then this at the next bullet point:

1 lead to disclosure."

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

- 4 A. It would have been Legal Services, Royal Mail
 5 Group Legal Services.
- Q. Is it Legal Services, the Criminal Law Team,
 that you would have gone to, if you were in
 doubt about your responsibilities relating to
 disclosure?
 - A. Probably in the first instance, if I had any doubts about it I may have chatted it through with team leader or something like that, or a colleague. My view with regard to it was essentially that my role was to, in disclosure -- or certainly a role in disclosure was to list everything. It was going to get reviewed and, if there was anything that shouldn't have been there or was on the wrong schedule, or any issues like that, the reviewing lawyer would get back to me, and it would be -- you know, it would be discussed and put right.

That's how I viewed the process, or I seem to recall how I viewed the process.

Q. It is not referenced in this document, but wereyou aware, when you were an Investigator, that

3	pointed away from the guilt of the suspect?
2	investigator to pursue lines of inquiry which
1	there was an obligation on a criminal

and the second s

4 A. Yes.

Q. In terms of the legislation you list at
paragraph 39 of your statement, which you say
governed your investigations -- and do feel free
to refer to that if you want to -- where would
you have found these documents if you wanted to
refer to them?

10 A. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act Codes of 11 Practice, they were in a book that we carried 12 13 around with us. The Criminal Procedure and 14 Investigations Act, potentially as it went 15 along, they could have been along -- sorry, they 16 could have been held electronically. The Human 17 Rights Act, I recall when that came in, we went 18 on a course. But, again, I would imagine they 19 would have been held somewhere, the specific 20 Acts, or you could get them from, you know, from 21 open sourcing on the Government website. So 22 a number of places they would be available to be 23 viewed.

Q. Apart from the Police and Criminal Evidence Act,
 which you say you carried around with you, did
 37

1 2012; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So some two months later. As far as you can 4 recall, did you go to this training session?

5 **A.** I vaguely recall coming down to -- I think it
6 was held in chambers close to the Royal Courts
7 of Justice In London. I'm not sure whether
8 it -- that was this course or another, but I've
9 got no reason to believe that I wasn't, that
10 I didn't attend, if I was invited to.

11 Q. Can you recall being on a training course where12 disclosure was specifically discussed?

13 **A.** Again, I think I'll have to refer back to what
14 I've just said. I do recall having some sort of
15 training within Bells Yard (*sic*) but I was not
16 entirely sure that it was disclosure. It could
17 have been something else.

Q. Can you recall attending any training
specifically on disclosure at any time before
this, whether provided internally by the Post
Office or otherwise?

A. I don't but, again, that's not to say that there
wasn't. There could have been something right
at the very, very beginning. But I think -- and
I don't know whether, you know, it's something

you ever go directly to the other legislation
 for guidance?
 A. Potentially, maybe the Proceeds of Crime Act.
 But I would probably be more inclined, if I had

5 a query that fell within those, I would have

rang Legal Services, I would have rung a lawyer.
 My view was that they were the experts, if I'd

8 got a query in regards to specifics of the law,

9 I would ring them.

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10 Q. You have recently been provided with some 11 documents by the Inquiry relating to training provided very shortly before you left the Post 12 13 Office to join Royal Mail, in November 2011, and 14 that was training on legal advices and 15 disclosure which was provided by Rob Wilson, who 16 was Head of Criminal Law at that time, and 17 counsel from a set of chambers specialising in 18 criminal law, hosted externally by that set of 19 chambers.

Could we have on screen, please, the email invitation to this training. The reference is POL00167351. We can see this is an invitation from Graham Brander to a session planned from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, on 14 November 2011. So I think you left the Post Office in January

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that'll be mentioned later. I do think, you know, that the provision for training in respect of disclosure within Post Office Limited was not what it should have been.

Q. So are we right to understand that you have
a memory of there being some training provided
by an external provider?
A. Not specifically disclosure training. I do

A. Not specifically disclosure training. I do remember that from time to time external providers would give us training and, as I say, I do remember some training in Bells Yard chambers. However, I genuinely cannot recall if it was disclosure training, if it was training on something else. Unfortunately, the reason I do remember it, because I do recall that we were shown around the Royal Courts of Justice afterwards. So I do recall we were down there and I recall that happening, but the actual

and I recall that happening, but the actual
 content of the training, I can't recall if that
 was disclosure training or not, unfortunately.

Q. Setting aside the content of the training, is
 there only one occasion you remember where you
 were given training by an external provider?

24 A. Yeah, probably, yeah.

25 Q. We need not have them up on screen unless you

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1 wish to go to them, Mr Whitaker, but among the Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 33 that 1 2 2 documents recently provided to you are two you felt the training in respect of the 3 emails sent to you and others after this 3 investigation role you held was adequate, that 4 training, which included the PowerPoint 4 you were trained to a reasonable standard in 5 investigation skills and any specific major presentation from the session, an extract from 5 6 the Criminal Procedure Rules, the Code for Crown 6 change to the law, policies or techniques would 7 Prosecutors and the CPIA Code of Practice, as 7 be communicated through training courses. But 8 well as links to other CPS resources including 8 your assessment of the training relating to 9 9 the Attorney General's Guidelines on disclosure. disclosure is somewhat different. 10 As far as you can recall, do you remember 10 Could we have on screen, please, 11 receiving those documents by email? 11 paragraph 140 of Mr Whitaker's statement, that's 12 A. I don't remember receiving those documents but 12 page 34 of WITN05050100. You say here: 13 if they were sent to me I would have received 13 "An issue ... that I feel there was, was 14 14 that there was no regular refresher training on Q. Can you recall ever being sent those kind of 15 the subject ..." 15 16 resources before this? 16 That subject being disclosure; is that 17 A. What, specific to disclosure? 17 right? 18 Q. Well, the resources I've just referred to, and 18 A. Yes. 19 in particular, the Attorney General's Guidelines 19 "... often the line managers were equally as 20 on disclosure, the CPIA Codes of Practice, the 20 poorly equipped to deal with disclosure, and 21 Code for Crown Prosecutors. You were being sent 21 because as POL cases were rarely committed for 22 22 these documents after this training. Do you trial, consideration and production of schedules 23 remember those documents ever being sent to you 23 was something that investigators rarely did. 24 24 before? I can recall in my time at POL investigators 25 A. No. 25 with substantial service who had never assembled 41 1 what was known as a 'committal file' and 1 actually, putting the schedules together was 2 therefore had never produced disclosure 2 something that was rarely done and I don't 3 schedules." 3 recall getting any feedback. You know, when 4 Does this remain your view: that because 4 they were sent in to review, I don't recall 5 there was no regular refresher training on 5 getting any feedback to say, "Oh yeah, they're 6 disclosure and because Post Office cases were 6 fine", or, you know, "They're not what we 7 7 rarely committed for trial, Investigators and should -- what they should be". 8 their line managers were poorly equipped to deal 8 So, essentially, that's the knowledge that 9 with disclosure? 9 I've sort of drawn to make the statement that A. I would agree with that. I mean, reading out 10 10 I've made in the -- in my statement. the policy, essentially, Post Office Limited MS PRICE: Sir, I am about to move to a larger 11 11 12 said, "This is the policy that, you know, you're 12 topic. I wonder if we might take the morning 13 adhering to and, obviously, the law with regard 13 break slightly earlier. 14 to what you're adhering to with disclosure". 14 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. By all means, Ms Price. So 15 However, there was never any -- or I don't what time shall we start again? 15 16 recall any checking of understanding of that. MS PRICE: 11.30. 16 17 It was never something that was really SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine. Thanks. 17 18 pushed, as it were, and I don't know whether MS PRICE: Thank you, sir. 18 19 that is because we were, as I said in the 19 (11.07 am) 20 statement, we were rarely called to put together 20 (A short break) 21 schedules and, actually, seriously consider 21 (11.30 am) 22 disclosure ahead of proceedings. 22 MS PRICE: Hello, sir, can you see and hear us?

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SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.

MS PRICE: Mr Whitaker, I'd like to turn to

investigation casework compliance. Should we 44

a duty to retain, we had a duty to review but, 43

I think the general feeling was that -- with

disclosure is that we were -- you know, we had

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take it from your statement that there was,

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there are also paragraphs in this document

2		throughout your time as a Post Office	2		dealing with both operational and procedural
3		Investigator, a requirement that certain	3		failures identified during an investigation.
4		information was set out in the case files in	4		Is that a fair summary of the nature of the
5		a uniform way?	5		document?
6	A.	Yes.	6	A.	Yes.
7	Q.	One document which the Inquiry sent you for the	7	Q.	You've provided in your statement your
8		purposes of preparing your statement was	8		understanding of the guidance given in that
9		a document entitled "Casework Management", and	9		document and that is at paragraph 72 to 73 of
10		there are two versions of that, one is dated	10		your statement. Is it right that your
11		March 2000 and one is dated October 2002. It's	11		understanding of the guidance now, contained
12		right, isn't it, that you don't recall being	12		within that document, is this: within
13		provided with either version of this document	13		disclosure, the organisation should take care,
14		before they were provided to you by the Inquiry?	14		as evidence and unused material may contain
15	A.	I don't think they were provided to me. I don't	15		commercially sensitive information that should
16		know whether I would have been able to access	16		not be in the public domain?
17		them but they were not actually provided.	17		Do you want to have a look to your
18	Q.	Is their content familiar to you?	18		statement? This is paragraph 72. We can have
19	A.	Yeah, yeah.	19		this on screen, if that's easier. WITN05050100,
20	Q.	This document sets out the need for two separate	20		page 19. This is a document that the Inquiry is
21		reports: one, the conduct report, to go to the	21		familiar with. If you'd like to refresh your
22		discipline manager; and another, the legal	22		memory, I can bring that up on screen for you,
23		report to go to the Criminal Law Team.	23		as well, or are you content to go from your
24		Sensitive information should only be included in	24		statement?
25		the legal report and not the conduct report, and 45	25	A.	No, I'm content to go from my statement, yeah. 46
1		My understanding of the guidance, and how it was	1	A.	Yeah.
2		applied at the time, was, as I've said in my	2	Q.	and you recall a compliance checklist being
3		statement there, that the commercial	3		sent out and files being scored against that
4		sensitivities were to do with customers of the	4		checklist by a Compliance Manager?
5		Post Office and how their transactions moved	5	A.	Yes.
6		through sub post offices. And my understanding	6	Q.	You recall that compliance manager to have been
7		was that, you know, anything commercially	7		Ged Harbinson?
8		sensitive from that point of view was what this	8	A.	Yes.
9		guidance was aimed at. I didn't take it that	9	Q.	Could we have on screen, please, document
10		this guidance was aimed at the relationship	10		reference POL00118096. The email about halfway
11		between Fujitsu and Post Office Limited.	11		down the page on this document, please
12		I thought purely it was to do with	12		a little further down. This is an email from
13		I think I've mentioned it in the statement	13		Dave Posnett to a number of Security team
14		such things as the Benefits Agency and how their	14		recipients, including you, and it's dated 23 May
15		products were processed through post offices.	15		2011. The subject of the email is "Casework
16	Q.	In terms of your understanding at the time you	16		Compliance", and the email reads as follows:
17		were an Investigator, did you think that,	17		"All,
18		because something was commercially sensitive,	18		"Most of you are aware that case files
19		that alone and of itself, meant that it did not	19		submitted for legal advice will become subject
20		need to be disclosed?	20		to compliance checks. This process is due to
21	A.	No.	21		commence in June and is designed to raise
22	Q.	You say at paragraph 76 of your statement that,	22		standards of files submitted (including their
23		towards the end of your time with the Post	23		contents reports, taped summaries, appendix
24					
24		Office, you recall there being a push on	24		enclosures, recoveries, stakeholders, etc) and
25		Office, you recall there being a push on casework compliance	24 25		enclosures, recoveries, stakeholders, etc) and ensure there is a consistent approach across the

team. It is also prob	ably an opportune time
given that we have r	ecently recruited new people
to the team.	

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"I've associated relevant documents that feed into the compliance process. Please familiarise yourself with these documents."

A number of compliance documents were attached to Mr Posnett's email in a zip file. Presumably, given the instruction in Mr Posnett's email to "familiarise yourself with the documents attached", you read them when you received his email, did you?

13 A. Though I can't recall reading them, I can't 14 think of a reason why I wouldn't have.

Q. One of those documents was the "Guide to the 15 16 Preparation and Layout of Investigation Red 17 Label Case Files". Could we have that on screen, please. The reference is POL00118101. 18 19 Just scrolling down a little.

> Did you read this document at the time it was sent to you by Mr Posnett, or can't you say?

22 Α. Is it possible to scroll down a little further 23 because I can just see a blank page?

24 We can look over to the second page and that may Q. 25 give you a bit more content.

section of the report dealing with the content of the discipline report, as opposed to the confidential offender report. Paragraph 2.15 reads as follows:

"Details of failures in security, supervision, procedures and product integrity. This must be a comprehensive list of all failures in security, supervision, procedures and product integrity it must be highlighted bold in the report. Where the investigator concludes that there are no failures a statement to this effect should be made and highlighted in hold "

So this seems to relate to the instruction to include a comprehensive list of failures in this report.

Then, over the page, please, there is this

"Significant failures that may affect the successful likelihood of any criminal action and/or cause significant damage to the business must be confined, solely, to the confidential offender report. Care must be exercised when including failures within the Discipline Report as obviously this is disclosed to the suspect

A. Right. As I say, I can't think of a reason 1 2 I wouldn't have, although if you asked me to 3 tell you what date, what time I read it,

4 I wouldn't be able to tell you.

Q. This document deals with the content of the 5 6 offender report and the discipline report. So 7 we discussed just now that the separate reports 8 that were required by the "Casework Management" 9 document, one being the one for the Criminal Law 10 Team and the other being the conduct report, so 11 the terminology is a little different, but it is 12 the offender report which goes to Legal and the

13 discipline report which goes to the Discipline

14 Manager, in the sense of this document.

15 A.

16 Q. This was provided to you by the Inquiry. Have 17 you had a chance to read it?

Yes. 18 **A**.

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19 You addressed this document at paragraph 78 and 20 79 of your statement. So please do have those 21 in front of you if you need to refer to them. 22 Can we turn, please, to page 10 of this 23 document. Scrolling down a bit, please, so that 24 2.15 is visible.

To put this in context, this is the second

criminal elements of the enquiry, as well as being potentially damaging to the reputation or security of the business. If you are in any doubt as to the appropriateness of inclusion or exclusion you must discuss with your Team

Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 78 of Mr Whitaker's statement. That's page 20 of WITN05050100, towards the bottom of the page, please. Just to clarify, the understanding of the paragraph we've just looked at, 2.15, that you're addressing here at paragraph 78, is that your understanding now, reading this document with the benefit of your current understanding of disclosure obligations, or is that how you understood the document at the time?

19 A. No, I think it was how I understood the document 20 at the time. As I said, I was always aware in 21 regard to disclosure that the duty was to have 22 an eye on it and -- you know, from the very, 23 very beginning, and make sure that anything that 24 passed the disclosure test was highlighted.

25 Q. So what you say is this:

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offender and may have ramifications on both the Leader."

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"In regard to my understanding of paragraph 2.15 ... I would say that any failing of the types identified in the document should be drawn to the attention of the prosecution decision maker in the report by the Investigation Manager, highlighting them in bold type."

Over the page, please:

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"Similarly, should a matter be progressed through the criminal courts it would be reasonable to expect that matters highlighted in this way would be included on the relevant disclosure schedule. If there was evidence of Horizon system bugs errors or defects I feel that this evidence would clearly be relevant to the case and would pass the disclosure test in that it would be reasonably considered capable of undermining the prosecution case or assisting the defence."

In essence, and do correct me if I paraphrase wrongly, you conclude that any serious failures would be highlighted in the offender report, even if not in the discipline report. They would be highlighted to the prosecution decision maker, who would consider

ultimately -- well, specifically, in regard to disclosure, if something were to undermine a crucial or assist the defence, it needed to be -- it needed to be disclosed and it was my job, as an Investigator, to gather the evidence, and put it forward. It was someone else's decision to what they did with that, essentially. So, speaking from a personal point of view, that seems clear to me.

other people and their understanding of it. Turning, please, to another document which Q. Mr Posnett asked recipients of his email to familiarise themselves with, the "Identification Codes" document, you've had an opportunity to see that document, to read it?

Again, unfortunately, I can't speak for

17 A. Yes

Q. I don't think we need to display it on the 18 19 screen at the moment. Did you read this document as you were asked to do when Mr Posnett 20 21 sent you his email?

22 A. I don't recall specifically reading it but, if 23 he sent me the email, there's no reason to 24 suggest that I wouldn't have read it.

25 Do you recall having any concern about Q.

1 it in the context of whether the prosecution 2 test was met and decide whether the matter 3 should be disclosed.

So, as such, you see no problem with paragraph 2.15; is that right?

6 A. I think that sums it up.

Q. Could we have back on screen, please, paragraph 2.15. That's POL00118101. Again page 10 of that document, please. To the bottom 10 of the page, please, and going over, actually, 11 to page 11. Looking at this wording again, do 12 you think there was a risk that using the 13 wording of the sort used here, under a heading 14 of "Failures in Product Integrity", might be 15 interpreted by some Investigators to mean that 16 relevant product integrity failures should not 17 be disclosed because they might affect the 18 success of any criminal action? 19

That is, of course, the opposite of the test

21 A. I can't really comment on someone else's 22 understanding of that. I think, speaking 23 personally, from the very, very beginning, 24 fairness in regards to investigations was 25 something that I always considered. You know,

1 an "Identification Codes" document when you were 2 an Investigator?

3 A. No, because I seem to recall -- and I think I've 4 mentioned as much in my statement -- that it was 5 just something that we completed. As I say, 6 I used a different one to the one that 7 Mr Posnett put forward. I never used that document and, you know, the terms on it are 8 9 offensive, outdated and, as I say, I don't 10 recall it at all.

But, that said, I don't recall putting up any -- you know, sending it back in and saying, "What's this?" which, you know, obviously, if it happened today, I would like to think I would

16 Q. You say at paragraph 81 of your statement that 17 you recall as an Investigator being required to 18 include identity codes in casework reporting, 19 which you understood to be required in the 20 context of recording crime data and statistics 21 to the police.

22 A. I believed it was something to do with that, 23 yeah. Essentially, it was -- as we go on, we've 24 just been talking about compliance, it was 25 a section that had to be filled in on the

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1 1 "Unknown". offender report, so, you know, rightly or 2 2 wrongly, I filled the section in. Is this the form you used to notify the 3 Q. 3 police of proceedings and to identify the Setting aside for a second the offender report, 4 4 identification code which applied in any given do you recall there being a specific form used 5 by the Post Office, as a non-police agency, to 5 6 notify the police of criminal proceedings? 6 A. This was the form that we filled in and I think 7 Α. Yes 7 it went to a Prosecution Support Office and they 8 Q. It was called a form NPA01? actually dealt with the notification to the 8 9 9 police, but it was our responsibility to fill A. Yes, there was, yeah. 10 10 the form in. Q. Can we have on screen, please, document reference POL00118374. This is a blank copy of Q. But is this the way that you notified police of 11 11 12 the form NPA01 and we can see the agency name on identification codes by reference to those 12 13 the top left, Post Office Limited. We can see 13 options on this form? 14 at the top, the title "Non-Police Agencies 14 A. It looks to be on the form, so obviously the 15 (Notification of Proceedings to Police)". Then 15 question is why was it on the offender report? 16 there are boxes for various identifying details 16 Q. So no reference to the identification codes 17 of the person being charged or summonsed. 17 document circulated by Mr Posnett in May 2011 18 About halfway down the page, we can see the 18 was necessary to provide identity code 19 "Prosecuting Agents" listed as "Post Office 19 information to the police, was it? 20 Limited Legal Services, Criminal Law Team". 20 A. It doesn't look to be the case, no. 21 Then, over the page, please, right at the 21 Q. Turning back then to Mr Posnett's zip file of 22 top, we see there are number of options for 22 compliance documents, could we have document 23 ethnic appearance. There are seven boxes: 23 reference POL00118101. This is, again, the 24 24 "White European", "Dark European", "Afro "Guide to the Preparation and Layout of 25 Caribbean", "Asian", "Oriental", "Arab" and 25 Investigation Red Label Case Files", covering 1 offender reports and discipline reports. 1 numbers that corresponded with the identity 2 Starting on page 4 of that document, please, 2 codes used in the police. And it had -- it 3 scrolling down a little, we see a preamble for 3 remained in my -- what we termed a tackle kit, 4 the policy template of an offender report. You 4 from an early period and I don't recall ever 5 see there at 1.2, "Preamble as policy template". 5 changing it. 6 Going to the top of the next page, please, 6 As I say, some of the descriptions in 7 7 at the top right, we see "Identification Code" Mr Posnett's document were -- came -- it came as 8 and in brackets "Numbers 1 to 7 only". So 8 a shock to me when I saw that because I don't 9 Investigators were being instructed to enter 9 recall ever seeing it previously. As I say, if 10 an identification code limited to options 1 to 10 I got these -- this suite of documents with 7; is that right? 11 11 this, I can only think that I did recall them. 12 12 A. Yes. But I didn't use it. I don't remember using 13 Q. They were being provided with the 13 those terms on there at all. 14 "Identification Codes" document sent in the same 14 Q. Given that it was not necessary to use this 15 compliance zip file, which you described as 15 document, the "Identification Codes" document, 16 containing offensive and outdated terms. Was 16 for police notification purposes, because the 17 there any other way for Investigators receiving 17 options were there on the face of the form, can 18 Mr Posnett's suite of compliance documents to 18 you help us with why it was being used to 19 interpret the instruction, other than, "Use this 19 populate the offender report? It may be that 20 identification codes document to complete the 20 the answer is no. 21 identification codes space on the offender 21 I don't have any idea whatsoever. It certainly 22 report"? 22 wasn't required. But I can say that it 23 A. As I say, I didn't use Mr Posnett's information 23 pre-dated Mr Posnett's -- or this document, 24 that he sent. I seem to recall I'd been 24 certainly, because I do recall -- I mean, as an investigator for some time now and I had 25 25 I say, I started filling in reports back in 1999

1		and I do recall it being on there then, and	1		was difficult to begin to find a place to start
2		I recall it being on there ever since.	2		any analysis."
3	Q.	I'm sorry, what do you recall being on there	3		You go on at 85:
4		then?	4		"I can't specifically recall the steps
5	A.	The space on the in the report preamble for	5		I would have taken but if the subpostmaster
6		identity code.	6		could provide any relevant information about the
7	Q.	It's apparent from your statement that you can't	7		loss being as a result of a particular product,
8		assist on who might have drafted that document	8		or transaction, then I feel that some analysis
9		or how long ago that might have been?	9		would have to be done in the area named."
10	A.	I can't, I'm afraid. I'm sorry.	10		Then at 86:
11	Q.	Turning, please, to lines of inquiry in cases	11		"In regard to analysis, I always viewed that
12		where a shortage was being attributed to the	12		my personal role was not to provide intricate
13		Horizon system, could we have on screen, please,	13		analysis of systems and usually I would ask
14		page 22 of Mr Whitaker's statement,	14		someone better qualified, perhaps
15		paragraph 84.	15		a representative of a particular product within
16		You deal here with the situation when	16		the National Business Support Centre, a POL
17		someone being investigated attributed	17		security analyst, or on occasions Fujitsu
18		a shortfall to problems with the Horizon system,	18		representative to perform analysis."
19		and you say this:	19		Should we take it from the paragraphs here
20		"It is difficult to state what analysis was	20		that, unless a subpostmaster could pinpoint
21		done by Investigators of Horizon data when	21		a loss being down to a particular product or
22		someone attributed a shortage to Horizon. It	22		transaction, then, as a matter of practice, you
23		depended on what had been said during the	23		would not request data or analysis of data from
24		interview. If someone had stated that a loss	24		Fujitsu as part of your investigation?
25		had just appeared and offered nothing else, it	25	A.	I don't think that I would have, at the time.
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1	Q.	Also, in general terms, is it right that you	1		information and see if there were any anomalies
2		would only carry out fairly basic analysis of	2		that would you know, support a line of
3		data produced by Horizon, such as comparing cash	3		inquiry.
4		on hand figures to provious each accounts or			
5		on hand figures to previous cash accounts or	4	Q.	In the context of paragraph 88 here, you say
		declarations?	4 5	Q.	In the context of paragraph 88 here, you say that that changed in that you, at some point,
6	A.	declarations? I would.		Q.	
6 7	A. Q.	declarations?	5	Q.	that that changed in that you, at some point,
6 7 8	A. Q.	declarations? I would.	5 6	Q.	that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via
7 8 9	A. Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information	5 6 7	Q.	that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't
7 8 9 10	A. Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information"	5 6 7 8 9 10		that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were.
7 8 9 10 11	A. Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information" What kind of information are you referring	5 6 7 8 9 10		that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were. They might have been a week behind, or something
7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information" What kind of information are you referring to here?	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were. They might have been a week behind, or something like that, but I do recall being able to
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information" What kind of information are you referring to here? I recall, just sending away for more detailed	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were. They might have been a week behind, or something like that, but I do recall being able to certainly have a look at cash accounts, through
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information" What kind of information are you referring to here? I recall, just sending away for more detailed analysis of Horizon, I think on specific	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were. They might have been a week behind, or something like that, but I do recall being able to certainly have a look at cash accounts, through this portal on our laptops.
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information" What kind of information are you referring to here? I recall, just sending away for more detailed analysis of Horizon, I think on specific datasets and things like that. It depended what	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were. They might have been a week behind, or something like that, but I do recall being able to certainly have a look at cash accounts, through this portal on our laptops. Just to be clear, by remote access, do you mean
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	declarations? I would. You say at paragraph 88 of your statement that: " early on after Horizon was introduced [you] had to send away for Horizon information" What kind of information are you referring to here? I recall, just sending away for more detailed analysis of Horizon, I think on specific datasets and things like that. It depended what was what I was looking into at the time. As	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Α.	that that changed in that you, at some point, gained remote access to Horizon information via a portal on your computers, where information could be downloaded directly to you. Yes. We could examine cash accounts. I can't recall whether how up to date they were. They might have been a week behind, or something like that, but I do recall being able to certainly have a look at cash accounts, through this portal on our laptops. Just to be clear, by remote access, do you mean that you could download and view data, rather
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and Fujitsu in respect of the provision of ARQ requests, though I do not feel that they were provided as a matter of course for losses attributed to an unexplained Horizon shortage. I vaguely recall also that Fujitsu may have charged POL for provision of some ARQ information after a certain number of requests, however I don't not recall what the number of requests before that cost began. Also, I don't recall that I ever consciously considered this in any ARQ request that I might have made."

At 91:

"I recall that ARQ data might be required if a case was committed for trial following a 'not guilty' plea at Magistrates Court. It may have been requested at this stage perhaps by the reviewing lawyer in their advice. If this ARQ data was part of the evidence then I feel that it would be disclosed to the subpostmaster's legal team at the relevant point prior to the trial as part of the evidence."

Should the Chair understand from this that, generally speaking, ARQ data would not be sought as part of an investigation, but might be if a case was committed to trial following a not

statement and in what context? A. I recall it was always someone within Fujitsu. I think the person changed throughout the time and, as I say, from my point of view, I was an Investigator, I was gathering the evidence. I -- against the backdrop of believing that Horizon was robust anyway, so I would make the request to -- I think through a single point of contact within our organisation, I would make the request to Fujitsu and they would provide what I've termed a "catch-all" statement, which is a statement to say that the Horizon system at a particular office appears to be in good working order and there's no reason that it should throw up anomalies.

That sort of -- that's the sort of -- it wasn't for me to request that statement. It was for them to give me that statement, you know.

Q. In cases where you obtained a catch-all statement, did this mean that no case-specific analysis of the available data was conducted by anyone from Fujitsu?

A. I don't know what Fujitsu did to produce the
 statement. As I say, I would ask that in the
 first instance, in putting together a file

1 guilty plea?

In the main, yes. I don't think exclusively so, and I can only speak from the investigations that I did. Specifically if you were looking -if an Investigator, potentially, was looking at an office for -- that they suspected of doing certain things, before an interview took place, they may want to get some information so they could have sent away for those ARQs.

I would say that, in the main, though, it -that sort of information would generally wait
until we had to put together a committal file
and rely on the evidence and then, obviously,
the -- any evidence that we relied upon would be
disclosed to the defence.

16 Q. At paragraph 92, you say this:

"That said I feel that in investigating cases, if it sufficed, I often would be satisfied with a 'catch-all' statement to say that the Horizon system was in good working order at the time and did not throw up anomalies. If then directed to obtain something in more detail by Legal Services I would go ahead and obtain whatever they had requested."

Who would provide this kind of catch-all

potentially for a committal -- putting together a committal file. As I say, if that had been reviewed by the reviewing lawyer or by counsel, and they felt that it wasn't specifically what they wanted, in how they were going to run the case, then they would come back to me and I would make the request for a statement to --if a statement could be obtained, to say whatever was required. **Q.** You say at paragraph 93 that you recall Andy Dunks being someone that was called upon to assist in prosecutions; is that right?

13 A. Do, I recall Andy Dunks and I think since
14 writing this statement I do recall Penny Thomas,
15 I think, may have been someone else.
16 Q. I'd like to turn, please, to your involvement in
17 the prosecution of David Blakey. You drew the

the prosecution of David Blakey. You drew the distinction in your witness statement to the Inquiry between the shortfall cases where someone could provide relevant information about the loss as a result of something particular, a particular product or transaction, in which case you might have done some further analysis, and cases where someone was only able to say that a loss appeared, and they could not explain

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it, in which case you would not, generally speaking.

David Blakey's case was one where he could not explain how the loss had appeared, wasn't it?

6 A. Yes.

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- 7 Q. Do you remember Mr Blakey and his case now?
- 8 A. From reviewing the documentation, I've certainly
 9 got an understanding of it. In regards to the
 10 events, I do recall attending Riby Square post
 11 office in Grimsby. I recall certain aspects of
- it but certainly not a full narrative of everyaspect of it.
- 14 **Q.** You deal with your involvement in this case
 15 starting at paragraph 124 of your statement to
 16 the Inquiry. Do feel free to refer to that
 17 statement, if you need to. You first became
 18 aware of the case on 13 May 2004, on the day
 19 an audit was conducted at the Riby Square
 20 branch; is that right?
- 21 A. Yes.

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- 22 Q. Am I pronouncing that branch correctly?
- 23 A. I've always known it as Riby Square, yes.
- 24 Q. You've set out the circumstances in which this
 25 case was allocated to you in the offender report

spoke to all three members of the Audit Team. At this time he informed them that there would be a shortage of cash in the post office of some £60,000. He said that this was due to cash going missing from the office over the last few months.

"Glen Morris then asked Mr Blakey to write and sign a brief statement outlining what he had just told them. The members of the Audit Team then contacted their management, relayed the information of the morning to that point and continued with the audit."

Just pausing there, did it concern you to find that the auditor had, on the spot, asked Mr Blakey to write up and sign a statement.

- A. It didn't concern me. I'm not an auditor and 16 17 never have been an auditor but I think I recall 18 that being their standard procedure. If 19 a disclosure was made in relation to the one 20 such as Mr Blakey was making, I believe that 21 their instruction was to write that down and get 22 the person making the disclosure to them to 23 sign, to say as much.
- Q. So it was practice to seek a signed account fromsomeone before they'd had the opportunity to

1 you authored, dated 25 May 2004. Could we have 2 that on screen, please. The reference is 3 POL00044818. Turning to page 6 of that 4 document, please, and scrolling down, we can see your name at the bottom of the report. Going 5 6 back to page 2 of the document, please, we see 7 the subpostmaster's name, Gillian Blakey. That 8 was Mr Blakey's wife --A. That's correct. 9

10 Q. -- and the date you wrote the report little
11 further down, 25 May 2004. In terms of the
12 circumstances leading up to your involvement,
13 you said this:

"On 13 May 2004, members of the Audit Team attended Riby Square SPSO Grimsby FAD Code: 202/311. The Audit Team gained entry to the office at approximately 0820 hours. At this time Gillian Blakey, the subpostmaster and person named in the second preamble to the report, was asked to produce all cash stock and vouchers proper to the audit.

"As the Audit Team were awaiting the opening of the office safe, David Blakey, Gillian Blakey's husband, and offender named in the first preamble to this report, attended and

1 consider the position or take legal advice?

A. It was not something that we'd asked - specifically asked anybody to do, as far as
 I recall. I don't. But it was something that
 auditors did.

- 6 Q. The auditors aren't trained, are they, in the7 conduct of criminal investigations?
- 8 A. The auditors are auditors.
- 9 Q. So the safeguards of an interview aren't presentin those circumstances, are they?
- A. No, but I wouldn't say that it was an interview.
 In respect of that, whatever the auditors took
 would then be taken into the interview where
 Mr -- in this case, Mr Blakey would have had the
 provisions of the caution and the provisions of
 having a solicitor present if they wished to.

So, at that stage, it was -- you know, it was just a piece of paper that had been written, albeit an important piece of paper. It became obviously more important when introduced into evidence and discussed after the caution.

- Q. What were you told about the circumstances inwhich this note came to be written?
- A. Just what was reported in the report. I say,
 I don't recall specifically but I don't doubt

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1		what was written in the report at the time, that
2		it appears the auditors asked for all cash and
3		stock to be produced, which was something they
4		would normally do, and, at that time, Mr Blakey
5		offered his disclosure that the cash-on-hand
6		figure had been inflated and he'd been doing
7		that, he'd been inflating the cash-on-hand for
8		some time.
a	Λ	It may or may not be relevant for Mr Blakey's

- Q. It may or may not be relevant for Mr Blakey's
 case but did you ever give any consideration to
 the possibility that an auditor may have done or
 said something that made a written signed note
 unreliable and, potentially, a subsequent
 interview based on that note unreliable?
- Potentially, that could be the case, certainly 15 Α. 16 but, again, that, as I've said, you know, 17 before, my job is to gather the evidence. 18 Certainly, I would view that as a strong piece 19 of evidence and if that piece of evidence was to 20 be tested down the line in court as any piece of 21 evidence would be. That's fair enough, and it 22 would be for the court to decide whether, you 23 know, whether that evidence met the test.

So if the auditor had been called to court and asked certain questions, then it may have

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1 they would just let you know the circumstances.

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- Q. Do you recall what they told you about what hadhappened that morning?
- 4 A. I don't specifically recall what they said but,
 5 as I say, I don't doubt what's written in the
 6 report there.
- Q. What happened when you arrived at the branch?
 Do feel free to refer to your report or your
 statement, as you wish.
- A. Well, again, I can speak in general terms. What
 would normally happen, I'd speak -- I'd go to
 the office, I would perhaps speak to the auditor
 to see if anything had altered, you know, if the
 money had been found or anything else had -- you
 know, if somebody else had come forward and
 offered a different account.

According to the report here, I asked Glen Morris that when I turned up, Glen Morris being the auditor. He told me that nothing had changed but they were close to reaching a final figure, which indeed backed up what Mr Blakey had said to him. And, at that time, it appeared Mr Morris handed me the statement written by

25 Q. What documents did you consider before you

made that unreliable but, at that stage with the knowledge that I had at the time, as an Investigator, I felt that I -- it was reasonable for me to include that piece of -- that -- Mr Blakey's statement, as it were, within the interview and, as I said, put it forward in my investigation and see where it led.

9 Q. Can you recall who it was who called you about
10 the situation? So you say, in the next
11 paragraph:

"The same morning I received a telephone [I assume that's a telephone call] apprising me of the situation and, along with Helen Dickinson of this Department, I attended the office."

16 Do you remember who called you? 17 A. I don't specifically remember who called me at 18 this time. It would more than likely have been 19 either my team leader at the time or it could 20 have been the auditor themselves, because 21 often -- because we worked quite closely with 22 certain Audit Teams, particularly at that time 23 in 2004. Sometimes you would get a call and say, "Oh, you know, we've just turned up at 24 25 a certain office and this has happened", and 74

1 interviewed Mr Blakey?

A. It would have been the -- well, certainly the
statement he gave to the auditors, it would have
been cash accounts that were on hand at the
office for previous weeks and anything that the
auditors felt relevant, you know, overnight cash
holdings, evidence of that, those sort of
things.

9 Q. So no attempt was made at that stage to check
10 the audit trail with Fujitsu, as opposed to look
11 at the paperwork which was available in branch?

12 No, this would have been -- we were very much 13 encouraged to undertake an early interview and 14 I would imagine that -- well, it was not unusual 15 to attend an office, have a quick briefing from 16 the auditor and be in an interview as soon as 17 possible, and sometimes that could be as little as an hour after you turned up at the sub post 18 19 office. So there was certainly no time at that 20 point to make any substantive enquiries beyond 21 what was immediately to hand at the audit.

As I say, we were very much encouraged to perform early interviews.

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Q. Indeed, you interviewed Mr Blakey on the same day as the audit, with the interviewing

- 1 commencing at 1308 hours, that's the time on the 2 record of taped interview, and the interview 3 took place onsite at the branch, didn't it?
- 4 A. Yes, I believe so.

interviewer.

5 **Q.** We have a record of the tape recorded interview, 6 which is in two parts. The first half of the 7 interview lasted 42 minutes, according to that 8 record, and recommenced for a further 9 32 minutes. Can we have on screen, please, the 10 record of the first part of the interview, that 11 reference is POL00044830. We can see from this 12 record that you are listed as the interviewing

> Looking towards the bottom of the first page, please, it appears here "PW", three lines up, that you cautioned Mr Blakey at the outset of the interview.

officer and also Helen Dickinson as second

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- 20 Q. Going over the page, please, looking down that 21 page, you went through Mr Blakey's legal rights 22 with him?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Going over to page 3, please, and looking at 25 that page, what was Mr Blakey's decision on
- 1 made whether we could continue after having that 2 legal advice, or wait until a time when 3 a solicitor came over, or rescheduled to another 4 time.
- 5 Q. Do you recognise that the situation Mr Blakey 6 found himself in was a difficult one, being criminally interviewed by his employer, that he might have felt under pressure to just press on and explain the situation as best he could?
- A. I recognise that being interviewed for 10 a criminal offence is potentially very 11 12 distressing -- I do -- and difficult. However, 13 I would suggest that, you know, the alternative 14 would be, you know, should Mr Blakey have 15 committed an offence anywhere else, you know, 16 potentially, he could have been taken to the 17 police station, booked into custody, and 18 interviewed there.

So it's never -- you know, it's never anything other than a distressing situation. What I would say is that Mr Blakey was interviewed at his premises, he was interviewed in a room where people that he knew were the other side of the wall and he was given, you know, every right that he should have been

1 whether to have a solicitor present?

- 2 A. I think he actually says, "No, I'm fine 3 honestly".
- 4 Q. Page 4, please, towards the top, what was his decision on whether to have a friend present? 5
- 6 A. He declined the officer of a friend to attend 7 the interview
- Q. This was the first time he was being told that 8 9 he was the subject of a criminal 10 investigation --
- A. Mm-hm. 11

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- 12 Q. -- by the Post Office. Several hours after the 13 audit had commenced and he was required, wasn't 14 he, to take a decision on whether to have 15 a solicitor present pretty much on the spot, 16 wasn't he?
- 17 A. Well, it was explained to him that he could have 18 a solicitor present, if he wished. So ...
- 19 Q. What would the alternative have been to the 20 interview going ahead then, immediately?
- 21 A. If Mr Blakey had decided that he wanted 22 a solicitor present and he expressed that to us, 23 we would have halted the interview at that point 24 until such a time as he'd taken legal advice, at 25 which point, you know, a decision would be then

given, and, as I've said before, I do understand that it is very, very distressing, but I was there to investigate a criminal offence.

I had reasonable grounds to suspect Mr Blakey of committing that offence and, therefore, I think I'd reasonable grounds to interview him. As I say, the Post Office require -- well, requested that we interview as early as possible, and Mr Blakey could have said that "I don't want that to happen now".

And I would have -- if he had said that, I would have postponed it. However, he didn't so the interview carried on.

Q. Going back to the record of interview, the majority of this page on screen is a record of the account given by Mr Blakey about the background to the audit. He explains that, although his wife was the subpostmistress, he would attend the office every day after he finishes work and helped out by doing the cut-off and by balancing the office on a Wednesday.

> About halfway down the page, Mr Blakey explained that he always entered the figures onto Horizon and produced the office cash

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account. Then he, at 10.38, covered the circumstances surrounding the audit that morning, including him telling auditors that they were going to find a discrepancy.

Then at 11.36 minutes you raise the written account requested from Mr Blakey by the auditors, and you got him to read that out. So starting at the bottom of the page, he says:

"Yes this is the one ... About three months ago money started to go missing I covered this up hoping to replace it. My wife had been ill ... I can go into more detail about that later on if you wish ... I've got an appointment with the bank manager next week I was hopefully going to take out a loan to replace it, where or how the money's gone I don't know. I was hoping there was an error but it does not appear to be the case. And I wrote that briefly this morning while I was still shaking."

So straightaway in the note Mr Blakey had written for the auditors, he was saying that the money had been going missing for about three months, that where or how the money had gone, he didn't know; that's right, isn't it?

25 A. Yes.

ring true.

there, are you, David?"

He says:

"Well ... "PW: I don't think you're telling me the truth. "DB: It's time ago, to be honest with you "PW: Not particularly about that. You know where the money's gone because you've been taking it, haven't you, David?" Mr Blakey says: "No way. Honestly, as God is my witness, no, not a chance." What was the basis for you accusing Mr Blakey of taking the money at this stage? A. I think probably at that stage because Mr Blakey was the one who'd been doing the accounts, he'd admitted covering the shortage up, I think. He didn't offer anything in regard to any of his members of staff, and what he was saying to me at that time -- obviously, now is different --but, at that time, I thought the system was robust. I thought we were looking at a large amount of loss and what he said to me didn't

Q. At 12.55, further down the page, please, there is a summary here of what Mr Blakey was saying. So, given this is not a transcript of interview, it's a record, some bits are word for word and some bits are paraphrased.

At 15.05 you ask where Mr Blakey thinks the

At 15.05 you ask where Mr Blakey thinks the money has gone, and he says:

"I honestly don't know. Goodness knows ... I wish I did."

You ask if he thinks it is a member of staff stealing. He says no, he trusts them 100 per cent.

You ask if it was errors from his staff'sincompetence. He says this is a possibility.

15 Then, at the bottom of the page:

16 "I can't really see where the hell it's17 gone."

Over the page, please, there is some discussion of Mr Blakey's attempts to speak to the bank to get a loan to repay the money. At 17.30, we have you summarising what Mr Blakey had told you and noting his reluctance to point the finger at members of staff.

Then at 17.40 you say this:

25 "I don't think you're telling me the truth

And, to be perfectly honest, sometimes when you are interviewing people, a phrase such as that, "I don't think you're telling me the truth", would often sort of focus the person's mind that, you know, it was an interview where accounts would be challenged. And, sometimes, in past interviews, having said that, some people would open up. Some people wouldn't but some people would open up, and the interview would go in a different direction.

- 11 Q. Was there anything other than the Horizon datathat suggested money was stolen by Mr Blakey?
- A. Well, it was the audit report. It wasn't
 specifically the Horizon data. I trusted the
 Horizon data. At that point in 2004, I think
 Horizon had just rolled out fully across the
- 17 Post Office Limited estate and, as far as we
- were told, as far as we knew, as far as we
- accepted, the Horizon system was a system that
 was infallible, as it were. So I took the audit
- 21 report that there was that amount of money gone.
- So I trusted that.
- Q. The audit report was confirming a difference,wasn't it, between what was actually there --
- **A.** Yeah.

Q. -- and what the Horizon reports were saying --1 some discussion of the figures, and you ask why 1 2 2 A. Yeah. the figures have been steadily climbing and why 3 Q. -- should be there? 3 he's not drawn that to anybody's attention. He 4 4 In circumstances where the only basis for says: 5 there being a loss was that Horizon data, did "That's my mistake." 5 6 you consider looking at the detail of the data 6 Then at the bottom of the page, you say 7 over the last three months to analyse how the 7 this: 8 losses had built up to the audit figure before 8 "I can that you've probably got your wife's 9 accusing Mr Blakey of theft? 9 welfare at heart. But the size of the in 10 A. I wouldn't have done that in this occasion, no. 10 respect of this. You can't expect me to believe But, as I say, this was very, very much at the 11 that you didn't know or you didn't do something 11 start of Horizon. Well, in answer to your 12 about it. If it's not you ... if it's not you 12 13 question, no. No, I wouldn't. 13 that's doing it you've got no reason to shield 14 anybody from it. I can understand for health 14 Q. You go on: 15 "So you're saying that £60,000 has gone in 15 reasons your wife. But you can't shield this 16 a matter of months and you've not drawn it to 16 from your staff because if it's not you stealing 17 the attention of anyone, not even your wife? 17 and you don't suspect your wife. Then it's got "DB: No, that's [not] true. 18 18 to be your staff's incompetence or it's got to 19 19 be your staff's dishonesty and I can't believe You say: 20 "That's not true, you don't run a business 20 that you haven't got them together before this 21 like that David ..." 21 point before now and if it hasn't been you and 22 So Mr Blakey maintains his denial that he's 22 you've not said to them, "Look we're losing 23 taken any money. There's some discussion of the 23 money at this Post Office, one of you is at it", 24 cash-on-hand figure and, going over the page, 24 or, "You are all incompetent", or something in 25 please, slightly further down the page, there's 25 that respect so that just doesn't ring true." 1 He says: 1 I put to Mr Blakey as a challenge, as it were, 2 "You're right I know." 2 or as an attempt to potentially for him to open 3 Further down the page, you suggest, and this 3 up to me about this loss that he said he'd got 4 is PW, a little way down from 27.40: 4 no idea about, was based in other cases that I'd 5 "Is it something that your wife doesn't know 5 done or other cases that I'd heard about, and 6 about? I mean we turn up on a Thursday morning 6 motives that people had given me and others in 7 to lots of places, sub post offices, and the 7 the past. Q. You go on: 8 stories we've heard you wouldn't believe a lot 8 9 of them. But I know people get into trouble 9 "... Things that their wives or their 10 with various things ... with gambling ..." 10 husbands don't know about ... secret lives, 11 Mr Blakey says: 11 secret mistresses ..." 12 "Oh no." 12 Then Mr Blakey laughs at this suggestion. 13 What was the basis for your suggestion that 13 Mr Blakey had spent a good deal of the interview 14 Mr Blakey was stealing to cover up gambling? 14 to this point talking about his concerns for his A. As I've said there, there's any number of 15 wife's health. What basis did you have for 15 reasons that someone steals, gambling being one 16 suggesting Mr Blakey was having an affair? 16 17 of them. And, even at that point, I was 17 A. I was putting out suggestions there and what's probably five years into my Post Office Limited 18 missing from this is nuance, in regard to the 18 19 career, I'd heard any number of reasons why interview. It's in black and white there. As 19 20 people had stolen money, and that's not in 20 you can see there, Mr Blakey laughs. I don't 21 Horizon losses, or anything like that. It's 21 know in what context, in what way it was 22 just, you know, people's motives for stealing 22 delivered, other than it being in black and 23 are very wide and very varied. 23 white on there. But, again, in the past, I'd

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Certainly, with gambling being one of them,

with debts in private side of shops. Everything

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where this had been a motive for stealing

interviewed people and -- interviewed people

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because they'd got a secret life. 1 that you've not stolen the money but you've 2 2 So I was putting it there as an option. covered up for it knowing full well that it's 3 I was challenging his account, because his 3 going missing. You've not said anything to account, to that point, was simply that "I don't 4 anybody, and you're quite happy to stick to that 5 know where it's gone", and that nobody knew 5 6 about it other than him. 6 Mr Blakey says: Q. The next section is not a word-for-word attempt 7 "I am quite happy to stick to that. That is 8 at transcription but is paraphrased and it's you 8 9 warning Mr Blakey that it's not only you and 9 Mr Blakey consistently resisted the 10 Ms Dickinson that he had to convince, and that 10 suggestion he was lying throughout the the court could draw its own inference if the 11 interview, didn't he? 11 12 matter goes that far. What was the reason for 12 A. 13 saying this to Mr Blakey? 13 Q. Over the page, please, to page 10 of this A. I suppose it was a reminder of the caution, that 14 document. At 38.34, we have this: 14 15 I'd spent -- what time was it there -- half 15 "PW goes through who can be ruled out of the 16 an hour speaking with Mr Blakey. As I said, at 16 equation, and states to DB that his wife cannot 17 that point, it's safe to say that I didn't 17 be ruled out at this stage. PW states that he 18 believe what he'd told me. And, as I say, it's, 18 feels the discrepancies are down to dishonesty, 19 in effect, me reaffirming the caution to him, 19 and that to be thorough he may have to see all 20 that, you know, it's quite happy for him to give 20 members of staff including DB's wife. However 21 21 those answers to me but, ultimately, if it does PW states that he feels that this can be avoided 22 go that far, somewhere down the line, you know, 22 as he feels that DB has something he may wish to 23 a court can draw an inference. 23 tell PW." 24 24 Q. You sav: Mr Blakey says: "No". 25 "If you're quite happy to sit there and say 25 Was this is an attempt to put pressure on Mr Blakey to say he had taken the money to avoid 1 what he was saying. you speaking to his wife? 2 A. Yes. 3 A. I think at that stage, as I say, I didn't 3 Q. Were you conscious, at the time of the believe what Mr Blakey was telling me, and let 4 interview, that without an admission of theft, 5 me state now, obviously that was a thought at 5 theft, in this case, would be hard to prove? 6 the time. You know, in knowing what I know now, 6 A. I think that's safe to say, yes. Yeah, yeah. you know, absolutely and rightly so, Mr Blakey's 7 **Q.** Did that inform your approach to the interview 8 conviction has been overturned. 8 in any way? 9 A. Well, I think it's -- from an investigations However, at that time, I didn't believe him. 9 10 I could tell that he cared about his wife and, point of view, rightly or wrongly, you probably 10 always feel a little bit better if you get 11 again, I just thought I'd give him 11 12 an opportunity to tell me, because I thought 12 an admission on tape under caution, because he'd stolen the money, I did think he'd stolen 13 13 obviously that -- the evidence of that is pretty 14 the money. So I thought I'd give him 14 compelling evidence. 15 an opportunity, a last opportunity, I suppose, 15 So yes, I mean an admission of theft would 16 if you like, if he wanted to consider that. 16 have -- from the Post Office's point of view, 17 Q. Towards the bottom of this page, please, 17 wouldn't have hurt. 18 Mr Blakey accepts what you put to him about the Q. Could we have back on screen, please, 18 cash account. You say: 19 Mr Whitaker's report of 25 May 2004. The 19 reference is POL00044818. It's page 5 of that 20 "So this account is a false account? 20 21 21 document, please. You deal on this page with He says: 22 "It is." 22 the further steps that you took after 23 So, at this stage, you had an admission of 23 interviewing Mr Blakey. In summary, is it fair 24 a false account but on the basis that Mr Blakey 24 to say that the further steps in the 25 25 investigation consisted of interviewing was experiencing unexplained discrepancies, from 91 92

1		Mrs Blakey, two members of Mr Blakey's staff,	1		record of tape recorded interview. Could we
2		Mr Blakey's mother, who helped out with the	2		have that summary on screen, please. It's
3		private side of the business, and a recently	3		POL00044829. This is a one-page summary of
4		retired member of staff. Do take a moment to	4		an interview which, scrolling down to the
5		look down that page if you need to, we can	5		bottom, please, appears to have taken nearly
6		scroll down.	6		42 minutes; is that right?
7	A.	As I say, I don't recall but, if that's what the	7	A.	That looks to be right, yeah.
8		report says, I've got no reason to doubt that.	8	Q.	One of the points recorded at 22.54 is
9	Q.	In addition, you started making enquiries to see	9		summarised in this way:
10		whether Mr Blakey was attempting to get a loan,	10		"GB states that David has never approached
11		so going over to the top of the next page,	11		her to tell her of money missing, and she was
12		please. So this is the penultimate paragraph	12		under the impression that the office was having
13		here. You were making enquiries with the Royal	13		some superb balances. One thing that did
14		Bank of Scotland to establish the Blakeys'	14		surprise her was one week when the office got
15		financial position and if David Blakey had	15		around £1,000 back from a giro error but upon
16		approached them for a loan, and you were also	16		checking the account it showed a nice balance."
17		seeking to establish whether Mr Blakey had been	17		Then at 24.50:
18		made redundant.	18		"GB states that she does worry when the
19		In terms of the members of staff you	19		office receives large error notices."
20		interviewed, it's right, isn't it, that none of	20		Just pausing there, did you understand what
21		them could shed any light on where the money had	21		she was referring to by "error notices", at that
22		gone?	22		time?
23	A.	I don't recall that they did, no.	23	Α.	Yes.
24	Q.	In terms of Mrs Blakey, we have a summary of key	24	Q.	Then at 29 minutes:
25	-	points from her interview, rather than a fuller	25		"GB states that she doesn't think David has
		93			94
1		stolen the money as she feels that she would	1		gambling, and suggested that he may have been
2		have seen £60,000 added to their lifestyle."	2		unfaithful. I did not process the suggestion at
3			3		the time, as I was simply despairing. David has
4		DO VOU recall now these issues being			the time, do i was simply despairing. Bavia has
		Do you recall now these issues being discussed in the interview?			since told me that Mr Whitaker had suggested to
	Δ	discussed in the interview?	4		since told me that Mr Whitaker had suggested to
5	A.	discussed in the interview? I don't recall, I don't recall the interview at	4 5		him that he had been having an affair."
5 6	A.	discussed in the interview? I don't recall, I don't recall the interview at all but, as I say, I've got no reason to	4 5 6		him that he had been having an affair." Do you recall making that suggestion to
5 6 7	A.	discussed in the interview? I don't recall, I don't recall the interview at all but, as I say, I've got no reason to question what's been written on the document	4 5 6 7		him that he had been having an affair." Do you recall making that suggestion to Mrs Blakey? It may follow from your earlier
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5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	discussed in the interview? I don't recall, I don't recall the interview at all but, as I say, I've got no reason to question what's been written on the document there. Mrs Blakey has given a witness statement to the	4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	him that he had been having an affair." Do you recall making that suggestion to Mrs Blakey? It may follow from your earlier answers that you don't. Again, I don't recall, but there was evidence
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		discussed in the interview? I don't recall, I don't recall the interview at all but, as I say, I've got no reason to question what's been written on the document there. Mrs Blakey has given a witness statement to the Inquiry and in it she covers her interview with you. Could we have Mrs Blakey's statement on screen, please. The reference is WITN02310100. Page 8 of that document, please, starting at paragraph 39. She says: "I was interviewed the same day, straight after my husband's interview. Mr Whitaker first asked me how I was doing, whether I was all right. I told him that I was okay, but in fact I was miserable. He then asked if I thought my husband had stolen the money. I told him, emphatically, that David had not stolen anything."	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	him that he had been having an affair." Do you recall making that suggestion to Mrs Blakey? It may follow from your earlier answers that you don't. Again, I don't recall, but there was evidence certainly that I've said it to Mr Blakey, and I don't recall, in Mrs Blakey's the document that showed Mrs Blakey's interview, whether it's in there. But, you know, based on what's been said, I've got no reason to doubt that some enquiries were made along that line. Clumsily, and not very good, and if it helps, I apologise for that now. But I'm sure it doesn't help but, as I say, based on my role there and what I was there to do, Mrs Blakey had been employed by Post Office Limited to safeguard public money. The evidence available to me at that time suggested that over £60,000

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I tried to follow those -- I tried to follow that evidence.

But, essentially, it was Mr and Mrs Blakey who were the figure heads and the ones that ultimately ran that office and, essentially, they were the ones that, if it had have been a member of their staff, as Mr Blakey was doing the accounts, it perhaps would have been known to him. So the only -- the only avenue that I could go down was that it was either Mr Blakey or Mrs Blakey, or them together, that's how I felt, and, as I say, Mr Blakey very resolutely and very rightly said -- denied it all the way along, as did Mrs Blakey. So, essentially, that's where the investigation went.

But to explain a little bit, my view was that, or how I tried to approach these sort of losses or losses within the Post Office, or -- is that, you know, £60,000 in this case was a lot of money, and somebody has to actually physically take that out from the Post Office drawer, presumably secrete it somewhere, get it out of the building, and then use it.

So I always tried to have that at the back of my mind, and I think I've talked in my

A. I would say at that time, definitely not and that's based on, as I say, the line that was given to us that Horizon was not -- was certainly without fault. Sorry.

Q. Did you, at any stage in your investigation, request more detailed audit data from Fujitsu or ask Fujitsu to investigate to get a clearer picture of how the final apparent shortfall figure had been reached?

A. I can't recall. I don't think I would have done because, as I mentioned in my statement, as well, we were encouraged to get an early interview, and, going back to compliance, one of the things that very, very soon after an interview, we were expected to get a file in, and that was for an early -- for early advice.

Quite often, you know, that could be stalled if you had investigations, probably like this -- where you had to go out and speak to witnesses. But I would imagine that I would have got the file in very, very quickly and then waited for any advice to come back from the Legal Services. And if nothing came back from the Legal Services, with regard to obtaining any other information or to pursue any other lines of

statement about means, motive and opportunity.

Certainly, the means and the opportunity were there for Mr and Mrs Blakey and, again, I had to explore a motive.

As I've said, just said, very, very clumsily and regrettably now, and I hope that I wouldn't do that now, but at the time, I did, which I apologise for.

9 Q. At paragraph 41, Mrs Blakey says this:

"I asked Mr Whitaker it could be any problems in Horizon, or computer error. He gave me a long, surprised, look, and simply said 'no'. Mr Whitaker told me that 'no, someone has stolen it'."

Do you recall Mrs Blakey asking whether there could be any problems in Horizon or computer error?

18 A. I don't recall that at all but I've got no
19 reason to suggest that she didn't and my reply
20 from that would be consistent, as I say, from
21 the line that I was told within Post Office
22 Limited, that the system was not at fault and
23 was never at fault.

Q. Did it occur to you at any point that theremight not be a real loss in this case?

1 inquiry, I don't think I would have.

Q. Do you accept that it was a reasonable line of
inquiry in this case to look more closely at the
audit data?

A. In hindsight, absolutely. At the time, I would say no. Again, the audit data -- I trusted the
 Audit Team. They were professionals. I got a statement from the Audit Team, I seem to
 recall, like I normally would, producing the audit and saying that the audit was -- you know,
 the results of the audit were as they were.

So as regards the auditors, again, as I say, my role was to gather evidence. I wasn't an auditor, so I spoke to the auditor, I got a statement from the auditor to give me that evidence. And, again, that evidence would have been challenged in court had it got that far and that evidence would have been tested, and the auditor's account would have been tested.

But I saw my role as to gather all these different strands of the investigation together and present that, the audit being one of them. And if the auditor has said the audit was fine, I wasn't an auditor, so why would I suggest that it wasn't?

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1	Q.	You say at paragraph 60 of your statement that
2		you were bound by timescales for completion of
3		a case file, and you think it may have been two
4		weeks, or thereabouts, from interview to the
5		expected date that the file was submitted for
6		charging advice. Did this, whether in relation
7		to Mr Blakey's case or any other case, ever
8		impact upon your decision making in terms of
9		sufficiency of investigation?
10	Α.	No because I think to hit compliance that was

A. No, because I think, to hit compliance, that was the -- you know, they expected the case to be in under those tight timescales. However, if it was obvious that you had significant enquiries to perform, I think you were given time to do that. Although I'm just trying to recall, it might be that you put the file in anyway and then just listed that you still had other stuff to do.

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So I just recall that, as I say, in terms of compliance and the importance that was being put on compliance, we had to -- we were encouraged to get the file in within the timescales that they'd said. But there was provision if it ran over, sorry.

MS PRICE: Sir, I have five more minutes on

prospect of success and for false accounting with a high prospect of success. Clearly in the absence of any admissions from Mr Blakey for theft of the £64,435.24, then we will need to eliminate the involvement of Mrs Blakey and other members of staff, and they will need to give evidence (if they can do so) to implicate Mr Blakey in the preparation of the inputs of all the daily figures for the Office on the Horizon system and that each week he completes the Office balance and subsequently produces and signs the weekly cash account and the other members of staff do not perform any of the accounting procedures at the Office. This has been accepted by David Blakey. This fact needs to be confirmed in witness statements. The witnesses will need to confirm that they did not steal cash or falsify the accounts. Once we can get these statements, then I would confirm that there would be a good prospect of success to prosecute Mr Blakey for theft. The case will further be strengthened by further enquiries which are in hand in relation to his finances."

So based on the evidence to that date,

Mr Singh was saying there was a low prospect of

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1 Mr Blakey's case and I do have several other 2 short topics to cover. I am in your hands as to 3 whether I finish that five minutes before we 4 take the lunch break.

I'm sorry, sir, I think you were on mute.
SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, finish the five minutes.
MS PRICE: Thank you, sir.

After you sent your report to the Criminal Law Team, it appears that Jarnail Singh provided advice on the case by way of a memo dated 23 June 2004. Could we have this on screen, please. The reference is POL00044835.

This memo was sent to "S&A Casework", can you explain, please, which team that was? Was it simply the casework team?

- 16 A. I think it's just the casework. It was whatever17 it was called at that point, unfortunately.
- 18 Q. It was copied to you. Was that standard
 19 practice that the legal advice would be copied
 20 to the Investigator in the case?
- 21 A. Yes, I think it was.
- 22 Q. The first paragraph of this reads as follows:

"In my opinion there is sufficient evidence to afford a realistic prospect of conviction for Mr Blakey for an offence of theft with a low

a theft conviction. In the event, Mr Blakey was prosecuted for theft and six charges of false accounting. What was your role in relation to the prosecution?

A. I think that answers something that I was speaking about just now, in that it looks like

I think that answers something that I was speaking about just now, in that it looks like I got the file in to Mr Singh and he came back and asked for evidence from assistants and I believe, in this case, I went out and took statements from assistants. So I would have got those and submitted them back to Mr Singh, who would have assessed that evidence, based on those witness statements and suggested a theft charge along with the false accounting charges.

I think then it was normally up to the investigator to lay the information at court to obtain summons and serve summons, and then after that, if -- once the case was reviewed by counsel, whether there were anything that the -- any further enquiries or any other information that counsel required, it was probably up to the Investigator to obtain that.

And then at court, it would have been -- I would have attended court just in a support facility there, to ask -- sorry, to answer any

1 questions as required. Obviously, if I was 2 a witness, I'd have to sit outside of the court. 3 So it was just a supporting role, really. 4 Q. You were informed of the outcome of the case by 5 way of a memo dated 24 March 2005. Could we 6 have that on screen, please. The reference is 7 POL00044357. Scrolling down a little, we can 8 see from this document that Mr Blakey pleaded 9 guilty to the six false accounting charges, that 10 is Counts 2 to 7, and the theft charge was left to lie on the file. 11 12 Going, please, to page 2 of this document 13 towards the bottom, there are some comments: 14 "Although the judge stated that the 15 Defendant will have to repay the £64,000 to the 16 Post Office at some point, no formal order for 17 compensation was made." 18 Over the page, please: 19 "The Defendant was ordered to pay 20 prosecution costs of £1,000 at the rate of £50 21 per month the first payment to be 4 weeks from 22 25 February 2005. 23 "Civil recovery of the outstanding amount 24 should be considered." 25 This memo is signed off by Phil Taylor, 1 not accepted, in regard to pleas. 2 But it just seemed to me that it happened 3 lots and lots and lots, and, you know, the Post 4 Office always had the fallback that the 5 a subpostmaster convicted of a criminal charge, 6 you know, they could be dismissed and, again, 7 the extra fallback of, under the terms of the 8 contract, they would be able to recoup losses. 9 Q. You have included, at paragraph 158 of your 10 statement, some reflections on Mr Blakey's case. 11 Is there anything you want to say now about 12 those reflections? 13 Α. Well, essentially, what I've said there. 14 I recognise that it must have been extremely 15 distressing for Mr Blakey and his family, for 16 him to hear my dismissal of his now known to be 17 truthful explanation. 18 But, I mean, I go on in the statement to 19 explain why I did some of the things I did in 20 regard to him, particularly in regard to, you 21 know, challenging him and challenging his 22

account. But they were genuinely -- as I've

said in my evidence prior to this, they were

genuinely reasons that I'd heard before. So

again, reflecting on that, perhaps, you know,

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1 a legal executive within the Criminal Law 2 Division 3 You say at paragraph 168 of your statement 4 to the Inquiry that, during prosecution, at 5 an early stage, the Post Office appeared keen to 6 take a plea deal where the false accounting 7 charges were admitted, with the theft charge not 8 being taken forwards. You then suggest at 9 paragraph 169 of your statement that 10 a subpostmaster being convicted of any criminal 11 charge would mean that the Post Office was able 12 to dismiss the subpostmaster and recoup their 13 perceived loss under the subpostmaster's 14 contract without evidence of the robustness of 15 the Horizon system ever being truly tested. 16 Was the prospect of civil recovery a factor 17 which impacted upon decision making on the 18 charges which were pursued in this case, as far 19 as you were aware? 20 A. I can't say it was, as far as I was aware. 21 I made those observations in my statement just 22 from the amount of times that it happened. It 23 seemed to be a regular occurrence but I was 24 never involved in any of the sort of background 25 work with regard to what was accepted, what was 106 1 this bias, albeit unconsciously, may have been 2 in play as I investigated the incident and, as 3 I say, I apologise for the way that you were 4 treated. 5 MS PRICE: Sir, those are all the questions I have on Mr Blakey's case. Shall we take lunch at 6 7 that point? 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: We shall but I'll just ask one question, if I may, that's occurred to me. 9 10 Mr Whitaker, in the memorandum which you 11 were shown a few minutes ago, I think it was 12 from Mr Jarnail Singh -- it may have been 13 Mr Taylor, but I think Mr Jarnail Singh -- there 14 was reference to investigation of Mr Blakey's 15 financial affairs, all right? 16 A. Sir, yes. 17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I've assumed that that was 18 because -- well, I've assumed there were two 19 strands to that: (1) to check whether what he 20 had said about applying for a loan was accurate; 21 but, secondly, to see whether there was any 22 possibility of tracing the money which you 23 believed had been stolen? 24 A. Sir, in regard to 2004 when this incident 25 happened, I don't think I would have had an eye

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(1.12 pm)

(2.10 pm)

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I'm not asking about the motive

where the money had gone, and the possibilities

I want to know is whether you or anybody else in

the investigative team followed up on that and

tried to find out where the money, which you believed had been stolen, had actually ended up.

A. I think there may have been questions asked of

I'm afraid not, sir.

start again, Ms Price?

witnesses to see about lifestyle changes, and that sort of thing, but probably beyond that,

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you very much.

MS PRICE: I'm looking over at the stenographer, if we were to have 55 minutes, would that be -- if

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, thank you very much.

we come back at 2.10. in that case, sir?

MS PRICE: If my watch is right and it's now 2.15.

What did she tell you about the case?

I understood that Mr Castleton had been

experiencing losses in his accounts, that he --

He'd contacted her at an early stage and she'd

got involved in regard to that and was working

he wasn't aware of where they were coming from.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. So 2.10, everyone.

(The Short Adjournment)

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Yeah, we'll take lunch now. What time shall we

for it, I'm actually talking about investigating

are -- there are a number of them and you mentioned some of them interview. But what

		The Post Office Ho
1		on the proceeds of crime or anything like that.
2		I think I recall that, in his interview,
3		Mr Blakey had said that he'd made attempts to
4		get a bank loan to feed money back into the Post
5		Office to cover the losses, and I believe my
6		investigations with the bank, at that time,
7		would have been solely to examine that line of
8		inquiry.
9	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, well, it wasn't proceeds of
10		crime, so much, I had in mind when I used the
11		word "trace", the best way of proving that
12		Mr Blakey or, for that matter, anybody else had
13		stolen the money is, if you were able to
14		discover some or all of it. So I wondered what,
15		if any, steps you took in order to find the
16		money? Because, as you've correctly observed,
17		£60,000 or thereabouts in 2004 was a very
18		substantial amount of money.
19	A.	Yes, sir, quite often, again, speaking
20		historically with regard to a lot of Post Office
21		cases, quite often, it was through business
22		failings, paying staff, things getting on top of
23		people and
24	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry to interrupt you.
25	Α.	Sorry, sir.
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1	MS	PRICE: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and
2		hear us?
3	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
4	MS	PRICE: Mr Whitaker, moving, please, to your
5		knowledge of the Lee Castleton case. Is it
6		right that you have no independent recollection
7		of this involvement now?
8	A.	That's correct.
9	Q.	But you've had an opportunity to look at the
10		papers that have been sent to you by the
11		Inquiry
12	A.	I have.

7 with him to understand why these losses had 8 occurred in the accounts of his post office. Q. What advice was she seeking from you? 9 A. I think she was a view whether it would be taken 10 on by the Investigation Team as an investigation 11 12 13 Q. You say in your statement you felt this was not 14 a matter for criminal investigation. Can you 15 explain why you thought that was the case? A. Well, from how it was explained to me by Cath 16 17 Oglesby, Mr Castleton had discovered shortages 18 in his account and he wasn't sure where they'd 19 come from. He had sort of spoken to her at 20 a very, very early stage and was looking to work 21 with her to understand why that had happened, 22 and what could be done about it, and 23 essentially, he'd -- he brought the issue to her 24 at a very, very early stage, looking for 25 resolution. 112

I would imagine she would have explained the

situation to me and asked for a view in regard

documents, Cath Oglesby contacted me for advice.

Q. -- and you've addressed this at paragraph 99 of

your statement, and the paragraphs on from

there. So please do feel free to refer to that

documents, how you came to provide advice to

Catherine Oglesby in relation to Mr Castleton's

Can you explain, please, having reviewed the

statement if you need to.

case in early 2004?

to the case.

A. As far as I can recall, looking at the

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- 1 Q. Did you have any further involvement in the Lee
- 2 Castleton case after that discussion with
- 3 Catherine Oglesby?
- 4 A. Well, I told her that I didn't think I'd was
- 5 something for the criminal Investigation Team to
- 6 get involved with and, after that, I don't
- 7 recall any involvement whatsoever.
- 8 Q. Turning to your involvement in the criminal
- 9 prosecution of Allison Henderson, it's right,
- 10 isn't it, that you were the second interviewer
- 11 to Christopher Knight in an interview with
- 12 Ms Henderson which took place on 11 March 2010?
- 13 A. Yeah, from the records I can say that I was.
- 14 Q. Again, do you recall that interview now?
- 15 A. Not specifics of it. I recall going to --
- 16 travelling to Norwich and I recall an interview
- 17 in the -- I think it was in Royal Mail premises
- 18 in Norwich but the specifics of the interview
- 19 I don't recall.
- 20 Q. Is it right that your understanding at the time
- of the interview, as you say in your statement,
- 22 was that Mrs Henderson could not explain the
- 23 loss at her branch but you were not aware of any
- 24 specific allegations relating to the Horizon
- 25 system?

- 1 Q. You say in your statement that, to the best of
- 2 your knowledge, you were not aware of any
- 3 allegations made by Ms Hall about the Horizon
- 4 system; is that right?
- 5 A. I don't believe so at the time and, again, I'm
- 6 just going through the transcripts of the
- 7 interview and the documents that I've been
- 8 shown, but, based on that, I don't believe
- 9 I would be.
- 10 Q. To the best of your knowledge, were you involved
- 11 in any decision making in relation to Ms Hall's
- 12 case?
- 13 A. No, I wasn't.
- 14 **Q.** Did you have any further involvement apart from
- the interview that you're aware of?
- 16 A. I think I produced a statement later but it was
- 17 essentially a production statement, I think, in
- 18 relation to the interview.
- 19 **Q.** Turning, please, to your knowledge of Horizon
- 20 Issues, you didn't, at least at the time of
- 21 making your statement, recall any specific
- 22 dealings with Gareth Jenkins; is that right?
- 23 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 24 $\,$ Q. You have very recently been provided with
- 25 an email dated 8 March 2010, which was sent by 115

- 1 A. From the documents that I've seen, that would be
- 2 the case, yeah.
- 3 Q. You were, as far as you're aware, not involved
- 4 in any decision making in respect of
- 5 Mrs Henderson's case?
- 6 A. No, I wasn't.
- 7 Q. Nor did you have any further involvement?
- 8 A. I didn't, no.
- 9 Q. In respect of the criminal prosecution of Alison
- 10 Hall, you were the second interviewer, again, to
- 11 Christopher Knight in Mrs Hall's case; is that
- 12 right?
- 13 A. According to the records I was, yeah, although
- 14 I don't specifically recall it.
- 15 Q. So you don't specifically recall that interview
- 16 but you've had a chance to look at the documents
- 17 that have been sent to you about your
- 18 involvement?
- 19 A. Yes, similarly, I to a recall travelling to
- 20 Cleckheaton and an interview at a solicitors
- 21 office in Cleckheaton but, beyond that, I don't
- 22 recall
- 23 Q. That's the interview that took place on
- 24 28 September 2010; is that right?
- 25 A. Yeah.

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- 1 Steve Bradshaw to you and others, enclosing
- 2 a report prepared by Gareth Jenkins?
- 3 A. Yeah
- 4 Q. Have you had an opportunity to look at that
- 5 email and the attached document?
- 6 A. Briefly. It was only sent very, very recently.
- 7 Q. Could we have that on screen, please, so the
- 8 email reference is POL00167364. We can see the
- 9 other recipients there, yourself among them, and
- 10 an explanation in the body of the email that the
- 11 attached document had been sent by Jon Longman.
- 12 Do you remember Jon Longman?
- 13 **A.** Yeah, I recall Jon Longman, yeah.
- 14 Q. Who was he?
- 15 A. Jon was a Post Office Limited Investigation
- 16 Manager working -- I think he was sort of in the
- 17 Hertfordshire/London area.
- 18 Q. Can you recall anything about the circumstances
- in which you received this email?
- 20 **A**. No
- 21 Q. Going, then, to the attachment, could we have
- that on screen, please. It is POL00167365. We
- 23 can see that the author of this document is
- 24 Gareth Jenkins. It is marked "Final Draft" and,
- 25 scrolling down to the bottom of this page,

1 please, there is a date at the bottom right of 1 asked me to get a statement demonstrating the 2 2 the 2 October 2009. The "Abstract", going robustness of the Horizon system at the branch. 3 3 further up again, please, is as follows: "The case is unusual as the branch is 4 4 operated by a charity ... and because of this we "This document describes the measures that 5 are built into Horizon to ensure data were asked to get involved at the outset in 5 6 integrity." 6 order to possibly mitigate the adverse publicity 7 Do you recall reading this document at the 7 of us demanding our money back from them." 8 time you were sent it? 8 Going back, please, to page 7, and scrolling 9 9 down a bit further down that page. We see Jane A. I don't recall the document at all, I'm afraid. 10 Does it follow that you can't help with what you 10 Owen forwarding your email to Penny Thomas, also understood its purpose to be? 11 on 9 June: 11 A. I'm afraid I can't. 12 "Hi Penny 12 13 Q. Could we have on screen, please, document 13 "Just wanted to run this by you before 14 reference FUJ00225899. Going, please, to page 8 14 I make any kind of formal request. I assume 15 of this document first and scrolling down, 15 that we will just request a statement as normal 16 please, this is an email from you to Jane Owen, 16 but would need to put it around some dates? 17 dated 9 June 2011. You say this: 17 "Jane." 18 "Jane, 18 Then further up the page, Penny Thomas 19 "I currently have a police liaison inquiry 19 replies to Jane Owen suggesting identifying the 20 centred on St John Green sub post office, 20 time frame when the funds were reported missing 21 21 and asking Fujitsu to provide Helpdesk call Rotherham 22 "Briefly the office was audited and found to 22 analysis. 23 be approximately 11K short and a clerk is 23 Then page 6, please, a little further down 24 24 suspected and has been interviewed. The case the page. Jane Owen gets back to you forwarding 25 has been reviewed and the police officer has 25 Penny Thomas's suggestion. 1 Page 5, please. This is your response on 1 at the branch in the run up to the audit 2 9 June: 2 shortage. If he can't do it then I will have to 3 "Jane, 3 tell the police as such." 4 "At present, the police haven't asked for 4 Then going to page 2, please. Your email 5 Horizon records although I am sure that if they 5 seems to be sent to Andy Dunks, who says at the 6 know we can provide them they will ask for them 6 top of the page, please, in an email directly to 7 7 (and then not use them). All the officer asked you: 8 was if we could provide a statement saying that 8 "Paul. 9 "I am unable to say for definite that the the Horizon system was operating correctly in 9 10 the run up to the shortage being identified." 10 Horizon system was working okay. What I can do 11 Then page 4, please. This is Jane Owen on 11 is look at all calls logged by this PO during 12 10 June to you, asking whether she should go for 12 the date range and state that there were no six months initially and noting that this would faults reported by the PO to suggest any faults. 13 13 14 come off your allocation, even if you were not 14 "If you want me to get the calls extracted 15 getting the transactional data. 15 to examine the calls we will need ARQ numbers to 16 Bottom of page 3, please. You appear in 16 cover this request. 17 that email to agree to six months. 17 "Please let me know what you would like us 18 Then further up the page, we have an email 18 19 from you to Maureen Moors, dated 6 July, which 19 Then page 1, please. About halfway down the 20 reads as follows: 20 page, you say this: 21 "Maureen. 21 "No need for anything beyond this, Andy. 22 "This is the stuff I want from Andy Dunks. 22 I have explained to the police that all you can 23 "There has not been an ARQ in respect of 23 say is that no faults were logged and they are 24 this. All the police wanted was a statement to 24 happy with that." 25 25 say that the Horizon appeared to be working okay Finally, Andy Dunks' response, further up 119 120

1 been sort of infallible and, certainly, I don't 1 the page, and he says: 2 2 "Paul, think it had been tested in court yet and 3 "I think you may have misinterpreted my 3 I think the sort of underlying message would 4 email ... I have not said that no faults were 4 be -- was that, you know, until we get something 5 logged. What I am saying is that if you want me coming back certain to say definitely, you know, 5 6 to extract the calls logged so that I can 6 Horizon's at fault, to sort of carry on in the 7 examine them to see if there are any fault calls 7 belief that it's not. 8 8 So I think these emails -- and, as I say, during these dates." 9 9 I don't know because they -- whilst there was This appears to be an example of you seeking 10 a catch-all statement from Andy Dunks in 10 a trail of them, I don't know where they sit in relation to a case where the police had asked 11 amongst other things. I think that's probably 11 12 for assurances about the Horizon system. It 12 what I can say about the emails. 13 also appears that Andy Dunks was not able to 13 Q. Turning, please, to the document which prompted 14 provide a catch-all statement in this instance 14 your memory of subpostmasters raising Horizon 15 and the reason he gave for that was that he was 15 integrity issues before you left the Post 16 unable to say for definite that the Horizon 16 Office, the reference is POL00114310. Starting 17 system was working okay. Did you take this to 17 about halfway down the page, this is an email 18 mean that there could be faults in Horizon with 18 from you to Clive Burton, dated 17 June 2010. 19 the potential to affect evidence in criminal 19 Who was Clive Burton? 20 20 A. I don't recall the name but, if you scroll up 21 21 and I can see his job title, I might be able to A. I think it's difficult to say. I think around 22 this time, around just -- this is when the 22 illuminate a little bit. 23 initial sort of raising of the question of 23 Q. Former Agents Debt. 24 Horizon reliability was sort of gathering pace. 24 Yeah, it looked like someone who in the Former 25 As I say, my background was that it had always 25 Agents Debt Team so when subpostmasters left the 122 1 organisation for any reason, they were the --1 What did you mean by a "test case" in this 2 they were the part of the Post Office that dealt 2 email? 3 with debts left behind, whether anything was 3 A. I think that was a term that was being used 4 owed to subpostmasters or whether subpostmasters 4 around the organisation or certainly the 5 owed anything to the -- to Post Office Limited. 5 Investigation Team. As I say, I recall 6 Q. The subject of the email was "Old Colwyn and 6 interviewing Mrs McQuilliam and 7 7 Conway Road", and you say this: Mrs McQuilliam-Jenkins, as I said in the email 8 "Clive, 8 there, and I recall that they -- you know, 9 "I interviewed both Mrs McQuilliam and 9 similar to many, in regard to events at the 10 Mrs McQuilliam-Jenkins and both answered 'No 10 moment, they said that they didn't know -- well, there were losses at the office, audit shortages 11 Comment' to my questions. 11 12 12 at the office and they didn't know where the "This case is one of a few that we currently 13 hold that really is dependent on the outcome of 13 loss had come from, and I don't know whether 14 cases whereby the integrity of the Horizon 14 I recall that they did actually specifically say 15 system has been called into question. In effect 15 that it was Horizon. Certainly, I mean -- well, 16 a 'test' case is being put through the course 16 it looks like they answered "No comment", so 17 relating to this and as such other cases are 17 mavbe not. 18 being put on hold until its outcome. This is 18 But I do recall them being in North Wales, 19 one of the cases. 19 I recall that Mr Bradshaw, Steve Bradshaw, who 20 "Basically we are waiting to see if the test 20 was an Investigator, he had a case in North 21 case goes through with a Horizon challenge 21 Wales that was being questioned. There was 22 before deciding what to do with some of the 22 another couple around North Wales that was being 23 others. 23 questioned. So that sort of gave rise to my 24 "Not ideal but hopefully this keeps you up 24 thinking that it was possibly something that was

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to speed."

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geographically based around North Wales. 124

And, as I say, from reading the email there, 1 "Paul, 2 it looked to be that there was talk of cases "Thanks for the update. I will hold the going through and -- you know, and the 3 matter in abeyance for the time being." answers -- sorry, and the Horizon system 4 So it appears that further action on the integrity being part of that case and being case was held off pending the outcome of the 5 questioned. 6 test case you refer to; is that your And, as I say, I believe that's where, it 7 understanding? 8 was just generally referred to that a test case A. That's what it seems to be. 9 was being put thorough, and that's the terms Q. Do you recall being made aware of the outcome of that was used. I don't know whether that was 10 the test case, as you refer to it? ever officially said to us, it was a test case, A. I don't. I don't know whether it happened after 11 or it was just sort of the vernacular that was I'd gone or but I certainly don't recall the 12 used in regards to what was happening at the 13 result of anything. 14 Q. Turning, please, to another document which has, Does your email there reflect any doubt on your 15 I'm afraid, has only been provided to you very Q. part as to the integrity of the Horizon system? 16 recently. Could we have on screen, please, A. I don't think it does. I think it's a "We'll 17 document reference POL00167367. This is an email from Jane Owen to a number of wait and see". If the challenge goes through, 18 then I think my view would have been, well, if 19 recipients, including you, dated 29 July 2010. the challenge -- you know, if the evidence shows 20 The subject line is "Fujitsu -- Duplication of 21 Transaction Records". We can see that Penny that Horizon is flawed, then that's that. If, 22 you know, the challenge shows that Horizon isn't Thomas is Bcc'd in and the email begins as flawed, then that's that. 23 follows: "All The response from Clive Burton further up the 24 Q. page, please, was this: 25 "As you are aware, due to the recent 125 problems with Fujitsu all ARQ requests have been 1 Does it remain your position, suspended. I can now advise that the 2 notwithstanding some of the later documents enhancement to delete duplicated records from 3 you've seen, that it was your belief that the the returns has been developed and is due to be 4 Horizon system would not erroneously produce tested by Fujitsu at the weekend." 5 spontaneous transactions that were not genuine? You've had an opportunity to read this 6 A. Yes, as I mentioned at the start of my evidence 7 email. Do you recall receiving this email, now? this morning -- when I produced the statement A. I don't specifically remember receiving the 8 I thought it was across the whole of my time in 9 Post Office Limited, however I accept that, 10 Q. Do you recall being aware of this issue, the towards the very, very end, one or two documents duplication of transaction records? 11 pointed towards question marks over Horizon but, To be fair, I'm not sure that I do. As I say, 12 Α. during the vast majority of my time within Post I don't recall receiving the email and it's 13 Office Limited, I thought the Horizon system was certainly not something that's stuck from that 14 robust and would not produce erroneous 15 transactions or bugs or the things that it's Q. Could we have on screen please paragraph 159 of 16 proved to have done. Mr Whitaker's statement, that's page 39 of 17 Q. Going, please, to page 41 of this statement, WITN05050100. Page 39, paragraph 159. You say 18 paragraph 171. You say this: 19 "Reflecting on my personal performance here: during this time, I would say that in comparing "It was my honestly held belief during the 20 time I was investigating within POL that Horizon 21 the cases I investigated pre-Horizon and those was robust and would not erroneously produce 22 post-Horizon rollout I did not notice spontaneous transactions that were not genuine. 23 a significant increase in the audit shortage That was the overriding narrative that I was 24 type cases."

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Over to paragraph 172:

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being told and accepted."

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"Though I was not aware of the whole picture in regard to how many cases of a similar nature were being pursued by POL, I do not recall any significant increase in this type of investigation in the period after Horizon system implementation to that which I experienced before the system rollout. This may have affected my thinking in respect of my investigations, as if I had have noticed a sharp increase in cases after the implementation of Horizon it may have raised my suspicions that the Horizon system was not performing as it should have."

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Notwithstanding that you did not notice an increase in audit shortage type cases, did it not concern you that, from at least 2010, you were aware of multiple subpostmasters actively alleging that apparent shortfalls were being caused by the Horizon system?

- 20 A. I think towards the end of my career with Post 21 Office Limited -- and I don't know whether 22 subconsciously that was something that fed into 23 the picture of why I left -- but I could see 24 that there was a movement gathering pace, 25 certainly. And somewhere along the line there
- 1 system and it was -- it must have been robust. 2 However, obviously, we were very, very wrong in 3 that assumption.
- 4 Q. You deal in the final two paragraphs of your 5 statement, and this is the bottom of page 41, 6 starting at 173, with your final reflections on 7 your involvement in investigations and 8 prosecutions where Horizon data was relied upon. 9 How do you feel about that involvement, as you 10 sit here today?
- 11 A. Well, as said in my statement there, the thought 12 that somebody within Post Office Limited or 13 Fujitsu had knowledge that the Horizon system 14 was flawed and didn't disclose that and kept 15 that to themselves for whatever reason, sits 16 incredibly uncomfortably with me, particularly 17 knowing that I was the face of Post Office 18 Limited when going out and seeing people and 19 essentially causing upset and destroying their 20

It does make me quite angry, when I think about it. I think, obviously, through my investigations, I've -- I feel that I've been unwittingly -- albeit unwittingly, used as an instrument of Post Office Limited and Fujitsu

would have been -- Post Office Limited would 1 2 have to prove one way or another whether the 3 Horizon system was robust or if it was not. So 4 towards the end of my time within Post Office Limited, I think it's safe to say I sort of made 5 that realisation.

6 7 Q. A theme that you raise in a number of places in 8 your statement is that you and other 9 Investigators were repeatedly and continually 10 told that the Horizon system was robust. You 11 say at paragraph 137 that the certainty of the 12 message from the Post Office may have coloured 13 your judgement and that of other Investigators 14 in matters surrounding Horizon. Who was this 15 message that Horizon was robust coming from? 16 A. I think it was coming from whenever we asked for 17 statements, it always came back that the system 18 was robust. When that evidence were tested, it 19

was tested in court, if ever it was tested in court, more often than not it would be that the convictions went through. It was strange -just a general overall -- it's that that is the system, that is the system that is used and just, I suppose really, the understanding that the Post Office had paid all that money for that

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1 to perpetuate the myth that Horizon was

faultless and, as a result, that's brought so

3 much unnecessary distress and anguish to 4 innocent people and, like I say, it doesn't sit

5 very well with me at all.

6 MS PRICE: Sir, those are all the questions that 7 have for Mr Whitaker. I'll turn to CPs to see 8 if there are any questions from others.

Yes, there are from Mr Moloney, sir.

Questioned by MR MOLONEY

11 MR MOLONEY: Thank you.

> Mr Whitaker, you said that you thought that Mrs Alison Hall, who sits next to me, didn't raise the question of Horizon having anything to do with the discrepancies that she experienced.

16 Are you sure about that?

- 17 A. I don't recall that she did and I was basing my 18 answer on what I'd seen in the documentation. Apologies if she did. 19
- 20
- Q. It's something that we can -- Mr Knight, in 21 fact, took the lead in the interview, didn't he?
- 22 A. I believe so, yes.
- 23 Q. It's something we can deal with with him but 24 I jut thought it best to raise with you,
- 25 because, and if we could put up on the screen

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1		POL00021244, we thought we'd provided this in	1		anything back. But I just want all this to be
2		advance, but I'll just read it to you, if I may,	2		looked at in detail and because Horizon system
3		Mr Whitaker.	3		is not 100 per cent, if I've got all the details
4	Α.	Yes.	4		here, I'd like that to be taken into account,
5	Q.	It's at page 4 and it can be checked if	5		please."
6		necessary. But Mr Knight, some 4 minutes and	6		Then she explains how it is that she's had
7		9 seconds into the interview, says to Mrs Hall:	7		problems with the Lottery tickets and the
8		"Right, so you're adamant that the £14,000	8		discrepancies have built up and built up and
9		is nothing that you've done criminally,	9		built up, and she doesn't know where the
10		fraudulently, however you want to put it?"	10		discrepancies come from.
11		Mrs Hall said:	11		Does that assist with your memory as to her
12		"I've not taken a penny out of that post	12		talking about unexplained discrepancies and
13		office criminally, I wouldn't dare."	13		mentioning that the Horizon system is not
14		Mr Knight says:	14		100 per cent?
15		"It's something to do with some sort of	15	4	A. It would certainly seem consistent. As I say,
16		discrepancy?"	16	•	I don't specifically recall it but I've got no
17		Mrs Hall says:	17		reason to dispute what's in the transcript.
18		"I think it's to do with discrepancy with	18		IR MOLONEY: Thank you very much, Mr Whitaker.
19		the Lottery and I'm hoping that we can come to	19		#S PRICE: Sir, it doesn't appear there are any
20		the bottom of this."	20		other questions from Core Participants.
21		Mr Knight says:	21	ç	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you.
22		"Right."	22		Well, thank you, Mr Whitaker, for making
23		Mrs Hall says:	23		your witness statement and for answering a great
24		"I'll pay any money back whatsoever to the	24		many questions today. Although the focus of the
25		Post Office Limited. I'm not a thief. I'll pay	25		questioning has not been on Mrs Hall's case,
20		133	23		134
1		I welcome Mrs Hall to the Inquiry and I hope	1	N	MS PRICE: Sir, we're having an issue at the moment
2		she's found it informative.	2		in that we can't actually see Ms Oglesby.
3		Do you want a break before the next witness,	3		I think someone is trying to resolve that.
4		Ms Price?	4		I'm sorry, sir, I think you're on mute.
5	MS	PRICE: Sir, I'm afraid we do need a short break	5	S	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I was just saying I've got the
6		because the next witness appears remotely and	6	_	advantage of you because I can see her.
7		some manoeuvring needs to be done to sort out	7	N	IS PRICE: Well, that's good, sir.
8		the screen, I'm afraid. So we do need a short	8		There we are. Could you confirm your full
9		break of ten minutes. I'm told my watch is	9		name, please, Ms Oglesby?
10		fast, so I'll allow you, sir, to tell me when	10		A. Catherine Oglesby.
11		ten minutes takes us to.	11	C	2. You should have with you a hard copy of your
12	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Well, I'll just have a look at	12		witness statement and it's dated 4 June 2023.
13		the most reliable machine I have in front of me,	13		If you can turn to page 36 of that, please.
14		which says 14.48. So 3.00, Ms Price?	14	P	A. Yes.
15	MS	PRICE: Thank you, sir.	15	C	Do you have a copy with a visible signature?
16	(2.4	18 pm)	16	P	A. Yes, I do.
17		(A short break)	17	C	Q. Is that your signature?
18	(3.0	04 pm)	18	A	A. Yes, it is.
19	MS	PRICE: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and	19	C	Are the contents of that statement true to the
20		hear us?	20		best of your knowledge and belief?
21	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can.	21	P	A. Yes.
22	MS	PRICE: May we please call Ms Oglesby.	22	C	Q. For the purposes of the transcript, the document
23	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly.	23		reference is WITN08530100.
24		CATHERINE OGLESBY (affirmed)	24		Thank you for coming to the Inquiry remotely
25		Questioned by MS PRICE	25		to assist it in its work and for providing the
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witness statement that you have. As you know,
 I will be asking questions on behalf of the
 Inquiry.

3 Inquiry.4 To

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Today I'm going to be asking you about issues which arise in Phase 4 of the Inquiry, focusing on your involvement in the proceedings brought by the Post Office against Mr Castleton relating to alleged losses at the Marine Drive Post Office branch. You joined the Post Office

in 1982 at the age of 16 as a counter clerk; is

11 that right?

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. Five years later, in 1987, you were promoted to14 manager of that branch?

15 A. Yes, that's right.

16 Q. At that point, you became a Retail Line Manager?

17 A. No, not at that point.

18 Q. Apologies. You say you moved roles when you
19 returned to work, so looking at your statement,
20 can you assist us, then, with when you became

21 a Retail Line Manager?

22 A. Yes, I -- from returning from maternity leave in23 approximately 1997.

24 **Q.** Yes. So January 1997, you became a Retail Line

25 Manager?

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1 A. Yes, I do.

Q. You've set out at paragraph 8 of your witness
 statement some aspects of the roles you have
 held since becoming a Retail Line Manager in
 1997 and you go on to say that one of those
 aspects is no longer part of the role, namely
 suspensions and termination of contracts, and
 you say this is now the responsibility of the

9 Contracts team; is that right?

10 A. Yes, that's right.

11 Q. But it was part of your role in 2003?

12 A. Yes, correct.

Q. Do you recall when suspensions and terminationof contracts became the responsibility of the

15 Contracts team?

16 A. No, sorry, I don't.

17 Q. You were the Retail Line Manager who took the18 decision to terminate Mr Castleton's contract;

19 is that right?

20 **A.** Yes.

Q. At the outset of your statement for the Inquiry,you have expressed your sympathy to all

23 subpostmasters who were affected by Horizon

24 related issues and, in particular, Mr Castleton.

25 A. Yes.

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1 **A.** Yes.

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2 $\,$ Q. Yes. You've set out an explanation of the

3 change in terminology relating to the Retail

Line Manager role over the years, at paragraph 7

5 of your statement, and you say the title changed

6 from Retail Line Manager to Retail Network

7 Manager and then to Area Sales Manager and then

8 Area Manager. Did the role remain substantially

9 the same, despite these changes to the title?

10 A. Yeah, substantially the same.

11 Q. You held this role from 1997 to 2005 in the

12 Postmaster Network --

13 A. Yes, correct.

14 Q. -- 2005 to 2010 in the Directly Managed

15 Network --

16 **A.** Yes.

17 Q. -- and 2017 to date, again in the Postmaster

18 Network; is that right?

19 **A.** Yes. it is.

20 Q. So apart from a period between 2015 and 2017,

21 when you were not working for the Post Office,

22 your entire career has been with the Post

23 Office; is that right?

24 A. Yes.

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25 **Q.** And you remain employed by the Post Office now?

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Q. You say that when you made the decision to

2 terminate Mr Castleton's contract, this was

3 based on an understanding that the Horizon

4 system was working as it should. Should we

5 understand your evidence against that backdrop?

6 A. Yes, please.

7 **Q.** You also say in your statement that, during your

time at the Post Office, you were reassured that

9 the Horizon IT System was robust and working

10 properly; is that right?

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. Who was it who was providing that reassurance?

13 A. I contacted several different places, so I was

14 getting messages back from Fujitsu and from the

15 Business Support Centre and the Horizon System

16 Helpdesk.

17 Q. Do you mean that in the specific sense of the

18 Horizon system working properly in relation to

19 Mr Castleton or, when you're talking about

20 reassurance that the system was robust and

21 working properly, do you mean that more broadly?

22 A. Both, really. So during Mr Castleton's case,

23 I was contacting them to make sure everything

24 was okay when Mr Castleton was asking me

25 questions, and in the broader sense as well,

through my career. Yes. 1

2 Q. Starting, please, with your understanding of

Mr Castleton's contract with the Post Office,

you say at paragraph 16 of your statement to the

5 Inquiry that, when there was a loss, it was for

the subpostmaster to make that loss good and, in

your statement, you don't qualify that.

8 Was it your understanding that

a subpostmaster's contract imposed an obligation

on a subpostmaster to make good any loss, no

matter the circumstances? 11

Could you just repeat the question in 12 A.

13 a different way then, please? I'm not really --

14 Of course, if you want to look at paragraph 16

of your statement to the Inquiry. 15

16 A. Yes, I've got that.

17 Q. You say that, when there was a loss, it was for

18 the subpostmaster to make that loss good.

19 A.

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20 Q. You don't, in that aspect of your statement,

21 qualify that in any way. So my question is: was

22 it your understanding that the contract imposed 23

an obligation on a subpostmaster to make good

24 any loss, no matter of the circumstances?

25 Α. I think under some circumstances they wouldn't

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- 1 department to see if there was an error notice 2
 - pending, if anything had left the branch, to try

3 to help them in finding where the error might

4 be.

- 5 Q. I appreciate that it is your evidence that you
- 6 went beyond simply signposting Mr Castleton to
- 7 the Business Support Centre but do you think
- 8 that simply telling subpostmasters to ring the
- 9 Business Support Centre was sufficient support
- 10 from a line manager for subpostmasters dealing
- with losses? 11
- 12 A. Probably not, no, with hindsight.
- 13 You say at paragraph 26 of your statement that
- 14 it was normal for most branches to have small
- 15 losses and gains each week and even to have
- 16 a large loss or gain from time to time when
- 17 an error had occurred. By "error", do you mean
- 18 error on the part of subpostmasters or their
- 19 staff?
- 20 A. Yes, I do. So that if they'd sent something
- 21 that had left the office and that was incorrect,
- 22 it would cause an error.
- 23 Q. You also say at paragraph 26 of your statement
- 24 that, where errors did not come to light, they
- 25 were the responsibility of the subpostmaster to 143

- 1 be expected to make the loss good, so for
- 2 instance, perhaps, a robbery, or something of
- 3 that case, or a burglary, you know, if the money
- 4 had been stolen in a robbery or a burglary.
- Was the position adopted by the Post Office that 5
- 6 apparent shortfalls, irrespective of how they
- 7 came about, were the responsibility of
- 8 subpostmasters to make good?
- In their day-to-day working, yes. 9 A.
- You say at paragraph 23 of your statement that 10
- 11 the usual role of a Retail Line Manager, when
- a subpostmaster reported a loss, was limited to 12
- 13 telling the subpostmaster to ring the Business
- 14 Support Centre for advice.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What was your understanding of what the Business
- 17 Support Centre could do to assist the
- 18 subpostmaster in these circumstances?
- 19 It would be to signpost them to try to help them
- 20 find where the loss might have occurred. So
- 21 maybe to go through and get them to check their
- 22 stock again, get them to add the cash up, maybe
- 23 contact Girobank and Savings Bank to see if any
- 24 paperwork that had left the office was
- 25 incorrect, maybe contact the Chesterfield

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- 1 make good; is that right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Should we take it from your evidence in this
- 4 paragraph that, as far as you were concerned,
- 5 unless an error on the part of the subpostmaster
- 6 could be identified, the loss was taken to be
- 7 the loss, and the subpostmaster was liable to
- 8 pay that sum to the Post Office?
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. 10 In preparing your statement to the Inquiry about
- 11 your involvement in Mr Castleton's case, you
- 12 have refreshed your memory from a document
- 13 entitled "Marine Drive Post Office Summary of
- 14 Events". Can we have that document on screen,
- 15 please. The reference is LCAS0000699.
- 16 Going, please, to the second page of that 17 document. Is this a document that you prepared?
- Yes, it is. 18 A.
- When did you produce it, and why? 19
- 20 I can't exactly recall the exact date. I've
- 21 looked through several times to see if there's
- 22 any hint at a date when I prepared it. I think
- 23 I'll have probably prepared it around about when
- 24 I requested the audit, to make a summary of what 25

was happening, so I called recall the events. 144

- 1 But I don't know exactly, because I've 2 not -- I can't remember and I haven't put a date 3 on it anywhere.
- 4 Q. Is it right that you are reliant in your memory 5 of events on this document, and it informed your
- 6 witness statement prepared for the Inquiry?
- 7 A. Yes
- 8 Q. You say here on the first page at the top that
- 9 the first time Mr Castleton contacted you about
- 10 issues at his branch was between Christmas and
- 11 New Year 2003, to report a loss of £1,100; is
- 12 that right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. This was the first time Mr Castleton had
- 15 experienced any major balancing issues since
- 16 he'd taken over as subpostmaster the previous
- 17
- 18 Yes, that's in my notes there, yes. Α.
- 19 He came to you to declare this apparent
- 20 discrepancy, didn't he?
- 21 A. Yes, he did.
- 22 What did Mr Castleton say to you about the
- 23 apparent shortfall?
- 24 A. I can't remember the conversation because it's
- 25 obviously a long time ago. I can just refresh 145
- 1 did not think they were accurate?
- 2 A. Well, he would have shown the 1,100 short in his
- 3 account, so he would be signing to say he had
- 4 a shortage in the account.
- 5 Q. But you were encouraging him to make good on the
- 6 basis that it would all come out in the wash
- 7 with an error notice; is that right?
- A. That's what I was hoping, yes. 8
- 9 Q. On this occasion, Mr Castleton did make good the
- loss, didn't he? 10
- A. Yes, he said he could make good the loss, yes. 11
- Mr Castleton balanced fine for the next three 12
- 13 weeks, you say in your note, something you noted
- 14 on your visit to the branch on 16 January 2004.
- 15 A. Yes, correct.
- Q. When you visited the branch and found that 16
- nothing had come to light to explain the 17
- 18 apparent shortfall, did you take any steps to
- 19 investigate this or ask anyone else to look into
- 20
- 21 A. I can't remember doing so, no, but as it was
- 22 only three weeks or so after the loss, the error
- 23 notices could take a long time to come back, so
- 24 I didn't think anything untoward or anything at
- 25 that point.

- 1 my memory from what I've written there, that
- 2 he'd told me he was £1,100 short in his cash.
- 3 What suggestions did you make to Mr Castleton? Q.
- 4 A. Quite a common error was when a branch was doing
- 5 a business deposit, so a deposit for a business,
- 6 they would deposit cash and cheques. It was
- 7 only the cash figure that should be entered on
- 8 to the Horizon system. The cheque figure just
- 9 went off separately but, quite often, the
- 10 customer would either add the cheques in or the
- 11 branch would add the cheques in by mistake, and 12
 - then that would create quite a large loss.
- 13 So, at that point, I told Mr Castleton to
- 14 contact Girobank, which is where the -- that
- 15 sort of an error would come to account, National
- 16 Savings, because those could be large amounts of
- 17 deposits into people's accounts, to see if
- 18 anything could come to light and bring any light
- 19 on the error.
- 20 Q. Is it right that you also asked Mr Castleton to
- 21 make the loss good as an error notice might take
- 22 up to eight weeks to arrive?
- 23 A. Yes, looking at my notes there, I did, yes.
- 24 So you were, in effect, advising him to accept
- 25 the loss, sign off the accounts, even though he

- 1 The next time Mr Castleton tried to balance, he
- 2 found an apparent shortfall of over £4,000, and
- 3 your advice was again to contact Girobank and
- 4 Savings, wasn't it, according to your note of
- 5 events?
- 6 A. Yes, it was.
- 7 You also asked if the cash at the branch was
- 8 kept secure and who had access to it.
- 9 A. Correct, yes.
- Q. 10 Since Mr Castleton was unable, on this occasion,
- 11 to make the amount good, you told him to contact
- 12 the helpline to get a hardship form; is that
- 13 right?
- 14 A. Yes
- 15 Q. Was the purpose of this so that the amount of
- 16 the apparent shortfall could be held in the
- 17 suspense account while the matter was
- 18 investigated --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- rather than Mr Castleton having to put the
- 21 money in to balance and roll over into the next
- 22 trading period?
- 23 A. Well, with the hardship fund, it gave the
- 24 postmaster the opportunity to pay back the loss
- 25 over a period of time, rather than all in one go

rather than making it good there and then.
Q. You say you discussed ways to double check the
work, leaving the office, and suggested to
Mr Castleton that he perform a snapshot each
evening and check the cash. Can you explain,
please, what a snapshot was and why you were
suggesting this?

and he could have deductions from remuneration,

A. So on the Horizon system you could print what we call a snapshot, which is as it sounds. It's a print-off of everything that's happened in the branch at that particular time. So up to that point, when you print a snapshot off, it lists everything that's gone through the branch, all the pension dockets, all the giro business. It also prints what the system thinks the cash should be in the till because, obviously, the system, as you sell a stamp, it increases the cash, decreases the stock, as you do a Girobank deposit, it increases the cash and puts an entry on there.

So you could double check everything up to that point that you were doing, and it would give you a cash figure. So when you counted the cash that you physically had, if it matched the 149

"(b) Castleton at this time not produce one for every day;

"(c) For Cath to have collected one for every day she would have had to attend the branch each day to print one off (because the data would have changed each minute of the each day so presumably you couldn't attend the branch say once a week and print out historical balance snapshots);

"(d) Cath certainly wouldn't have had the time to attend the branch every day; and

"(e) that the PO sent me those snapshots that Cath removed (in the red folder)?"

Going back, please, to page 1 to the top, please, this is Vicky Harrison replying to Stephen Dilley with you as a recipient as well. Looking, please, to the second paragraph of this email. Vicky Harrison says this:

"Looking at the events logs from the Horizon archive for Marine Drive which I also sent you, a balance snapshot was printed most days and some days more than once by both Christine and Lee throughout Jan to Mar '04. This report was not mandatory to be printed or retained, so they may well have printed it off and discarded it,

cash on the snapshot, you know you werebalancing correctly.

If there was a difference between the cash you had and the snapshot, then you either had a gain or a shortfall, depending which way it was

Q. Could we have on screen, please, document
 reference POL00071159. This is an email chain
 from June 2006. Can you see that, Ms Oglesby?

10 A. Yes.

Q. It's an email chain in the lead-up to the trial in the Castleton case, and about two-thirds of the way down the page is an email from Stephen Dilley to Vicky Harrison, a Contracts and Services Manager, and he's seeking information following receipt of a letter from Mr Castleton's solicitors. At point 2, at the bottom of the page there, he says:

> "Castleton states that a complete set of balance snapshots for each day's trading until the suspension was produced and removed from the branch by Cath. Am I right in thinking that:

"(a) balance snapshots are not a mandatory report so Castleton wouldn't have had to print one for every day;

as this is used as a rough guide to what the cash variances were compared to the cash on hand. I have never seen the balance snapshots and I don't know about Cath taking them away. Cath do you remember taking these??"

It would appear from what Vicky Harrison says in this email, wouldn't it, that, contrary to your recollection now, Mr Castleton did balance snapshots, did create balance snapshots most days and some days more than once, for the period January to March 2004; would you accept that?

13 A. Yes, if that's what it said on the event log.

14 Q. Could we have on screen, please, document
15 reference POL00073661. This is an email from
16 Vicky Harrison to Stephen Dilley, dated
17 December 2005. Scrolling down a bit, please,
18 she says:

"Stephen, everyone has now replied to me and therefore this is a joint response to your questions:

"Questions 1 and 2 -- Helen Rose did not take away any documentation and the forms that she completed on the day have been forwarded to your office by Stephen Hough. Cath took the

cash accounts from the Branch and some
snapshots, but she is unable to recall which
ones. She also forwarded me some electronic
documents which I have attached to the bottom of
this email which you may or may not already
have."

So it would appear, on the basis of this email, that you took away at least some snapshots from the branch; do you recall doing that?

- A. I only do from refreshing my memory from some of the documents and one of the interviews, where
 I discussed those snapshots with Mr Castleton at an interview, and they were noted in there. So yes, from that, I do. But I don't know which ones.
- 17 Q. Did you ever look at the balance snapshots to
 18 try to understand what Mr Castleton was saying
 19 about possible causes of the loss?
- 20 A. We looked at the snapshots in one of the21 interviews. But I don't know --
- Q. Did you yourself -- sorry to stop you there,
 before the interview, did you yourself look at
 the documents and try to do any analysis of them
 before you interviewed Mr Castleton?

5 before you interviewed Mr Castleton? 153

1 **A.** Yes.

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- Q. You say here that you had a long conversation
 about how to check the work. By that, do you
 mean checking Mr Castleton's figures?
- A. Yes, and checking everything that was leaving
 the branch to make sure nothing was leaving
 incorrect.
- 8 Q. Can you just clarify what you mean by that?
- A. So at that time, there'd be things that would
 leave the branch on a daily basis. Things like
 any cheques that the branch had taken, any giro
 deposits, giro withdrawals, telephone accounts,
 Savings Bank deposits and withdrawals. All of
- those things left each evening. So it was
 making sure that nothing was leaving the branch
 that hadn't had, you know, double check, and was

that hadn't had, you know, double check, and was correct.

18 Q. You say here that you suggested the possibility

- that someone might be stealing the money, and
- 20 Mr Castleton refuted that suggestion.
- 21 A. Yes
- 22 Q. You suggested individual stock balancing.
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- Q. But Mr Castleton did not favour this as theoffice did not lend itself to individual stock

1 A. I'll have looked at them. I don't think I'll

have tried to do any analysis, because the only

3 figures that were in -- that weren't looking

4 right was obviously the cash figure. All the

5 other figures on the snapshot would have been

6 things like the pensions, the Girobanks, the

7 Green Giros. All of those, you know, will have

8 been double checked because if they hadn't,

9 they'd have caused an error notice.

10 **Q.** Did you consider copying the balance snapshots

you had and returning them, given that you

12 thought that these were important in terms of

13 figuring out what had happened?

14 **A.** I think in the interview dated 10 May,

15 everything was copied and given back to

16 Mr Castleton but I don't recall it because it's

such a long time ago.

18 Q. Going back, please, to your summary of events,

19 could we have this back on screen, please, it's

20 LCAS0000699. About halfway down, following your

21 suggestion about balance snapshots, after

22 Mr Castleton's second apparent shortfall of over

23 £4,000, you contacted Mr Castleton following the

24 next balance, and there was an apparent

25 shortfall of £2,500; is that right?

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- 1 balancing; is that right?
- 2 A. Well, that was Mr Castleton's opinion. You
- could do an individual stock unit balance in anybranch.
- 5 Q. The next week, Mr Castleton had an apparent
- 6 shortfall of £25 and, the week after, of £1,500.
- 7 Those are the figures that you've put in your
- 8 note. So, by this point, you say there was
- 9 a cumulative shortfall of £8,243.10, not
- 10 counting the £1,100 he had made good.
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 Q. Your only further suggestion at this stage was
- to get a hardship form, at least in terms of
- 14 what you've recorded here on your summary of
- 15 events; is that right?
- 16 **A.** I did ask him to get a hardship form, yes.
- 17 I can't recall if we discussed to do anything
- 18 else.
- 19 **Q.** About two-thirds of the way down the page you20 say this:

21 "At this point I was very concerned and 22 contacted the Investigation team. They told me 23 that as he had kept me fully informed of the 24 loss then they would not be able to prove

25 dishonesty."

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1	A.	Yes.	1	A.	Unless it's documented anywhere to recall,
2	Q.	"I completed an audit request."	2		I can't remember the conversation.
3		What was it that you were so concerned about	3	Q.	Can you recall what they said to you, and do
4		that led you to contact the Investigation Team	4		refer to your summary of events if it helps. Is
5		who conduct criminal investigations.	5		there anything over and above what you have
6	A.	I was looking for some help, I think, at that	6		recorded here that you remember?
7		point and some advice, because of the large	7	A.	I don't remember anything over and above what
8		losses.	8		I've put on there, sorry.
9	Q.	What evidence did you have that Mr Castleton had	9	Q.	What was your reaction at the time to them
10		done anything criminal?	10		saying that this was not a matter for criminal
11	A.	I didn't have any evidence that he'd done	11		investigation?
12		anything criminal. I don't think that was in my	12	A.	I can't recall, I'm sorry.
13		mind. I just wanted some you know, some sort	13	Q.	The next week, Mr Castleton was, you say,
14		of help, really.	14		£3,509.18 short.
15	Q.	Was it usual for you or other Retail Line	15	A.	Yes.
16		Managers to contact the Investigation Team	16	Q.	Then you say this, in your summary:
17		before an audit had taken place?	17		"Lee told me that himself and Chrissie his
18	A.	I don't think I'd contacted them before but I'd	18		assistant had spent hours and hours checking and
19		never had anybody with large losses before.	19		double checking transaction logs and work to try
20		I can't speak for other Retail Line Managers but	20		to prove that it was the computer equipment that
21		I don't think I had contacted them before.	21		was changing the figures. I asked him if he had
22	Q.	You spoke to someone from the Investigation	22		founding anything. He hadn't. He is convinced
23		Team. Did you speak on the phone?	23		that since he had a processor changed around
24	A.		24		about the time that the losses started it is
25	Q.	What did you ask that person?	25		that that is causing the losses."
		157			158
1		Mr Castleton was, at this stage, clearly	1		the Business Support Centre or the Horizon
2		attributing the losses in the shortfall to the	2		System the Horizon Helpdesk.
3		Horizon system, wasn't he?	3		You didn't have there wasn't a direct
4	Α.		4		link, you know, to contact Fujitsu, and I'm not
5	Q.	You suggested he contact Horizon and get	5		sure at what point I made those calls as well.
6		a system check; is that right?	6	Q.	You say in your summary:
7	Α.	Yes.	7		"I visited the office on Friday 27 February
8	Q.	Did the Post Office see it as any part of its	8		2004."
9		role to raise concerns about the Horizon system	9		You say this:
10		with Fujitsu on its subpostmasters' behalf?	10		"We went over everything again. Lee was
11	A.	I can only speak from my role as a Retail Line	11		very distressed and angry, Chrissie his
12		Manager, and we could also ring and ask for	12		assistant was very worked up, upset and angry.
13		different, you know, checks to be done, but it	13		They felt they hadn't received any help and had
14		wasn't something that was in the forefront of my	14		been left to try to prove that the computer was
15		mind. To be honest, I wouldn't have given it	15		changing the cash figures. At times they looked
16		a thought. I had no idea that there would be	16		close to tears and said they weren't sleeping.
17		any problem with Horizon.	17		On top of all this Lee's son needed an operation
18	Q.	Given what Mr Castleton was saying, did you	18		and was going into hospital. The stress levels
19		consider at this stage contacting Fujitsu	19		in the office were high"
20		yourself, as opposed to directing him to contact	20	A.	Yes.

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Horizon himself?

22 A. I was just trying to look and see if that --

I can't see the timeline of when I actually

contacted them but we didn't have a direct

contact to Fujitsu. We would have to go through

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imes they looked ren't sleeping. ded an operation ne stress levels Q. Mr Castleton was at this stage questioning the 22 checks which had been done by Fujitsu, wasn't 23 he? A. I can't see in my notes where it says that. 24 25 **Q.** So we go down another paragraph: 160

1		"I asked them what I could do to help.	1	Q.	,, ,
2		We had covered all the usual possibilities. Lee	2		reference POL00071240. This is a record of your
3		and Chrissie kept on that they had not taken the	3		interview with Mr Castleton on 10 May 2004.
4		money and that I must be the Horizon kit. Lee	4		Could we have page 3 of this document, please.
5		said that the Horizon System Helpline had said	5		About halfway down the page, Mr Castleton says:
6		that the checks had been okay, but what had they	6		"He said that no one had visited from
7		checked?"	7		Horizon to look at his problems and balances."
8		Your response was for him to ring the	8		Your response is this:
9		Horizon helpline back. Again, at this stage,	9		"CO Explained that Horizon would not attend
10		did you consider contacting Fujitsu on	10		his office due to poor balances, they would need
11		Mr Castleton's behalf, particularly given how	11		evidence of a problem which he was unable to
12		distressed you saw him to be?	12		provide, she also mentioned that she had given
13	A.	I believe that I was also doing things in the	13		him advice and spent hours and hours on this
14		background. I maybe haven't documented on there	14		case and his cash accounts. She asked LC if he
15		but I know I've got things from the problem	15		could show her a figure that the Horizon system
16		manager, you know, from Richard Benton, who had	16		had changed which did not make sense or could
17		done all the checks and sent that to Fujitsu.	17		prove his allegations."
18		I'd got emails back from the Business Support	18		What was the basis for the view you
19		Centre, from Andrew Price and Andrew Wise, so	19		expressed here that Horizon and by that we
20		I was doing things as well, and asking him, you	20		can take it to mean Fujitsu would not attend
21		know, Mr Castleton, to do things, as well, so	21		Mr Castleton's office due to poor balances, they
22		that we were both doing things to try to find	22		would need evidence of a problem, which he was
23		out.	23		unable to provide?
24		Everything just kept coming back that	24	A.	If I remember correctly, I don't think there was
25		everything was fine with the Horizon system.	25	۸.	any people that would visit a branch from
20		161	25		162
4		Fullitary. That just upon to possibility if my	1		the lady herealf
1		Fujitsu. That just wasn't a possibility, if my	1	^	the lady herself.
2	_	understanding is correct.	2	Q.	<u> </u>
3	Q.	Had you asked anyone from Fujitsu to attend	3		Inquiry. Could we have the transcript of her
4		Mr Castleton's branch by this point?	4		evidence given on 27 September this year on
5	Α.	I didn't, as I said earlier, I didn't have	5		screen, please. The reference is INQ00000980.
6		a direct contact with Fujitsu. I would have	6		Going, please, to page 14 of that document.
7	_	just gone via the Horizon Helpdesk.	7	Α.	Are you able to make it any bigger, please?
8	Q.	So where do you think this understanding came	8	Q.	, , , ,
9		from, that they would not attend in the	9		RTS people zoom in.
10		circumstances of Mr Castleton's case?	10	A.	That's it.
11	Α.	Just from my own experience. I'd never known	11	Q.	1 0
12		anybody from Fujitsu to attend a branch for poor	12		bottom of internal page 54, if we can zoom in
13		balancing.	13		a little bit more to make it easier for
14	Q.	But this was, you said earlier, the first large	14		Ms Oglesby.
15		loss case that you had dealt with, wasn't it?	15	A.	Yes, it's quite big enough now, thank you.
16	Α.	Yes.	16	Q.	Counsel to the Inquiry is asking Mrs Chambers
17	Q.	As far as you were aware, did anyone from the	17		about the limits on her investigations, and he
18		Post Office ever ask Fujitsu to send someone out	18		asks this, at lines 20 to 22:
19		to Mr Castleton's branch to investigate what was	19		"So your investigation didn't extent to
20		going on?	20		whether there was a problem with the recording
21	A.	Not that I'm aware, no.	21		of the transactions beyond the extent that
22	Q.	Do you remember Anne Chambers, who gave	22		you've said?"
23		a statement for and oral evidence at	23		Mrs Chambers says this:
24		Mr Castleton's trial?	24		"There was no indication of any problem with
25	A.	I remember her name. I don't actually remember	25		the recording of the transactions that was
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1 visible to me, either when I looked in 2004, 2 when obviously there was, you know, more files 3 and things to look at ..." 4 Then moving over to page 55, at line 18 5 Mrs Chambers says she could not see that without 6 some way of knowing actually what had happened 7 at the branch. 8 Counsel to the Inquiry says this, at 9 line 21: 10 "One way of doing that would be to send somebody in on balancing day, for example --" 11 12 Mrs Chambers says: 13 "Yes, or just during normal processes." 14 Counsel to the Inquiry: "-- and just watch the subpostmaster or 15 16 their clerk do it?" 17 Then going to the right side of the page, 18 the top of internal page 56: 19

"Yeah, and try to keep a record that you could check against at the end of the day. I mean, the postmaster had a lot of reports that had to be printed out at the end of the day, with totals on for pensions and various other things, and I believe that -- but this is getting into business stuff, which wasn't --

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2 of a system problem? 3 A. Well, I wasn't aware that Fujitsu would visit 4 a branch. That was -- that's maybe my naivety 5 but I wasn't aware of that, I hadn't heard of 6 that at any other branch but, as you say, this 7 was the only one that I was dealing with, with 8 9 the pensions and that the lady's talking about 10 there, those were the things we spoke about 11

> Those were the things that Mr Castleton and I discussed him doing before it actually left

19 Q. 20 Do you accept that someone from Fujitsu going 21 22 least have been explored by the Post Office in 23 the very unusual circumstances of Mr Castleton's 24

25 Yes, with hindsight, I think, yes, it should Α.

1 I had less familiarity with, but they were meant 2 to add up the dockets or counterfoils, or 3 whatever they'd got, for various things and 4 compare them against the totals on the reports, to make sure that what was on the system was 5 6 consistent with the business that they had done.

> "But there was something that I had no way of chose checking."

The question from Counsel to the Inquiry is: "Those are two things that could be done to seek to discover whether there was an underlying

problem and, if so, what it was?" 12

The answer is:

"Absolutely, and it is possible that if those sort of checks had been done, it might have highlighted some sort of system problem. At the time, my view was that seemed very unlikely, but -- or, you know, completely unlikely, completely impossible, but, in light of where we are now, who knows."

So it seems from this that Fujitsu would not have required specific evidence of a system problem in order to visit Mr Castleton's branch. Was that something that you -- can you help us, knowing this, with why it was that you concluded

that there would be a need for specific evidence

high losses. The things about the checks around earlier when I suggested that everything was double checked against the reports before it left the branch.

the branch every day, and he never -- I think in all my notes that I've made -- he never found one error, you know, that the system was making that didn't correspond with the summary. out to the branch was something which should at

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1 have been.

2 **Q.** Going back, please, to your summary of events 3 and if we can have that back on screen, please, 4 LCAS0000699, page 3., and scrolling down 5 a little, please. We can see your summary here 6 of the fact that the apparent shortfalls or 7 apparent losses kept accumulating. Then 8 an audit happens on 23 March 2004 --

9 A. Yes.

Q. -- and that's exactly it, the penultimate 10 11 paragraph there.

12 **A**.

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13 Q. At the bottom of the page, you discuss your 14 decision to suspend Mr Castleton on the same day 15 as the audit. What was your reasoning for 16 suspending Mr Castleton at that point?

A. Well, the losses were -- we couldn't explain the losses. Obviously, Lee was upset, and I -- the only explanation Mr Castleton was coming back with was that it was the Horizon equipment. So I really wanted to try to take him and his staff out of the equation and put somebody else in there to see how the branch would balance, to see if it carried on or if it stopped.

I wanted to, you know, safeguard Post Office

1		funds, as well. We were at a lot of money at	1		that they needed to prove dishonesty and being
2		this point.	2		able to prove this looked unlikely."
3	Q.	The temporary subpostmaster who was put in place	3		Why did you raise the question of potential
4		at that stage was Ruth Simpson; is that right?	4		criminality with the Investigation Team again?
5	A.	Yes, it is.	5	A.	I don't remember the exact conversation but
6	Q.	So going over the page, please. You say about	6		I will have been looking for some support or
7		three paragraphs down:	7		help from somewhere, I will have been speaking
8		"I asked a very experienced postmaster if	8		to the Contracts team and my line manager, as
9		she would run the office on a temp basis."	9		well the Investigation Team. So I was looking
10	A.	Yes.	10		for some support, really, and some guidance.
11	Q.	Did you know Ruth Simpson before you asked her	11	Q.	The Investigation Team said, again, that they
12		to take up this position?	12		didn't think it was a criminal matter. After
13	A.	Yes. First Lane post office was one of the	13		this, Greg Booth took over as a temporary
14		branches in my area, so she was a postmaster in	14		subpostmaster, didn't he? Can you remember why
15		my area.	15		there was that change from Ruth Simpson to Greg
16	Q.	Going, please, to the top of page 5 of this	16		Booth?
17		document, after Mrs Simpson has spent some time	17	A.	Ruth had her own branch and I think she could
18		in situ, at the top of the page, you approach	18		only commit to a few weeks and so she could
19		the Investigation Team for a second time, and	19		only commit to a few weeks, so I needed to find
20		you say this:	20		somebody else.
21		"I spoke to Paul Whitaker from the	21	Q.	Based on the account that you've included in
22		Investigation Team again. He said that they	22	_	this summary, it's right, isn't it, that both
23		didn't wish to take on the case or interview the	23		temporary subpostmasters, Ms Simpson and
24		[postmaster] as he had kept me fully informed of	24		Mr Booth, had some balancing issues, albeit that
25		the situation on a weekly basis. Again, he said	25		they were small discrepancies? Take time to
		169			170
1		look back at your summary, if you need to.	1		from this office, since 16 January 2004
2	Α.	I've written another note here. Yes, they had	2		"3. List of all calls to Horizon and NBSC
3	Λ.	shortages and gains, over the weeks that they	3		from any office in relation to computer balance
4		were there.	4		problems that seem unexplained.
5	^	Could we have on screen please document	5		"4. List of any Horizon problems which are
6	Q.	reference POL00071234, and it's page 14 of that	6		either ongoing or have been dealt with including
7		· -	7		
8		document, please. This is a letter to you and Mrs Joyce, dated 28 April 2004, from			suspense account problems. What action was taken and description of the work."
9			8 9		Then over the page, please:
		Mr Castleton, and if we just go to the well,			, , ,
10		we see the "L Castleton" at the top.	10		"5. A detailed list of the requirements of
11		I think you've seen this document before,	11 12		an RLM in such a case
12 13		but the last page is page 17 of that document,	13		"6. Contractual obligations of Horizon with
		please. Scrolling to the bottom and we can see			respect to how and when Horizon should act when
14		there that it's from Lee Castleton.	14		a fault on the system is suspected.
15		Going back to the first page, please,	15		"7. What action is taken with data at
16		towards the bottom, Mr Castleton says this,	16		'Clear Desktop' within Horizon
17		starting on the bottom line:	17		"8 detailed breakdown of what is
18		"But would like to know whether these losses	18		checked during a Horizon system check when
19		actually exist or if as I believe they are	19		system checks have been done on machines."
20		a figment of a computer's imagination."	20		Further information sought there on system
21		Then he requested a number of things	21		checks:
22		relating to Horizon. So we have at 1:	22		"9. List of BT line faults
23		"A full list of all software updates since	23		"10. I would also like to know if the
24		January 2004 to now, 28 April '04	24		computer system has been off over the period of
25		"2. List of all calls to Horizon and NBSC 171	25		my suspension. The reason for them being off. 172
		17.1			112

The actions taken ..." 1 2 Just going over to the final page for 3 completeness: 4 "Any software changes or repairs required to 5 bring the system online again." 6 Your response to Mr Castleton is at page 18 7 of this document. Scrolling down a little, 8 please, from you. Going up again, please to 9 Mr Castleton, 6 May 2004, including a number of 10 documents. But it's right, isn't it, that you 11 didn't provide Mr Castleton with all of the 12 items he requested in his letter? 13 Yes, that's right. Α. 14 Q. With the benefit of hindsight, do you accept that the Post Office should have asked Fujitsu 15 16 to provide the evidence that Mr Castleton was 17 asking for? 18 A. I think I did ask for it but I just didn't 19 receive it to be able to pass it to him and, 20 yes, I do agree we should have. 21 Q. Again, with the benefit of hindsight, do you 22 think it was the wrong choice to dismiss him 23 before the questions he had about Horizon had 24 been answered? 25 Α. Well, the decision to dismiss him -- because I'd 173 1 "I sent copies to Liz Morgan and Davlyn 2 Cumberland in Leeds, two very experienced 3 suspense account people. They helped me with 4 the wording for my explanation. I sent a letter 5 to Lee on Friday 14 May, plus the interview 6 notes. Both Liz and Davlyn could not see 7 anything wrong with the way the computers were 8 working." 9 You say: 10 "I discussed the whole case with my HOA ..." Can you just clarify what that acronym is? 11 12 A. Head of Area, my line manager. 13 Q. "... throughout. 14 "My decision is to summary terminate Lee 15 Castleton's contract for services." 16 What did you think had happened to the money 17 represented by this shortfall? A. I didn't know where the money had gone and 18 19 that's why we were trying to look at every 20 aspect of, you know, where it could have gone. 21 Just an unexplained loss. It could have been 22 somebody, you know, taking the money, not 23 necessarily Mr Castleton. It could have been, 24 you know, the -- they were doing a really large

giro business deposit from a car auction, and

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1 put people into the branch and there were no 2 real -- I know there were small losses and gains 3 but that's something you would expect in any 4 branch, I based, you know, part of my decision 5 on that the Horizon system was working and was 6 robust. I had no reason to believe it wasn't. 7 With hindsight now, then maybe it was premature. 8 Q. You set out the reasons for the termination of 9 Mr Castleton's contract, or a summary of those 10 at least, on the last page of your summary 11 document. If we can have that back on screen, 12 please, it's LCAS0000699. 13 It's the penultimate page, in fact, because 14 the last page is blank. About two-thirds of the 15 way down the page, you say, under the heading 16 "Monday 10 May 2004, RTU interview": 17 "At the interview Lee could only give one 18 explanation for the losses at his office and 19 that was computer software problems. He did not 20 provide any instances where the figures on his 21 cash accounts were incorrect, it was always the 22 cash figure that didn't match. He asked me to 23 explain the discrepancies at the top of his 24 final balances." 25 You go on to say: 174 1 I know that the customer would leave a lot of 2 money there in the branch. You know, that might 3 have been the source of it. We talked about 4 that previously, making sure that was correct, 5 and things like that. 6 So I didn't know where the cash had gone.

I'd suggested lots of things to try to narrow it down, which Mr Castleton hadn't wanted to do, like the individual balancing. I'd put people in the branch to try to prove to us both, really, that the Horizon system was working correctly. So it was just unexplained losses. So I didn't know exactly where the money had aone.

- 15 So was it your view that there was a loss? Did you find that, as a matter of fact, before you 16 terminated Mr Castleton's contract? 17
- A. Well, it was a matter of fact that the money was 18 19 missing, so there was a loss.
- 20 Q. When it came to the civil proceedings brought by 21 the Post Office against Mr Castleton, you 22 provided a witness statement. Could we have 23 that on screen, please. It's POL00107117, and 24 it's paragraph 9 of that statement, please. You

25 say:

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"At the material time, the subpostmaster also had to balance the physical cash and stock against the cash and stock shown on the computers on a weekly basis and produce a Cash Account. The Cash Account contained information such as cash and stock in hand at the end of that week, receipts, payments, the balance due to the Post Office and whether there were any discrepancies such as a surplus or shortfall. The subpostmaster had to sign the Cash Account and of course should not have done so unless it was accurate."

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It's right, isn't it, that subpostmasters might well dispute apparent discrepancies appearing on a final balance but still roll over into the next trading period to enable them to carry on trading? Did you come across that?

- 18 A. They would declare their loss or the gain, 19 though, and they're signing with the loss or the 20 gain on the account.
- 21 Q. But the case being run by the Post Office 22 against Mr Castleton was that the act of doing 23 that, of signing and rolling over, was 24 an acceptance that the accounts were correct, 25 and you say here:

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1 There were often times, weren't there, when 2 subpostmasters would not think a discrepancy was 3 accurate and there was an error notice in the 4 pipeline or another reason, but they had to roll 5 over, didn't they, to carry on into the next 6 trading period?

- 7 A. Yes, but they'd still be signing the account to 8 say that that was accurate, the cash and stock 9 was accurate and, at that point in time, there 10 was also a discrepancy. So that would be a loss 11 or a gain. So they're signing the account, you 12 know, to say that's accurate at that point, with 13 the loss or the gain in there.
- 14 Q. What would have had happened if Mr Castleton had 15 refused to sign the cash account which showed 16 the loss or the apparent loss?
- 17 A. Well, nothing would have happened that I could 18
- 19 Q. Would he have been able to roll over into the 20 next trading period?
- 21 A. Without signing, yes, it would, yeah, he would 22 still roll the -- he would still roll the branch 23 over into the next period. It's only

24 a signature on a document. You could still 25 physically do that on the machine.

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"The subpostmaster had to sign the Cash Account and of course should not have done so unless it was accurate."

But because error notices took time to come through, there might well be occasions where cash accounts were confirmed and a subpostmaster rolled over to allow them to continue trading, when they didn't accept there was a discrepancy; do you see that?

- 10 A. I can see what you're saying but they would 11 declare the loss or the gain on the account and 12 then sign and roll over. Is that what you're 13 saying? So they would do that, yes, but the 14 loss or the gain would be listed, you know, on 15 the account.
- 16 Q. So if the subpostmaster doesn't think that there 17 is a loss, they're not accepting the discrepancy 18 that's there on the draft, if we can put it in 19 that way, accounts. They don't agree that there 20 is a discrepancy. There might be an error 21 notice out there, there might not, but they 22 don't agree with that discrepancy. What you're 23 saying here is the subpostmaster had to sign the 24 cash account and, of course, he should not have 25 done so unless it was accurate.

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1 MS PRICE: Sir, those are the questions that I have 2 for Ms Oglesby. I'll turn now to Core 3 Participants to see if there are any questions. 4 Mr Henry has some questions, sir.

Questioned by MR HENRY

6 MR HENRY: Ms Oglesby, in the past, subpostmasters 7 were prosecuted on data, in other words the 8 books, they had generated and were responsible for, which they had constructed and signed off 9 10 themselves, and were indisputably accountable 11 for. You agree with that, don't you, before 12 Horizon?

- A. Oh, before Horizon? Yes, it was a book. 13
- 14 Q. Yes. Now they were being judged on data 15 generated by Horizon, which they could not 16 interrogate or control, correct?
- 17 A. Well, they could check the documentation that 18 Horizon then would be summarising, so that all 19 the documentation could be cross-referenced 20 against the figures on Horizon.
- 21 Q. But they were not in control of it?
- 22 A. Could you explain what you mean, please?
- 23 Q. Well, it was generated by Horizon itself and 24 they could not check how Horizon performed the 25 calculations.

Q. She didn't process the Lottery transactions,

even though they were there from her first day,

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1	A.	But they could check so if we just take	1		You knew that?
2		an example, say the pension dockets, there would	2	A.	I don't know how long I can't remember
3		be a counterfoil for each pension that would	3		because it's quite some time ago, how long she'd
4		have been inputted into Horizon, and then the	4		worked there, but I just know that I knew the
5		total on Horizon for the pensions you could	5		name Janet Skinner and she had been in my area
6		physically add up as we used to do before	6		at one of the branches. I couldn't recall which
7		Horizon, physically add them up and	7		one now but I did know her.
8		cross-reference them with the figure on Horizon,	8	Q.	Fine. She was dismissed and prosecuted in May
9		so you could double check all of the entries.	9		2006 and you were aware of that, weren't you?
10	Q.	But you're assuming that the system is bug,	10	A.	Yes, I was aware of it. I didn't know the
11		error and defect free when saying that, aren't	11		details of the case.
12		you?	12	Q.	As RLM in that general area, you would have also
13	A.	Yes, I am, yes.	13		become aware that the temporary SPM who came
14	Q.	I'll move on. Janet Skinner, paragraph 89 of	14		after her, just like Mrs Skinner before her, was
15		your witness statement you recognise the name	15		investigated for stealing money. Do you
16		Janet Skinner, didn't you?	16		remember that? Wendy Lyle(?).
17	A.	Yes, I do.	17	A.	I don't, I'm sorry. The name doesn't ring
18	Q.	She worked in your area for years and, in fact,	18		a bell at all with me.
19		you were her Area Manager at one time, weren't	19	Q.	Well, the person who replaced Janet Skinner was
20		you?	20		arrested for theft. So you had an experienced
21	A.	Yes, I was.	21		member of staff, Janet Skinner, who'd suddenly
22	Q.	You knew that she was an experienced	22		incurred large losses and was arrested, and then
23		subpostmaster?	23		you had her replacement, Wendy Lyle, who also
24	A.	Well, she was an employee, I believe.	24		incurred large losses and was arrested. Did
25	Q.	Well, she was experienced and well regarded. 181	25		that cause you to think that there might be 182
1		something wrong with the system?	1		the same Horizon kit and the balance had
2	A.	Well, you say I knew all of this, but	2		continued to be fine each day within expected
3	Α.	I wasn't I'd moved roles in 2005, so I don't	3		parameters. Mr Castleton had not given any
4		I can't recall, you know, knowing that	4		credible explanation for the unauthorised
5		information.	5		shortfalls. In these circumstances I decided to
6	Q.	I mean, you earlier accepted that you did know	6		terminate summarily."
7	Œ.	that Janet Skinner had been prosecuted. You	7		That wasn't accurate, was it?
8		didn't think that this was worth mentioning when	8	A.	Which part?
9		you gave evidence against Lee Castleton in	9	Q.	Well, we know, don't we, that Mrs Simpson was
10		December 2006, did you?	10	Ψ.	having difficulties and there were shortfalls,
11	Α.	I don't know at what point I became aware,	11		weren't there, and there were discrepancies
12		whether I would you know, this is going back	12		above and below the line, weren't there?
13		some 20 years. I don't know whether I would	13	A.	Mrs Simpson wasn't having difficulties. She had
14		have known at that point or not. So I wouldn't	14		one particular error of £100, which she did have
15		like to say. If I'd have known, then I would	15		an explanation for, which was
16		have mentioned it, so I'm presuming I didn't	16	Q.	Sorry, you carry on, please.
17		know.	17	Α.	which she thought her staff member had left
18	Q.	I want to just briefly touch on the witness	18		an amount in the stack on Horizon and paid it
19	~.	statement. No need to put it up but do you not	19		out a second time, which she'd previously done,
20		recall that at paragraph 53 of your witness	20		I believe, at her own branch. All the others
21		statement, which was page 15 of the statement	21		were all the other losses and gains that I've
22		that you filed in that case, you said the	22		noted were sort of under the £20 limit, really,
23		following:	23		and some were over and some were short.

"Since Mr Castleton has been suspended the

temporary subpostmasters had worked with exactly

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4	did she?
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- 2 A. Unless you can show me my notes, I don't recall,
- 3 I'm sorry.
- 4 Q. Well, I'm under some pressure of time, so if
- 5 I might just ask you to recall this. She didn't
- 6 use Horizon until 11.30 am on 1 April 2004, did
- 7 she?
- 8 A. I'm sorry, that's going back --
- 9 Q. Because of a crash. It crashed. Do you not
- 10 recall her saying that it had to be rebooted,
- and then she offered a different explanation, so
- 12 a mutually inconsistent explanation, that it
- 13 hadn't crashed but that she just decided to work
- 14 manually.
- 15 A. I can't recall that, I'm sorry.
- 16 Q. I suggest that there were evident problems with
- 17 Horizon when Ruth Simpson took over and no one
- 18 was being frank about it; isn't that right?
- 19 A. No, I don't agree.
- 20 Q. Could I ask you, please, to consider the answers
- 21 you've given to Counsel to the Inquiry, and I'm
- 22 going to ask if you might have been displaying
- 23 a degree of bias against Mr Castleton and that
- you actually thought that he was dishonest.
- What do you have to say to that?
 - 185
- 1 A. I was -- I didn't think for one minute that the
- 2 Horizon system wasn't robust. Every time I'd
- 3 asked anybody to check anything, everything came
- 4 back that the Horizon system was fine. So I was
- 5 trying to help Mr Castleton and try and find out
- 6 where -- and get help from other people, you
- 7 know, in the business.
- 8 Q. You see, what you ought to have done, rather
- 9 than calling the Criminal Investigation Team,
- 10 was to bombard Fujitsu with requests. That's
- 11 what you ought to have done, Mrs Oglesby. Don't
- 12 you accept that now?
- 13 A. With hindsight, yes, probably.
- 14 Q. So I put it to you again that the reason why you
- 15 twice contacted the Criminal Investigation Team
- 16 was because you hoped you could persuade them to
- 17 take on this case?
- 18 A. I was looking for help and support. That's why
- 19 I contacted them.
- 20 Q. That's your answer?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 Q. Right. Can I ask you, please, to just deal with
- 23 paperwork. Did you not remove paperwork from
- 24 Mr Castleton during his suspension -- balance
- 25 snapshots, transactional logs -- purportedly to 187

- 1 A. No, I didn't think he was dishonest. I was
- 2 trying to find an explanation and help and
- 3 support him to try to find where the errors
- 4 were.
- 5 Q. Why did you speak to Mr Paul Whitaker twice in
- 6 the Criminal Investigation team; why did you
- 7 speak to Mr Paul Whitaker twice?
- 8 A. To try to get some support because, obviously,
- 9 I was very concerned at the losses. So it was
- 10 to try to get some help and support for that.
- 11 Q. But you wouldn't go to the criminal
- 12 Investigation Team for that, particularly since
- he had told you emphatically that Mr Castleton
- 14 was not dishonest, that he had been frank about
- the losses and had brought them to you --
- 16 correct -- and he said that to you on two
- 17 occasions?
- 18 **A.** Yes, he did.
- 19 Q. Right. What I'm going to suggest is that it
- would have far better suited your narrative,
- 21 made it a lot easier for you, if Mr Castleton
- 22 was dishonest, Horizon was robust and you could
- 23 have got a confiscation order against him in the
- 24 criminal courts. Isn't that the truth? That's
- 25 the way you were thinking at the time?
 - 186
- 1 get them analysed; do you remember that?
- 2 A. I believe I took them at the audit. Unless I've
- made a note for when I took them, I think I took
- 4 some at the audit.
- 5 Q. He did exactly as you'd suggested, contrary to
- 6 what you say in paragraph 60 of your statement
- 7 to the Inquiry. He did exactly as you
- 8 suggested. He took repeated snapshots, balance
- 9 snapshots, he also annotated transactional logs
- and they were taken away by you, weren't they?
- 11 **A.** I did take some balances and some snapshots,
- which we discussed at his interview on 10 May
- and which I gave him copies back of and that's
- 14 stated in there.

- 15 Q. I suggest that's not true. You did not give him
- 16 back copies and they were never returned to him.
- 17 Your memory is playing tricks.
- 18 A. I'm just -- if you can just have a moment to
 - find the notes from the interview, that's all
- 20 I'm going on, is the notes there. Just
- 21 a second. I might have a ...
- 22 I'm just looking at the notes of 10 May;
- 23 I won't be a moment. I'm sure it says on there
- that we discussed them and copies were given.
- 25 Yes, it does. It says:

1		"We went on in detail to discuss the	1	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right.
2		balances, error notices, snapshots, and cash	2	Well, thank you, Mrs Oglesby, for making
3		declarations. Copies of all this information is	3	your written statement and for answering
4		provided with a list of all the results of the	4	questions from Ms Price and Mr Henry.
5		balance."	5	That concludes, I believe, today's business,
6		So that's what I was going on there.	6	yes, Ms Price?
7	Q.	That was not provided to him. That was provided	7	MS PRICE: Yes, sir, we return tomorrow at 10.00 for
8		to you. You were provided with his originals	8	Tony Utting.
9		and they were never returned.	9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, all right. Thank you very
10	A.	Well, my understanding was he got copies of	10	much, everyone.
11		those, and then the originals were put in the	11	MS PRICE: Thank you, sir.
12		file and given as part of the appeal process.	12	(4.29 pm)
13		Everything was put together.	13	(The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
14	Q.	Ms Oglesby, this is the subject of a complaint	14	the following day)
15		by him subject of a complaint by him that he	15	
16		hadn't had the material returned to him and that	16	
17		it hamstrung his action against the Post Office;	17	
18		don't you recall that?	18	
19	A.	Well, my understanding is that he got copies of	19	
20		that.	20	
21	MR	HENRY: I see. I ask you no further questions.	21	
22	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Does anyone else wish to ask any	22	
23		questions?	23	
24	MS	PRICE: No, sir, no further questions from Core	24	
25		Participants.	25	
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