1	Friday, 24 November 2023	1	not t
2	(10.00 am)	2	is al
3	Announcement re evidence of Lisa Allen	3	relev
4	MS PRICE: Good morning, sir. Can you see and hear	4	Ms A
5	us?	5	circu
6	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.	6	need
7	MS PRICE: Sir, before we proceed to today's	7	that
8	evidence, there is a matter which you have asked	8	givir
9	me to address at the outset of today's hearing.	9	prac
10	We were due to hear today from two witnesses:	10	toda
11	Diane Matthews and Lisa Allen. As you are	11	be a
12	aware, we will now be hearing from Ms Matthews	12	than
13	only, following a decision you made late	13	
14	yesterday afternoon relating to Ms Allen's	14	Post
15	evidence.	15	At yo
16	Earlier this week, Ms Allen, who is employed	16	your
17	by Royal Mail, alerted the Inquiry Team to the	17	Part
18	existence of 90 documents relating to the	18	imm
19	investigation and prosecution of Suzanne Palmer	19	that
20	held by Royal Mail. She was able to find these	20	inter
21	documents, as she has access, as an employee, to	21	evid
22	Royal Mail systems.	22	
23	The Inquiry sought, and has now been	23	Ms A
24	provided with, these documents. It appears that	24	a re
25	a significant proportion of the documents have 1	25	the i
1	confirm that Ms Allen has confirmed she is able	1	cont
2	to attend to give evidence on 20 December in	2	issu
3	place of today.	3	Cou
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Ms Price.	4	a dif
5	In view of the very full explanation which	5	and
6	you provided, I don't propose to add anything,	6	reme
7	especially given that the Inquiry Team and the	7	term
8	Post Office are engaged in seeking to ascertain	8	obvi
9	what went wrong on this occasion. However, if	9	in a
10 11	Ms Gallafent does wish to say anything at this	10 11	you, SIR WYN
12	stage, I will afford her the opportunity to do so now.	12	SIK WIN
12	MS GALLAFENT: Sir, simply to say we are grateful to	12	MR BEEF
14	the Inquiry for acting upon this so promptly and	13	
14	in particular informing other Core Participants	14	plea
16	that Ms Allen wouldn't be able to give evidence	16	
17	today in the circumstances, and meaning that	10	MR BEEF
18	Ms Allen I'm so sorry, Ms Palmer didn't	18	Jaso
19	need to come today.	10	Inqu
20	But we do apologise to Ms Palmer because,	20	plea
21	obviously, the expectation of coming and hearing	20	A. Yes,
21	from Ms Allen itself is a difficulty and	21	<b>Q</b> . Thai
23	problematic for any individual involved in these	23	toda
24	proceedings.	23	state
25	I can confirm that we in Post Office are	25	a co
20	3	23	2.00

1	not been provided to the Inquiry previously. It
2	is also evident that the documents are highly
3	relevant both to Ms Palmer's case and to
4	Ms Allen's involvement in it. In these
5	circumstances, and mindful that these documents
6	need to be disclosed to Core Participants so
7	that they can consider them ahead of Ms Allen
8	giving evidence, you concluded that it is not
9	practicable to proceed with Ms Allen's evidence
0	today. It is right to note that this appears to
1	be a different species of disclosure problem
2	than the Inquiry has encountered previously.
3	The Inquiry Team is investigating, with the
4	Post Office, how this problem has come about.
5	At your request, the Inquiry Team communicated
6	your decision about Ms Allen's evidence to Core
7	Participants by email yesterday afternoon,
8	immediately after it was made. This has meant
9	that unnecessary travel for Mrs Palmer, who was
20	intending to intend today to hear Lisa Allen's
21	evidence, has been avoided.
22	Finally, sir, you expressed a wish that
23	Ms Allen attend to give evidence on
24	a replacement date before the break to minimise
25	the impact on the timetable. I am able to 2
1	continuing to look into how this particular
2	issue arose but we agree with the analysis of
3	Counsel to the Inquiry that it appears to be of
4	a different sort to those previously encountered
5	and we hope a one-off that can be easily
6	remediable. I have nothing further to assist in
7	terms of what may have happened but we will
8	obviously write to the Inquiry as soon as we are
9	in a position to assist in that respect. Thank
0	you, sir.
1	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, thank you very much.
2	Over to you, Mr Beer.
3	MR BEER: Thank you, sir, can I call Diane Matthews,
4	please.
5	DIANE SARAH MATTHEWS (affirmed)
6	Questioned by MR BEER
7	<b>MR BEER:</b> Good morning, Ms Matthews. My name is
8	Jason Beer and I ask questions on behalf of the
9	Inquiry. Can you give us your full name,
20	please?
21	A. Yes, it's Diane Sarah Matthews.
22	<b>Q.</b> Thank you very much for giving evidence remotely
23	today and for previously providing a witness
24	statement to the Inquiry. You should have
25	a copy of that witness statement in front of 4
	Т

1		you; is that right?	1	Α.	Yes.
2	Α.	I do, yes.	2	Q.	Looking into the divisions within that 32 years,
3	Q.	It's dated 1 November 2023 and, excluding the	3		I think you were a counter clerk for 13 years
4		exhibit sheet, is 36 pages in length. Can you	4		between 1986 and 1999; is that right?
5		go to the 36th page, please?	5	Α.	Yes, various things within the branch office
6	Α.	Yes.	6		network, yeah.
7	Q.	Is that your signature?	7	Q.	Between 1999 and 2003, you were seconded to work
8	Α.	It is, yes.	8		on the rollout of the Horizon system; is that
9	Q.	Are the contents of the statement true to the	9		right?
10		best of your knowledge and belief?	10	Α.	Yes.
11	Α.	Yes.	11	Q.	Between 2003 and 2004 you worked as an Assistant
12	Q.	Thank you. A copy of that witness statement is	12		Branch Manager and then an Audit Manager; is
13		going to be uploaded to the Inquiry's website.	13		that right?
14		I'm going to ask you some questions about some	14	Α.	Yes.
15		parts of it; do you understand?	15	Q.	That included conducting some audits yourself?
16	Α.	I do, yes.	16	Α.	Yes, the audits I conducted were normally at
17	Q.	Thank you. Can we start with your professional	17		Crown Offices, the larger ones.
18		background, please. I think you joined the Post	18	Q.	Then between 2004 and 2008 you worked in the
19		Office in March 1986 as a counter clerk; is that	19		Post Office Investigation Department, being
20		right?	20		promoted in 2007 to a Security Manager managing
21	Α.	Yes.	21		a team of Investigators; is that right?
22	Q.	You left Royal Mail Group in 2018; is that	22	Α.	Yes.
23		right?	23	Q.	In 2008, you moved to Royal Mail Group as
24	Α.	It is, yes.	24		an Investigator, where you stayed for 10 years
25		So 32 years' service?	25		until 2018 when you retired?
		5			6
1	Α.	Yes.	1		live trial and it was migrating it was only
2	Q.	I'm principally interested, as you'll know, in	2		a small amount of post offices and I remember
3		the four or so year period between 2004 and	3		I went to Northern Ireland and Belfast to do
4		2008, when you worked in the Post Office as	4		that, and they were put onto the Horizon system
5		an Investigator and then as a manager of other	5		and it was like a test.
6		investigations.	6		And it was after that that it got paused and
7		But, before we look at that period, that	7		I stayed working within that function then to
8		four-year period, can we look back at earlier	8		take over the administrative duties, in terms of
9		period. You tell us at paragraph 2 of your	9		pulling the team together and what that schedule
10		statement there is no need to turn it up at	10		would look like.
11		the moment when referring to your secondment	11		From that period, I didn't attend offices
12		to the Horizon rollout team between 1999 and	12		doing the migration. My role was purely to look
13		2003, that you had a role:	13		after the people that were out there in the
14		" managing a team of 22 Horizon Field	14		field doing that role.
15		Support Officers in ensuring they were supported	15	Q.	Dealing with the first part first, then, when
16		in managerial terms, for example, timetable,	16		you were involved with offices themselves, this
17		accommodation and performance."	17		was live trials rather than rollout; is that
18	Α.	That's correct, yes.	18		right?
19	Q.	Was your role, as that sentence might suggest,	19	Α.	That's correct.
20		purely an administrative one, concerned with the	20	Q.	Did you receive the feedback that the branches
21		management and logistics of the team, or did you	21		that you were responsible for gave as to what
22		have any substantive involvement in the rollout	22		was going on in the course of the live trial?
23		process itself?	23	Α.	I wouldn't say I received the feedback.
	A.	Well, when I joined in 1999 I was part of	24		l obviously knew when I was there, undertaking
25		a small group of people that did what was called	25		the role, that there was issues. What came

7

(2) Pages 5 - 8

1		further along as part of them issues, I wasn't
2		party to that detail, really. I knew from my
3		role that the office migrated, there was network
4		issues, that's what I was told was the problem
5		with it, was network issues, and the office
6		carried on working.
7		It did have some problems with the
8		functionality, in terms of it kept crashing,
9		there was hardware problems, and then, after
10		I think I was there three days, and it was more
11		a case of helping the counter clerks understand
12		the workings, the balancing, the day-to-day
13		duties that needed to be done. And then after
14		that, it went to a much higher level than me to
15		determine what them issues were and what was
16		going to happen next.
17	Q.	So in the course of the live trial, you were
18		told about problems that included network
19		issues. I think you've told us about problems
20		with connectivity
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	with hardware, and did you say balancing, as
23		well?
24	Α.	No, not with the balancing. I was there to
25		assist some of the balancing, but when you say
		9
1		stock figures onto the Horizon system.
1 2		stock figures onto the Horizon system. They would then stay for a period of
		с ,
2		They would then stay for a period of
2 3		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they
2 3 4		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the
2 3 4 5		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the
2 3 4 5 6		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of
2 3 4 5 6 7		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of
2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	А.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	А.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes. In terms of significance or scale of issues, can
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes. In terms of significance or scale of issues, can you help us with what your memory is of that?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes. In terms of significance or scale of issues, can you help us with what your memory is of that? Yeah, my recollections were that it was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes. In terms of significance or scale of issues, can you help us with what your memory is of that? Yeah, my recollections were that it was sufficient enough to delay the actual rollout at
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes. In terms of significance or scale of issues, can you help us with what your memory is of that? Yeah, my recollections were that it was sufficient enough to delay the actual rollout at first. I think, when rollout did start there
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q.	They would then stay for a period of I think it was normally three days, and they would stay at the office and assist the subpostmaster and their staff with the transition from manual to computer-based ways of serving and balancing. They would then if a Wednesday wasn't part of them three days, they would then return and assist with one of the balancing days or the first balancing day. We have heard evidence about a series of problems, some of them significant, that were identified and evident during the testing and rollout phases. Were you aware at the time of such problems identified during the four or so year period that you undertook this role? I was aware there was issues, yes. In terms of significance or scale of issues, can you help us with what your memory is of that? Yeah, my recollections were that it was sufficient enough to delay the actual rollout at first. I think, when rollout did start there was also delays with certain offices. To be

	was told about that, I experienced that. I saw
	that firsthand because I was there when they
	were having issues with it. But, obviously,
	there was engineers on site for this particular
	part of the process, because it was right at the
	very beginning. So anything that needed to be
	addressed was addressed there and then.
Q.	How long did this work last?
<u>с</u> .	My role in it?
Q.	Yes.
Q. A.	
А.	Yeah, um, I can remember I did two offices.
	I know one was in Belfast, I think the other one
	was probably in the UK, and it was only a very
	short period of time. I think I stayed four
	days at each office, and that probably took me
	from when I joined, probably to, it was over
	maybe a three-month period.
Q.	I see. Then you became responsible for 22
	HFSOs, the Field Support Officers?
Α.	That's correct, yes.
Q.	What did the Field Support Officers do?
Α.	They were there to oversee the day of migration,
	so they would liaise with the Auditors that
	would go in, perform an audit and they would
	then take over in terms of entering the cash and
	10
	maybe a keyboard not working, but I do know
	not in my area but I do know nationally that
	there was probably more substantial problems
	with getting offices onto the system.
~	
Q.	Did you gain any knowledge about difficulties in
	balancing using the new system?
Α.	I knew there were issues balancing, yes, but
	I think that was put down more to user issues.
	It wasn't I don't think at first it was
	particularly user-friendly for someone that had
	never used any sort of computer-based equipment
	before and I think it was a massive transition
	for some people, and I knew that, therefore,
	there was problems balancing.
	I also knew that there was problems
	balancing because of significant figures that
	were being generated, and
Q.	Sorry, significant figures being generated by
<u> </u>	what?
٨	
Α.	The system was just I'm trying to remember
	an example. There was figures put in suspense
	accounts and the next week it would drop off,
	and it was like nobody had an answer as to why,
	and these were like put down as maybe people not
	and the second

and these were like put down as maybe perusing it right, maybe people -- maybe the

1		systems hadn't been migrated correctly, but
2		I didn't really get into them issues because
3		that's not what my role was at the particular
4	~	time.
5	Q.	So trying to encapsulate what you've just said,
6 7		in the course of this testing and then the
7 8		rollout phase, the system was generating large discrepancies that were placed in a suspense
9		account and then would disappear, and you say
9 10		they put it down to either user error or the
11		system; is that right?
12	Α.	Figures were on a balance on a printout on
13	7.0	balance day and nobody could identify where it
14		had come from. So, therefore, that figure then
15		got put into a suspense account and it
16		dropped it got dropped. Why that happened,
17		whether it was a transaction that hadn't been
18		put in correctly, I wasn't there, and I just
19		know that one or two of my team reported issues
20		up to Fujitsu because of that.
21		Therefore, my role in that was to provide
22		that office with extra support. So my role was
23		to then reschedule the HFSOs to obviously make
24		sure that personnel could be there. So I wasn't
25		close to the detail of them problems. I just
		13
1		size and magnitude we were told it was the
2		biggest single computer install in the UK
3		that there was teething problems, that there
4		were going to be issues and that the
5		obviously, they would monitor and work through
6		them.
7		That's how it was portrayed right at the
8		very beginning and I just thought that, you
9		know, it just stands to reason there's going to
10		be concerns, there's going to be issues and that
11		they were worked through and resolved.
12	Q.	Who was passing you that message, the one that
13		you've just relayed to us?
14	Α.	It was just part of the Horizon team. It was
15		just it probably came from quite high up.
16		I can't remember who was over the Horizon
17		install project. But they were the messages
18	0	that were cascaded down.
19 20	Q.	Were they, in turn, cascaded down by your team to subpostmasters?
20 21	A.	l don't know.
21 22	A. Q.	So the overall impression, by the time we get to
22	ч <b>х</b> .	2004, that you walked away with, was that
23 24		although there were problems with the system,
25		this was to be expected in a system so large and
		15

1		knew that I had to change some of what my
2		scheduling was because the office needed more
3		support because of it.
4	Q.	Did you ever experience problems in using
5		Horizon when you were acting as an Assistant
6		Branch Manager?
7	Α.	No.
8	Q.	Were you aware of others around you experiencing
9		problems with Horizon when you were acting as
10		an Assistant Branch Manager?
11	Α.	No.
12	Q.	By the time that you finished your job as
13		Assistant Branch Manager, if I'd asked you
14		what's your view as to the reliable and
15		robustness of Horizon, what would you have said?
16	Α.	I'd have said it was reliable and robust because
17		I never personally experienced any problems or
18		knew of anybody in the Crown Office Network that
19		I worked with that did.
20	Q.	So what impact had these things that you'd been
21		told by your HFSOs, about subpostmasters having
22		problems with the system, had on your view on
23		the reliability and robustness of Horizon, by,
24		say, 2003/4?
25	Α.	It was explained that, with a project of this 14
		14
1		complex and these were just teething problems?
2	Α.	At the very beginning, yes. By the time the end
3		of the rollout was approaching, the migrations
4		were getting much smoother, they'd probably been
5		like that for the majority of the final phase.
6		I mean, some of the problems were that there was
7		no phone lines put in at an office.
8		It could be a simple explanation as to why
9		there were delays. It wasn't always to do with
10		the actual system. It could have been something
11		to do with some of the pre-work that needed to
12		be done in order for the install to happen.
13		But by you know, I didn't experience
14		many, if any, reports for about the last
15		12 months of install. By that, I'm not saying
16		there wasn't any but there certainly wasn't any
17		concerns, let's say, that couldn't be put down
18		to user error or issues with problems with the
19		electrics, et cetera.

electrics, et cetera.
 Can we turn, then, to the four-year period from
 2004 to 2008 when you worked in the
 Investigations Department. You were a Security
 Manager and an Investigator and you carried out
 a number of investigations yourself; is that
 right?

1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	In that four-year period, how many
3		investigations do you think you undertook?
4	Α.	It probably wasn't it was probably about 20,
5		but my first six months were purely assisting
6		other people because I was bought in on
7		a temporary turn to do pension docket fraud.
8		And then, after that, I got taken on
9		permanently so that was probably towards the
10		start of 2005 and then, from my best
11		recollection, it was around that time that
12		I undertook the training.
13		So I'd actually been working within the team
14		before I started training but it was purely as
15		an administrative thing, looking at pension
16	_	docket fraud.
17	Q.	So in the four-year period, perhaps five
18		investigations a year?
19	Α.	Yeah, the first probably 18 months, it probably
20		wasn't anywhere near that but, obviously, as
21		I got more experienced, I was probably given
22	~	more.
23 24	Q.	When you were carrying out that investigation work, did you have an understanding that all
24 25		departments and all divisions within the Post
25		17
1	Q.	by an Investigator to go and find the
2	ч.	material and ensure that it's revealed. I'm
3		looking at the stage before then,
4		an organisation that prosecutes people knows
5		that it's under a duty to retain and record
6		information that might be relevant to the
7		prosecution. How was that carried into effect?
8	A.	' I'm sort of struggling with the guestion
9		a little bit. I mean, I can tell you what
10		l did.
11	Q.	So if I run a sweet shop and I don't prosecute
12		anyone, I might keep my books for a year and
13		then I might throw them away.
14	Α.	Right, okay.
15	Q.	I might not write down everything that I buy and
16		sell because I think "Well, I'm not going to be
17		
		prosecuting anyone, I needn't do that". If,
18		prosecuting anyone, I needn't do that". If, however, I know that I might prosecute people,
18		however, I know that I might prosecute people,
18 19		however, I know that I might prosecute people, I might think to myself that I need this
18 19 20		however, I know that I might prosecute people, I might think to myself that I need this information, not just to know how many sweets
18 19 20 21		however, I know that I might prosecute people, I might think to myself that I need this information, not just to know how many sweets I've sold or bought but because I'm going to be
18 19 20 21 22		however, I know that I might prosecute people, I might think to myself that I need this information, not just to know how many sweets I've sold or bought but because I'm going to be prosecuting people, and the information that I'm

on I	「 Inq	uiry 24 Novemb
1		Office were subject to a legal duty to retain
2		and record information that might be relevant to
3		the Post Office's function of bringing private
4		prosecutions?
5	Α.	Yes
6	Q.	What were the processes within the Post Office
7		to ensure that such information was retained and
8		recorded?
9	Α.	When you say "processes", what do you mean?
10	Q.	You said that you knew that the Post Office was
11		under a legal duty to ensure
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	that all parts of the organisation, all
14		divisions and departments, retained and recorded
15		information that was or might be relevant to the
16		prosecution function
17	Α.	Yes.
18	Q.	and I'm asking what processes were put in
19		place to ensure that that retaining and
20		recording duty could be carried out?
21	Α.	Well, we obviously had to follow PACE and CPIA
22	~	and guidelines or, you know, they were
23 24	Q.	That, Ms Matthews, is more about the reveal function
24 25	Α.	Right, you're
20		18
1		duties, these legal duties, because I'm not just
2		a seller of sweets; I'm a prosecutor too. I've
3		got to do some different things in the running
4		of my business to make sure that what I do is in
5		compliance with the law and is fair.
6	Α.	So everything that I did, in terms of when
7		l gathered evidence, we had first of all, we
8		had guidelines, we had casework guidelines, we
9		had policies and procedures that we had to
10		follow, that were accessible via database and
11		whatever I did, in terms of an investigation,
12		was documented.
13		So I either made a notebook entry or any
14		evidence that I got was then retained, and it
15 16		was disseminated onto different forms, depending
16 17	0	on how that information was classified.
17	Q. A.	So I'm again looking at the stage I don't really think I'm answering your question
10	<i>r</i> .	

- 18 A. I don't really think I'm answering your question19 here because I'm a bit lost in what it is.
- 20 I understand what you're saying but I don't
- know, I can't remember what procedures were inplace for that.
- 23 **Q.** So was there, for example, a series of data
- 24stores that the Post Office had set up that25could be accessed by you, where the information

<sup>20</sup> 

1		you obtained from them had been recorded in
2		an evidentially secure fashion?
3	Α.	I don't remember storing any evidence.
4	Q.	
5		to Auditors that you remember about the way that
6		they could conduct their audits, because they
7		weren't just conducting an audit; if the audit
8		showed a shortfall or a discrepancy, then the
9		Auditor's evidence might be translated into
10		criminal prosecution evidence and the Auditors
11		might be called as witnesses, and what they said
12		to a suspect, to a postmaster, might be used in
13		evidence against the postmaster.
14		So what I'm trying to establish is, as
15		an Investigator, what did you know about the way
16		that the rest of the business organised itself
17		to ensure that it was ready to conduct
18		prosecutions?
19		
20		
21 22		an Investigator, then, existed to ensure that there was the sufficient collection and
23		correlation of information relating to the
24		operation of Horizon?
25		
20		21
4		Team?
1 2		
3		transactions that were in question or to look at
4		if, during investigation interviews, that the
5		person being interviewed had come up with some
6		reasons why a loss had happened and, if they
7		related to anything transactional or anything to
. 8		do with maybe balancing, then you could always
9		go and get the transactions and that would
10		probably dictate if I would ask or not.
11		
12	2	or if the suspect raised an issue, they would be
13	3	the triggers for going off and getting this
14	1	data?
15	5 A.	Yeah, or it could be further down the line. You
16	3	decided that you needed further information or
17	7	you needed to clarify something, then you could
18	3	request it. But, from my recollection, there
19	9	was limits.
20	) <b>Q</b> .	Limits on what?
21	1 <b>A</b> .	Limits on the number of I think these were
22	2	called ARQ requests
23	3 <b>Q</b> .	Yes?
24	4 <b>A</b> .	and for the business, there was limits on the
25	5	number of ARQ requests that could be made in
		22

- that you could access and all relevant documents that you needed to refer to would be on there.
- 2 that you needed to refer to would be on there.3 Q. So, as an Investigator, you could access some
- 4 data that was created by Horizon; is that right?
- 5 **A.** No. I'm talking about operating processes.
- 6 Q. Okay. So, ie policies and procedures about the7 conduct of an Investigator?
- 8 A. Yes, I've never been able to access any historic9 Horizon data online.
- 10 Q. Okay. So what were the processes for obtainingaccess to Horizon data as an Investigator?
- 12 A. From my recollection, I would have to make
- 13 a request to the Casework Team and they would --
- 14 Q. Who were the Casework Team? Were they part of15 the Security Department?
- 16 A. Yes, they were, yeah. They were a function of
- 17 the Security and Investigations based in
- 18 Croydon.
- 19 Q. How many of them were there?
- 20 A. No idea.
- 21 Q. So if you wanted some data from or about22 Horizon, you would contact the Casework Team?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What would operate on your mind in deciding
- 25 whether to make such a request to the Casework 22

1		a month. After that quota was taken up, Post
2		Office Limited had to pay for it and you had to
3		have a really, really good reason why you needed
4		it, in order to invoke the cost element of it.
5	Q.	So did the limitation and then the cost penalty
6		have an impact on the number of occasions that
7		you requested ARQ data?
8	Α.	It didn't have an impact on the number of
9		occasions I requested it; it may have had
10		an impact on the number of disks that
11		I received.
12	Q.	The number of?
13	Α.	Disks, ARQ sorry, ARQs came on, like, CD
14		disks. So I can't recall any particular case or
15		time when I didn't receive them but I may have
16		received them in the next month.
17	Q.	Were there any processes within the Post Office
18		Security team to ensure that there was proper
19		recording and cross-dissemination of information
20		about issues that had been raised as to the
21		operation of Horizon, in prior investigations
22		and prosecutions?
23	Α.	I don't know. By the time I left, I hadn't
24		really heard of issues being raised with Horizon
25		but, shortly after I left, I knew it was 24

1		starting. So I don't know what processes were
2		for that.
3	Q.	There wasn't a central repository, a database,
4		a share file, some other document where all
5		Investigators within the Security team could
6		feed in problems or issues that had either been
7		raised by a suspect or had been established?
8	Α.	To do with Horizon?
9	Q.	Yes.
10	Α.	Not while I was there, no. But like I say,
11		I hard hardly heard of any issues regarding this
12	_	before I left.
13	Q.	If a suspect said that there is some error or
14		bug or defect with Horizon that's causing the
15		loss, was there a central repository of
16		information in the Post Office putting aside
17		the Security team for the moment to which you
18		would turn to say, "My suspect has suggested
19		that there's a problem with Horizon, what does
20		the Post Office know about an error, bug or
21 22	•	defect in the system"?
22	A.	, ,
23 24	Q.	Which department or departments would you speak to to gather any information about that?
24 25	Α.	I never needed to, apart from on one occasion.
25	<b>~</b> .	25
4		or discrepancies in the accounts?
1		
2	•	•
2	Α.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post
3	Α.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first
3 4	Α.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my
3 4 5		I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention.
3 4 5 6	A. Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with,
3 4 5 6 7		I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your
3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator?
3 4 5 6 7 8 9		I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case,
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security?
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security? Yes.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security? Yes. In relation to that sort of escalating series of
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security? Yes. In relation to that sort of escalating series of individuals, did you ever any word back that, in
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security? Yes. In relation to that sort of escalating series of individuals, did you ever any word back that, in fact, there have been allegations made about the
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security? Yes. In relation to that sort of escalating series of individuals, did you ever any word back that, in fact, there have been allegations made about the operation of Horizon and it the system
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. A.	I have no knowledge or idea of what the Post Office knew. I only knew that was the first time it had been raised and brought to my attention. Who do you think you may have discussed it with, other than, obviously, Mr Bradshaw, your co-investigator? Well, there would have been a few people. I mean, specifically about Mr Thomas' case, there was involvement from Emlyn Hughes, the Area Manager. There would have been involvement from Paul Dawkins, my line manager at the time. I would imagine, but I can't speak for him, that that would then have been raised up to John Scott. The Head of Security? Yes. In relation to that sort of escalating series of individuals, did you ever any word back that, in fact, there have been allegations made about the operation of Horizon and it the system causing shortfalls and discrepancies, almost

1	Q.	That's Mr Hughie Thomas' case; is that right?
2	Δ.	Yes. And, obviously, what I did is I raised it
3		to Criminal Law Team and also the Casework Team
4		were aware of it, as well as obviously my team
5		leader.
6	Q.	You tell us that and it's paragraph 41 of
7		your statement, no needed to turn it up for the
8		moment that when you left in 2008, Mr Thomas'
9		case involving alleged faults with the Horizon
10		system remained the only investigation that you
11		led or had involvement in, in which such claims
12		were made; is that right?
13	Α.	Yes.
14	Q.	Did you discuss the claims made by Mr Thomas
15		with the rest of the Investigation Team?
16	Α.	I can't remember. I obviously knew that Steve
17		Bradshaw he was with me at the time, he
18		obviously knew. A team leader would have known.
19		I guess I would have told the rest of the team,
20		it would have been a discussion point because
21		l think it was the first time that claim had
22		been made.
23	Q.	To your knowledge, was that the first time that
24		the Post Office had heard of an allegation of
25		a fault with Horizon that was leading to errors 26
4		in time when the interview of the I levinese
1		in time, where the integrity of the Horizon
2		system had been brought into question.
3 4		I obviously knew from my previous working
-		history that there'd been issues right at the beginning but we were led to believe that they
5 6		had been resolved.
-	^	
7 0	Q.	When you say you were "led to believe", was that
8 9		a sort of a corporate message; is that a fair way of describing it?
10	Α.	Yes.
11	Q.	In paragraph 24 of your witness statement you
12	ω.	set out the process followed by Security Team
13		Investigators when conducting an investigation
14		and, in paragraph 30 of your witness statement,
15		you say:
16		"In the investigations I undertook,
17		I followed the evidence trail."
18		Yes?
19		(No audible answer)
20		In paragraph 43 of your witness statement
21		you say:
22		"[You] do not know if ARQ data was requested

- from Fujitsu as a matter of course regarding
- shortfalls identified which the subpostmaster or
- clerk attributed to the Horizon system. I was

1		not involved in this process."
2		Does it follow that it was your
3		understanding that ARQ data was not requested as
4		a matter of course when an Investigator or
5		a prosecutor sought to rely on Horizon data in
6		their investigation and their prosecution.
7	Α.	It's difficult well, I can't answer that
8		question because the only one I knew about was
9		Mr Thomas, and I requested the ARQ data and then
10		I left shortly after. So the majority of the
11		issues were probably after my time but the
12		one the only one that I was aware of,
13		certainly within my team, was Mr Thomas.
14	Q.	I think what you're saying, Ms Matthews, is that
15		it's only if the suspect raised a problem that
16		the trigger would be to request Horizon ARQ
17		data; is that right?
18	Α.	Yes, it is, yeah.
19	Q.	So it wasn't requested as a matter of course in
20		every investigation or prosecution, in order to
21		prove the loss?
22	Α.	That's correct.
23	Q.	How was the loss proved then?
24	Α.	By an audit going in and checking the cash and
25		stock on hand.
		29
1		stock figures that were on hand were represented
2		on the Horizon system, then you'd accept the
3		figures that were printed off, yes.
4	Q.	Moving on to your understanding of disclosure
5		obligations, you tell us in your witness
6		statement, as you've done today, that the Post
7		Office Security Department was governed by the
8		provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence
9		Act and the CPIA, and you tell us that you
10		received training on, amongst other things,
11		disclosing evidence.
12		I just want to explore, without looking at
13		an individual case yet, your understanding of
14		the disclosure obligations.
15		Can you confirm, please, from the
16		perspective of a Security Manager, that you
17		received training on the fundamental importance
18		of disclosure to the criminal process?
19	Α.	Yes.

- 20 **Q.** Did you receive training on the nature of the
- 21 statutory disclosure duties owed by
- 22 an investigator and by a prosecutor?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What did you understand as to whether those
- 25 duties could be delegated to a third party?

- 1 **Q.** So half of that is walking into the branch and
- 2 seeing how many stamps, giros and pound notes
- 3 are there, yes?
- 4 **A.** Yes.
  - **Q.** But the other half of it is relying on what
    - Horizon says should be there?
- 7 **A.** Yes.

- 8 Q. What evidence was obtained, if any, to establish
- 9 that what Horizon said should be there was
- 10 accurate or did you just take the balance sheet
- 11 that Horizon printed out?
- 12 A. It was just taken, yes.
- 13 Q. So you didn't peek behind that as a matter of
  14 course to see the process by which that account
  15 had been created by the system?
- A. You wouldn't doubt the integrity of the systembecause we were led to believe that wasn't in
- 18 question. So --
- 19 Q. Putting aside whether you were told that the
- 20 system had integrity or was robust or not,
- 21 I think it follows that you didn't think that
- 22 there was a need to prove the accuracy of the
- 23 account that Horizon produced; it was sufficient
- 24 if Horizon produced an account?
- 25 A. I think it was accepted that, if the cash and 30
- 1 Α. I've probably got slightly confused when I've 2 written my witness statement. My understanding 3 was it's up to the Investigator to obtain, 4 collate and disclose all documentation. 5 However, I've probably misinterpreted the 6 question and seen the disclosure as disclosure 7 to the defence, which wasn't part of my duty. 8 Q. Were you trained on something called the "three 9 Rs", does that ring a bell? Is that -- yeah, um, you've put me on the spot 10 Α. now but I do recall it. Is it --11 Retain, record and reveal? 12 Q. 13 Α. Yes, yes. 14 Q. That was part of the training? 15 Α. Yes. Q. Was there training on how those maybe abstract 16 17 or theoretical principles were translated into effect within the Post Office: ie how the 18 business was going to retain; how the business 19 20 was going to record; and how the business was 21 going to reveal documents? 22 A. I don't remember that. I don't remember 23 receiving specific training. That's not to say 24 I didn't. I just can't remember. Q. Did you receive training about a CPIA Code 25 32

1		requirement about reasonable lines of inquiry?
2	Α.	I can't remember specifically.
3	Q.	What did you understand the duty of
4		an Investigator to be in terms of the pursuit of
5		lines of inquiry?
6	Α.	That you had to follow all lines of inquiry to
7		understand what's gone on in a particular
8		situation.
9	Q.	Whether they pointed away or towards the
10		suspect's
11	Α.	Absolutely, yes.
12	Q.	guilt, yes?
13	Α.	Yes.
14	Q.	Was that translated into practice, again, that
15		high level statement of a duty in operation in
16		the Post Office, ie what must we do when
17		a suspect says that it's Horizon that's causing
18		discrepancies in their branch?
19	Α.	Well, again, I can only recall the one time I've
20		had to deal with that and, obviously, I took it
21		extremely seriously and made relevant decisions
22		to try to find out whether the Horizon system
23		was to blame, or causing issues, or had bugs and
24	~	defects. It has to be checked.
25	Q.	You tell us in your witness statement it's 33
	•	<b>N N N N N</b>
1	Q.	
2		that might undermine a prosecution or help
3		a defendant?
4	Α.	I don't recall putting anything on a sensitive
5		schedule. I always remember that everything was
6 7		either used or unused and everything was on them
7		two documents. I don't ever remember having
8 9	0	anything that was classified as "sensitive". Putting aside the sensitive for the moment,
9 10	Q.	whose decision was it whether material should be
11		disclosed to the defence?
12	Α.	The Criminal Law Team.
12	A. Q.	You tell us in paragraph 58 of your statement
13 14	ખ.	that you were not the Disclosure Officer in any
14		cases.
16	A.	Yeah. I think I have misinterpreted the
17	д.	question on that. I understand my duties as
18		Disclosure Officer was to provide all the
10		

- 19 information to the Criminal Law Team. What I've
- 20 read into that question was what then happened
- 21 in order to disclose it to the defence.
- 22 Q. I see. If we just look at what you say in your
- 23 witness statement, page 18 of your witness
- 24 statement -- it will come up on the screen for
- 25 you -- at the foot of the page.

1		paragraphs 57 and 58, no need to turn them up
2		that you completed disclosure schedules to
3		ensure that relevant unused material was
4		scheduled and brought to the attention of
5		reviewing lawyers and the Prosecution Support
6		Office, yes?
7	Α.	
8	Q.	
9	<b>~</b> .	documents for the purposes of disclosure, do you
10		mean that, when you were the Investigating
11		Officer in a case, you would collate the unused
12		material that you had gathered and complete the
13		relevant schedules of material yourself?
13	Δ	,
15	Q.	Would they include a schedule of non-sensitive
16		material, a schedule of sensitive material and
17		a Disclosure Officer's report?
18	Α.	Yes.
19	Q.	What processes would you undertake to ensure
20		that a reviewing lawyer was aware of the
21		existence of material that may assist the
22		defence or may undermine the prosecution case?
23	Α.	I would ensure that they were aware of it but
24		I don't actually recall ever having anything
25		like that.
		34

<ul> <li>and at 58 you say:</li> <li>"I was not the Disclosure Officer in this</li> <li>case or any cases. The decision on what was</li> <li>disclosed was a legal matter and dealt with by</li> <li>the Prosecution Team. I submitted all</li> <li>documents to them on the relevant paperwork</li> <li>I played no further part in the dissemination of</li> </ul>	and
<ul> <li>case or any cases. The decision on what was</li> <li>disclosed was a legal matter and dealt with by</li> <li>the Prosecution Team. I submitted all</li> <li>documents to them on the relevant paperwork</li> </ul>	and
<ul> <li>disclosed was a legal matter and dealt with by</li> <li>the Prosecution Team. I submitted all</li> <li>documents to them on the relevant paperwork</li> </ul>	and
<ul> <li>6 the Prosecution Team. I submitted all</li> <li>7 documents to them on the relevant paperwork</li> </ul>	and
7 documents to them on the relevant paperwork	and
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	and
8 I played no further part in the dissemination of	
9 the evidence."	
10 If we go forwards to page 34, at	
11 paragraph 99, when we're dealing with Hughie	
12 Thomas' case, you say in 99:	
13 "I was not the Disclosure Officer in this	
14 case. This was undertaken by the Prosecution	1
15 Support Office."	
16 I think you just told me that you	
17 misunderstood the questions that led to those	
18 two paragraphs, 58 and 99. What had you	
19 misunderstood?	
20 A. I've taken it as when talking about	
21 disclosure, disclosure to the defence. Not	
disclosure to from the outset, of the	
23 investigation. I thought it was discussing the	
24 disclosure to the defence lawyers.	
<ul><li>25 Q. Had you received training on what the role and 36</li></ul>	

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17

1		duties of a Disclosure Officer were?
2	Α.	I would have done at the time, but you're asking
3		me this question now, you know, about I've
4		misinterpreted a question.
5	Q.	I'm going to show you in probably an hour's time
6		couple of disclosure schedules where you're
7		shown as the Disclosure Officer and you've
8		signed the disclosure schedule saying you
9		complied with your duties as Disclosure Officer.
10		What did you understand your duties as
11		Disclosure Officer were?
12	Α.	
13		been obtained as part of the investigation.
14	Q.	5
15		Criminal Law Team and then you're drawing
16		a distinction between the actual provision of
17		documents to the defendant, which was undertaken
18		by the Prosecution Support Office; is that
19		right?
20	Α.	5
21		who disclosed the information to the defence?
22		That's how I've misinterpreted the question.
23		I understand my role as a Disclosure Officer was
24		to obtain and disclose every piece of
25		information that was gathered as part of the 37
		51
1		witness statement, please, which will come up on
2		the screen. It's page 11. At paragraph 34 you
3		say:
4		"I have been asked what I understood by the
5		bullet points on page 2 of the Casework
6		Management [document]."
7		You had reviewed it:
8		"The first 3 bullet points are regarding
9		the documents required to be associated in any
10		case file all case files go in the first
11		instance to the Prosecution Support Office.
12		"With regards to bullet point 4
13		concerning failures in operational procedures
14		and security, my recollections on this are
15		anything you observed or encountered which
16		played a part in a fraud being committed or loss
17		in an office."
18		Then you give some examples and say at the
19		end of the paragraph:
20		"These are examples where the business would
21		not want these details to become common
22		knowledge."
23		Can we just look at that document, please,
24		POL00104777. We can see, if we just look at the
25		foot of the page, it's dated October 2002. Then
		39

- investigation.
- Q. Okay, that can come down. Thank you.
   Who or what was the Prosecution Support
   Office
  - Office. A. They were, from recollection, an administrative
  - function within the Criminal Law Team.
- 7 Q. Were they lawyers?
- 8 A. I don't know. I think -- I know some were legal
  - execs, but I don't know what their legal training was.
- 11 Q. Were they based in one place or more than one12 place?
- 13 A. I think they were based in London, within the
- 14 Criminal Law Team, but I couldn't say 100 per15 cent.
- 16 **Q.** It was your understanding that they were the
  - ones responsible for physically giving
- 18 disclosure; is that right?
- A. Yes. Them and, obviously, in line with the
   assigned lawyer.
- 21 Q. Sorry, can you say that again? Your voice22 dropped.
- A. Sorry, yeah. The Prosecution Support Office, aswell as the assigned lawyer to the case.
- 25 Q. Can we turn to paragraph 34 and 35 of your 38
- 1 look at the top of the page, "Casework 2 management", it's an investigation policy, whose 3 purpose is: 4 "... to ensure that adequate controls are in 5 place to maintain standards throughout 6 investigation processes." 7 Then if we go to the points that you were 8 referring to in your witness statement, which is on page 2, and if we look at the fifth bullet 9 point, the one beginning "The issue of" -- thank 10 11 you, if that can just be highlighted: 12 "The issue of dealing with information 13 concerning procedural failures is a difficult 14 one. Some major procedural weaknesses, if they 15 become public knowledge, may have an adverse effect on our Business. They may assist others 16 17 to commit offences against our Business, 18 undermine a prosecution case, bring our Business into disrepute or harm relations with major 19 20 customers. Unless the offender states that he 21 is aware that accounting weaknesses exist and he 22 took advantage of them, it is important not to 23 volunteer that option to the offender during 24 interview. The usual duties of closure under 25 the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 40

1		1996 still apply."
2		Was it your understanding that, if your
3		investigation identified a procedure failing or
4		some other irregularity, that may undermine
5		a case against a suspect or assist them in some
6		way, that had to be brought to the attention of
7		Legal Services?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	If we just look at the bullet point above,
10	-	please, bullet point 4:
11		"If, during the course of an enquiry,
12		failures in security or operational procedures
13		are identified which may or may not be directly
14		connected with the offence/s under
15		investigation, full detail must be included
16		within the report to Legal Services. If
17		necessary, any urgent remedial action can be
18		notified to the appropriate operational manager
19		verbally," et cetera.
20		So, irrespective of what's in that fifth
21		bullet point, you knew that, if a procedural
22		failure or some other irregularity that
23		undermined a case against a suspect existed,
24		that had to be brought to the attention of Legal
25		Services; is that right?
		41
1	Α.	No. I didn't see it like that.
2	Q.	How did you see it?
3	Α.	I saw it as anything that might not only, not
4		only allow people to take advantage but also
5		could bring the company into question. So,
6		again, we use Horizon. If I was aware that it
7		was Horizon, that would be raised.
8	Q.	Raised with who?
9	Α.	Through the Criminal Law Team but, if that was
10		the case, it would probably also be raised to
11		a much higher level
12	Q.	This policy is saying don't reveal that to the
13		suspect in the interview?
14	Α.	At that particular time, though, if it wasn't
15		an issue about Horizon, I wouldn't reveal
16		anything because I wouldn't have anything to
17		reveal at that time, because it would mean

- 18 I would have to go and check the -- you know,
- 19 the situation that had been put in front of me.
- 20 **Q.** Can I turn to a different topic, the last of the
- 21 general issues before we look at the case22 studies, and your understanding of the
- relationship between the instruction of
- 24 an expert and the duties of disclosure.
- 25 Did you know that the instruction of

43

- 1 **A.** Yes.
- 2 **Q.** Would that be in the confidential investigation
  - report that was submitted to Legal Services?
- 4 A. Yes.

- 5 **Q.** Can you recall instances where, in the words of
- 6 the policy, the business would not want the7 details to become public knowledge?
- 8 **A.** I can remember a couple of them, yes.
- 9 **Q**. Were they to do with physical security issues?
- 10 A. One was to do with an Alliance & Leicester issue11 in particular.
- 12 Q. Was that to do with the way that the system13 operated?
- 14 A. It was to do with the system allowing a customer
  15 to make multiple deposits of up to £20,000 at
- 16 a time into the system, without any checks. So,
- 17 in other words, one of the cases I had was
- 18 £500,000 had been deposited during somebody's
- 19 lunch hour and the system allowed them to do it,
- and it was obviously a weakness where there wasno checks.
- 22 Q. Did you understand what we've just read in the
   policy about not revealing procedural weaknesses
   to be, and only to be, about cases where future
- advantage might be taken of the weakness?
   42
- 1 an expert gave rise to distinct and particular 2 disclosure obligations on the part of the 3 prosecution? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Were you aware of a requirement, I'm not going 6 to set out where it arises, that communications 7 with an expert were subject to a particular duty 8 to retain? 9 A. I don't recall that. Q. Does that mean that you wouldn't have included 10 communications with an expert on your schedules 11 of unused material? 12 13 A. I would include everything that I had as part of 14 the case on the schedules, in terms of it would 15 go somewhere. But when you say about an expert, in order to get an expert witness statement, 16 17 I wouldn't personally do that. Q. Who would personally do that? 18 From my best recollection, I would go to the 19 Α. 20 Casework Manager and --Q. Who was the Casework Manager; was it Mr Ward? 21 22 A. I think Graham Ward was one of them. 23 Q. We're going to see, over the next couple of 24
- hours, your involvement in procuring evidencefrom Gareth Jenkins, in the case of Hughie
  - from Gareth Jenkins, in the case of Hughie 44

1

2

3

4

5 **Q**.

6

7

8

9 10

11 **Q**.

12 13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20 **Q**.

21

22

23

24

25

1

2 **A**.

3

4

5

6

7 **A**.

8

9

10

11 12

13 14

15

16

17

18

19 20 **A**.

21

22

23

24

25

Q.

got from the initial investigation. I wouldn't

Law Team, as part of new evidence. Whose duty was it to conduct a rolling

investigation proceeded?

that was it?

document.

investigation was.

that document.

perform?

that mean?

Office and Criminal Law Team.

disclosure exercise by the completion of

A. I'm presuming it was the Prosecution Support

A. My best recollection of what I did at the time is that I did the initial scope of work, of

do a supplementary one. It would be added as --

you know, by the prosecution team and Criminal

successive Schedules of Unused Material as the

You're saying that you did one schedule and one

which I then did disclosure on every document

I had. These were supplementary things that I didn't really have much involvement in, from

my recollection and when that statement came --

We're going to see in a moment that you did have

supplemental Schedules of Unused Material as the 46

some involvement in them but, putting that to

one side, did you not understand your duty as

the Investigator and the Disclosure Officer to

include the preparation and submission of

at the beginning of the investigation?

I believe so but I don't actually recall this

Q. Well, I was going to ask you what the purpose of

the terms of reference document for a criminal

I don't recall. I can't remember that document.

Q. Was it a document completed by the investigator?A. I'm presuming so, yes, but I don't ever remember

seeing -- or I don't have any recollection of

**Q.** If we just look, we can see the office name at the top, which is Mr Thomas' office. It says,

A. He was the Area Manager for North Wales.Q. So he's described as "Customer 1"; what does

"Customer 1", Emlyn Hughes, "Service and

Contracts Manager". What function did Mr Hughes

I've no idea what "Customer 1" means because

I don't recollect this form at all. But I knew

anything to do with the Security team.

who Emlyn Hughes was. He looked after the

If we scroll down, please, to the big box at the

48

subpostmasters and their contracts. He wasn't

schedule only when you submitted the papers, and

1		Thomas, looking at a wide variety of
2		communications, either involving you or in which
3		you were a copyee, about the content of the
4		evidence that he was going to give about
5		revisions to his witness statement, about adding
6		bits in and taking bits out. Would you have
7		understood that those communications were
8		disclosable to the defence
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	and that they should be listed in the
11		Schedule of Unused Material?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	When we look at the Schedule in due course, in
14		Mr Thomas' case, we can see that they were not
15		listed. Looking at the matter generally, do you
16		know why that was?
17	Α.	My only recollection of how that would have
18		happened was because when I would do my first
19		disclosure of all the evidence I had. The
20		statements would then form part of the evidence
21		that was gathered after, that went to the
22		Prosecution Support Office and would be added
23		then.
24		I didn't see the bundle again after I'd done
25		my initial disclosure of all the information I'd
		45
1		investigation and prosecution proceeded?
2	Α.	I was led to believe that would be done by the
3		department.
4	Q.	Who led you to believe that it was to be done by
5		the department?
6	Α.	Because that was my liaison with them in the
7		Criminal Law Team and Prosecution Support
8		Office.
9	Q.	Okay, well, we'll maybe see this in action when
10		we look at specific cases. Just, lastly,
11		generally, did you understand that you were
12		under a duty to disclose to the defence drafts
13		of witness statements, if they materially
14		differed from the final signed version?
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	Can we look at Hughie Thomas' case, then,
17		please, and can we start, please, with
18		POL00047748. These are the terms of reference
19		with the criminal investigation into Mr Thomas.
20		Can you see, if we just scroll down, please,
21		"Investigator": you're shown as the
22	-	Investigator, yes?
23	Α.	Yes.
24 25	Q.	If we pan back out, just look at the whole of
		the page, is this a document that was completed

25 the page, is this a document that was completed

47

(12) Pages 45 - 48

1		bottom. Thank you. "Details of Incident":	1
2		"Audit took place on 13 October 2005.	2
3		Result of which was a loss of [£48,000-odd].	3
4		The majority of the loss was in cash.	4
5		"Subpostmaster, Mr Thomas, was arrested on	5
6		suspicion of theft of Post Office funds.	6
7		"Cash Accounts do not show any loss/gains so	7
8		there is also false accounting.	8
9		"Mr Thomas has blamed the loss on the	9
10		Horizon system saying online banking	1(
11		transactions are producing nil totals when he	1 <sup>-</sup>
12		has given cash out over the counter to	12
13		customers.	1:
14		"Mr Thomas insists that he only has access	14
15		to the office while the only other user on the	15
16		system is his wife.	16
17		"[He] has a buyer for the Post Office and	17
18		expects to reimburse the Post Office with the proceeds of the sale."	18
19 20			19
20 21		Then the line which says three paragraphs from the top there, "Mr Thomas has blamed the	20 2
21		loss on the Horizon system", and then he gives	2
23		an explanation, it's "online banking that are	23
23 24		producing nil totals when he has given cash	24
25		out to customers", if we go over of the page,	25
20		49	_
1		Horizon and identifying what the issue was?	1
2	A.	Yes.	2
3	Q.	So that ought to have resulted in	3
4		an investigative activity; is that right?	4
5	Α.	Yes.	5
6	Q.	Can we move forwards then, please, to	6
7		FUJ00155181. If we start at the back, we're	7
8		going to end up with this ARQ request. If we	8
9		start at the back of page 23 of this document,	9
10		please and if we just scroll to the page	10
11		above, please, the bottom of the page above,	11
12		thank you we see an email there from you to	12
13		Mr Ward of 14 October 2005; can you see that?	13
14	Α.	Yes.	14
15	Q.	Can you see that?	15
16	Α.	Yes.	16
17	Q.	Thank you. You say:	17
18		"Graham,	18
19		"Just to clarify, the subpostmaster has not	19
20		made any calls to HSH or NBSC"	20
21		Do you now recall what those are?	21
22	Α.	Yes.	22
23	Q.	Can you tell us what your recollection of HSH	23
24		and NBSC is now?	24
25	Α.	HSH, I think, is the Horizon System Helpdesk and	25

1		please, box 6:
2		"As a result of an initial scoping exercise
3		in this section the investigator has
4		identified the initial activities to be
5		undertaken in dealing with this incident.
6		"Objective: To collate information regarding
7		the background for £48,000 loss at branch.
8		"Action: To interview the [subpostmaster]
9		Mr Thomas and seek reasons for the audit loss at
10		the branch. Gather facts surrounding problems
11		at branch.
12		"Outcome anticipated: Obtain relevant
13		information. Look to recover the audit loss of
14		£48,000", by 25 October 2005.
15		Can you help us why this does not include,
16		given Mr Thomas had squarely blamed the loss on
17		Horizon, any mention, as an investigative
18		action, an investigation into the Horizon
19		system.
20	Α.	I don't recall this form. So I can't add
21		anything to it.
22	Q.	I mean, that's a pretty obvious line of inquiry,
23		isn't it, given what he had said
24	Α.	Yes.
25	Q.	a suspect raising squarely the problem with
		50
4		
1		NBSC is the I think it's the National Support
2	•	Centre.
2 3	Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre?
2 3 4	Α.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes.
2 3 4 5		Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were
2 3 4 5 6	A. Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC?
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q. A. Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q. A. Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to either of them:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to either of them: " prior to yesterday's audit, and is now
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to either of them: " prior to yesterday's audit, and is now voicing his concerns over the nil transactions
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to either of them: " prior to yesterday's audit, and is now voicing his concerns over the nil transactions on card account/online banking transactions.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to either of them: " prior to yesterday's audit, and is now voicing his concerns over the nil transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "I believe that there are at least 2 scenarios where a nil value [are] recorded.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Centre. Network Banking Support Centre? That's it, yes. Can you now recall who each of those were operated by, HSH and NBSC? Sorry? I didn't hear that. Can you recall who operated each of those? I can't recall. You don't now remember whether they were Post Office operated or Fujitsu operated? Well, the Horizon I think the Horizon System Helpline may have been Post Office but I wouldn't I can't recall for sure. Okay, you say he has not made any calls to either of them: " prior to yesterday's audit, and is now voicing his concerns over the nil transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "I believe that there are at least 2 scenarios where a nil value [are] recorded. These are"

4		Then the second end
1 2		Then the second one: "If a customer places a POCA card into the
2		PIN pad."
4		Yes?
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	Over the page, please:
7	α.	"Please can you check any other
8		possibilities of nil values on these types of
9		transactions with Fujitsu.
10		"Also as the subpostmaster is blaming the
11		[Horizon] system on his losses, please could we
12		check there are no problems with the Horizon kit
13		at the branch."
14		The branch is going to remain closed.
15		So you're saying "I think that there are two
16		scenarios where a nil value will be recorded on
17		Horizon, but please can you, Mr Ward, go to
18		Fujitsu to see whether there are any others"?
19	Α.	They were the only two scenarios at that time
20		I could think of but I couldn't 100 per cent say
21		there was no others. Also, I note there to
22		confirm the branch will remain closed.
23		I recall, when I got there, the branch had
24		actually reopened and then I asked for it to be
25		closed because I wasn't happy if Horizon had
		53
1		relevant?)
1 2		relevant?) "This case is in its early stages, but if it
2		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can
2 3		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in
2 3 4		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted
2 3 4 5 6 7		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office
2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12	٨	"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	А.	"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes. Then if we go to page 19, please, foot of the page, please. You're not copied in on these,
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes. Then if we go to page 19, please, foot of the page, please. You're not copied in on these, but I just want to see what happens within Fujitsu first. There's an internal email from
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes. Then if we go to page 19, please, foot of the page, please. You're not copied in on these, but I just want to see what happens within Fujitsu first. There's an internal email from Brian Pinder within Fujitsu, forwarding the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes. Then if we go to page 19, please, foot of the page, please. You're not copied in on these, but I just want to see what happens within Fujitsu first. There's an internal email from Brian Pinder within Fujitsu, forwarding the chain we've just looked at:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes. Then if we go to page 19, please, foot of the page, please. You're not copied in on these, but I just want to see what happens within Fujitsu first. There's an internal email from Brian Pinder within Fujitsu, forwarding the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		"This case is in its early stages, but if it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely need a statement which outlines how you can confirm that there were no operating errors in this office's system. I haven't submitted an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's needed." Okay, so a general email from Mr Ward to Fujitsu asking whether there are or were any serious errors on the system at this post office but he hasn't submitted an ARQ, yes? Yes. Then if we go to page 19, please, foot of the page, please. You're not copied in on these, but I just want to see what happens within Fujitsu first. There's an internal email from Brian Pinder within Fujitsu, forwarding the chain we've just looked at: "Obviously this has not come our way yet, but meanwhile any thoughts comments? I guess we just wait for an ARQ, but do we (Security) have

on IT Inquiry 24 Novembe			
1		been given as a reason for the losses, I didn't	
2		think it was appropriate that we continue	
3		undertaking transactions on a system that may	
4		have issues.	
5	Q.		
6	ч.	of page 22. Thank you.	
7		Mr Ward, on the same day, a couple of hours	
8		later, emails Fujitsu, copying you in can you	
9		see that	
9 10	Α.	Yes.	
11	д.		
12	ω.	"The email below from one of our	
12		investigators says it all.	
13		"Is there a check that can be made to ensure	
14			
15 16		there are/were no serious errors on the system	
		at this post office? We already have details of	
17		calls made to the Helpdesk (see spreadsheet	
18		below), which do not highlight anything obvious.	
19		Are there general error type reports that will	
20		tell you when there is a problem with the	
21		system, which the Post Office may not	
22		necessarily be aware of, particularly in	
23		relation to the highlighted paragraph. Have	
24		there been similar problems elsewhere? (l've	
25		heard of Tivoli event logs. Could these be 54	
1		Oddette Moronfolu:	
2		"Could you advise us on this please."	
2		Then Ms Moronfolu forwards it to Richard	
4			
4 5		Craig: "Hi Ric.	
6		"Can you have a look at this?	
7		,	
' 8		"They really need to know if there is	
о 9		anything else that could have caused the nil transactions."	
9 10		Then top of the page. He replies:	
11		"The original email makes reference to	
12		0	
		an audit. To answer your question definitively,	
13		I'd need to know what data they are auditing	
14 15		that defines a 'nil transaction'. Is it zero	
16		transaction values in the R or A messages? Or	
		are they auditing data in some host database or	
17		log? This matters because the counter doesn't	
18		send up an amount value in the R message for	
19		Withdraw to limit' but that may be represented	
20		as a zero value in a log or database field. The	
21		same might be true for Change PIN and Balance	
22		Enquiry.	
23		"All banking transactions are approved	
24		online with the acquirer. The acquirer may	
25		dealing for reasons other than an incorrect DIN	

decline for reasons other than an incorrect PIN 56

1	These other reasons might also cause a nil
2	transaction.
3	"Nil transactions could also be caused by
4	errors in PIN pad, counter, agents or host code
5	depending on what constitutes a 'nil
6	transaction'. This cannot be determined without
7	access to the appropriate system logs.
8	I understand that it is not felt to be
9	appropriate at this stage for those logs to be
10	examined by development staff. I'd recommend
11	however that counter logs our harvested now
12	before potential evidence is lost."
13	MR BEER: I wonder whether we could stop there
14	before we look at the rest of the chain later in
15	October 2005 and, if it is convenient to you,
16	sir, take a break until 11.35.
17	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course.
18	MR BEER: Thank you.
19	(11.21 am)
20	(A short break)
21	(11.35 am)
22	<b>MR BEER:</b> Good morning, sir. Can you see and hear
23	me and Ms Matthews, can you see and hear me?
24	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I can, yes.
25	THE WITNESS: Yes, I can.
	57
1	Ric suggests happens sooner rather than later."
2	Then:
3	"Thanks let's leave it at that."
4	Then, please, if we go to page 15, and if we
5	could just look at the foot of the page, please,
6	we can see Penny Thomas from Fujitsu sending
7	Mr Ward an email:
8	"As you know, nothing is ever
9	straightforward! Here's some feedback"
10	Then she cuts in the internal Fujitsu email
11	that we'd seen earlier and passes it on to the
12	Post Office, concluding with:
13	"In other words, we need to check the system
14	logs. How would you like to proceed?"
15	Then if we go to the top of the page,
16	please, we can see that you're now copied into
17	this email. It seems that the email I've just
18	looked at was forwarded to you or a reply by
19	Mr Ward to Ms Thomas adding you in:
20	"Penny
21	"Thanks but you've confused me!
22	"What is an R&A message?
23	"What is a host database? (I believe the
24	nil transactions were identified on
25	a transaction log )
	a transaction log.)
	59

1	MR	BEER: Thank you very much, can we have back up		
2		FUJ00155181, please, and page 18, please, and		
3		look at the foot of the page, please. We'd		
4		looked at the very bottom email, if we just look		
5		at this one, Mr Pinder replies to Ms Moronfolu:		
6		"Oddette		
7		"Thanks for your input here and I note		
8		Richard's reply but without wanting to cause any		
9		further unnecessary work (on our part) we have		
10		exhausted all reasonable avenues of enquiry on		
11		this.		
12		"Graham's initial last para states		
13		"This case is in its early stages, but if		
14		it were to proceed to a prosecution, we'd likely		
15		need a statement which outlines how you can		
16		confirm that there were no operating errors		
17		within this offices system. I haven't submitted		
18		an ARQ yet but can do so if you feel it's		
19		needed'."		
20		"Do we need to follow this up elsewhere or		
21		can we leave it at that, is there anything to go		
22		back to Graham with?"		
23		Then up the page please:		
24		"We have nothing to go back to Graham with		
25		unless a call is raised to investigate. Which 58		
		50		
1		"I think it is best that the system logs are		
2		examined in the first instance (do you need		
3		an ARQ for this?), going back to 1 April 2005.		
4		Is it possible for you to run a report to show		
5		'nil' values for the transaction examples		
6		described below, so we can see how often it has		
7		happened?"		
8		This kind of email exchange that we've seen		
9 10		so far, Ms Matthews, is this essentially how investigations into Horizon were conducted, with		
10		5		
11		email exchanges such as this?		
12 13	Α.	I wasn't aware of the majority of them emails. I wasn't privy to them. From my recollection,		
14		I informed the Casework Manager what I needed		
14		and he was the liaison point into Fujitsu.		
16	Q.	It looks like, would you agree, that there was		
17	ч.	no established system?		
18	Α.	From my end, the established system was: tell		
19		Casework what was required or ask them and they		
20		had whatever procedures were in place. But		
21		I think, probably back in 2005, there probably		
22		wasn't any set procedures or parameters for		
23		that.		
24	Q.	I mean, to the outsider, it looks like everyone		
25		is flapping around a little, to be honest		
		60		

(15) Pages 57 - 60

1		Yeah.
2	Q.	and the only theme that emerges is "Why don't
3		we wait and see whether a prosecution is
4		commenced and then maybe make an ARQ request at
5		that point?" I mean, is that an unfair
6		characterisation?
7	Α.	I can't really agree or disagree with that
8		because that was not at a level that I was
9		operating at. I certainly wasn't privy to them
10	~	conversations.
11	Q.	Okay, well, Mr Ward seeks to move it on, if we
12		go to page 14, please. You can see, he sends
13		you an email on 25 October, so a day later,
14 15		copying Mr Dawkins and Penny Thomas in, in
15 16		relation to the branch there. I'm not going to
		try and pronounce it, given my tribunal; I'm
17 18		going to call it the branch on Anglesey. He
10		says:
20		"I've spoken with the Fujitsu Security team and have agreed the following course of action.
20 21		"Fujitsu will [investigate] a thorough
21		analysis of the system going back one month
22		from the date of audit (if we need to go back
23 24		further we will do). I do not see a need to
24 25		remove hardware at this point to conduct any
25		61
1		So the date range is a month before the audit,
2		14 September 2005 to 13 October 2005, and the
3		request is:
4		"Please conduct an analysis of all Helpdesk
5		calls for the above period.
6		Also please conduct a thorough examination
6 7		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting
6 7 8		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is
6 7 8 9		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card
6 7 8 9 10		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions.
6 7 8 9 10 11		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating
6 7 8 9 10 11 12		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement."
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued?
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? <i>(No audible reply)</i> Was that a no, sorry?
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? (No audible reply) Was that a no, sorry? I don't recall seeing any of these documents before.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? <i>(No audible reply)</i> Was that a no, sorry? I don't recall seeing any of these documents before. When you say "any of these documents", plainly
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? (No audible reply) Was that a no, sorry? I don't recall seeing any of these documents before. When you say "any of these documents", plainly you saw the emails that I've drawn your
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? (No audible reply) Was that a no, sorry? I don't recall seeing any of these documents before. When you say "any of these documents", plainly you saw the emails that I've drawn your attention to at the time?
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? <i>(No audible reply)</i> Was that a no, sorry? I don't recall seeing any of these documents before. When you say "any of these documents", plainly you saw the emails that I've drawn your attention to at the time? Sorry. To clarify, I don't recall seeing any of
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	"Also please conduct a thorough examination of the system in general with a view to refuting the postmaster's allegation that there is a fault with the 'nil' transactions on card account/online banking transactions. "Please bear in mind we are investigating a substantial shortage in the accounts and should this proceed to prosecution we may be asking for a supporting witness statement." Do you get to see these ARQ requests before they are issued? (No audible reply) Was that a no, sorry? I don't recall seeing any of these documents before. When you say "any of these documents", plainly you saw the emails that I've drawn your attention to at the time?

on IT	Inq	uiry 24 Novemb
1		specialist examination of the [processes],
2		particularly given the postmaster did not report
3		any faults with the system to the HSH. I would
4		suggest that a call is logged with the HSH
5		outlining the 'alleged' fault and asking them to
6		send an engineer to the site to conduct a test
7		of the equipment prior to the office being
8		reopened. I'm sure they can also perform a few
9		test transactions."
10		Then if we go to page 12, please, this is
11		an internal Fujitsu email, forwarding that email
12		that we've just looked at, saying:
13		"Here's a copy of Graham's request
14		concerning the [branch on Anglesey] outlet.
15		"The 'thorough analysis' I have agreed with
16		Graham is the analysis of all nil transactions
17		on card account/online banking transactions."
18		Then the last paragraph:
19		"As you can see, I've also suggested that
20		[Post Office] log a Helpdesk call and request
21		that the system is checked for error."
22		Then on to page 1, please. We can see the
23		ARQ request that Mr Ward settled. You will see
24 25		that it's dated 24 October 2005. Then if we scroll down, please, "Information Requested". 62
1 2	Q.	completed by me and I've not had sight of them. Did you have the facility to raise ARQ requests
3		yourself or did they have to be raised by
4		Mr Ward?
5	Α.	They were raised by Mr Ward or someone in the
6		Casework Management Team.
7	Q.	You'll see that in his second paragraph he says:
8		" please conduct a thorough examination
9		in general with a view to refuting the
10		postmaster's allegation that there is a fault
11		" 
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	I think you would probably agree that that's not
14		really the open minded way that disclosure
15		requests ought to be settled, is it?
16	Α.	I agree, and that's not what my intention was
17		for getting information because because I'd
18		got prior knowledge of Horizon in my previous
19		role. If there was something wrong, it needed
20		to be resolved. So it wasn't a case from my
21		mindset that I was looking to refute Mr Thomas'
22		allegations. I wanted to know what caused the
23	~	shortage.

24  ${\bf Q}. \ \ \, {\rm Because you've told us in your witness statement}$ 

25

that you would seek evidence with an open mind 64

1		that might support the Post Office's case but
2		equally might assist the suspect, Mr Thomas?
3	Α.	Yes, and that was one of the reasons why
4		I didn't think it was appropriate to reopen the
5		Post Office with the same equipment, because if
6		it was the equipment, then all you're doing is
7		passing a potential problem on to somebody else
8		that might experience the same situation and the
9		same losses and outcomes, and, you know,
10		I didn't think that was appropriate.
11	Q.	In any event, this request is raised on the
12		24 October 2005 and we've seen the emails that
13		reflect, to some extent, the request that was
14		made.
15		Can we turn to your investigation report,
16		please, at POL00044861. So the ARQ requests
17		that we were just looking at was 24 October, and
18		I think we can see, if we go to page 7, this is
19		signed off by you on 25 October, the next day,
20		ves?
20	Α.	Yes. Can I just add, I've not had sight
22		previously of this particular document. I don't
23		know if this was one that was forwarded to me
24		this week that I've not had a chance to review.
25		but the only one I've seen is the one that was
20		65
1		RIN and terminal and enters an incorrect RIN
1		PIN pad terminal and enters an incorrect PIN
2		number.
2 3		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no
2 3 4		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account.
2 3 4 5		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered
2 3 4 5 6		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the
2 3 4 5 6 7		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with
2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the receipt of any of the ARQ data, wasn't it?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the receipt of any of the ARQ data, wasn't it? Indeed, it was written only a day after the request was made.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the receipt of any of the ARQ data, wasn't it? Indeed, it was written only a day after the request was made. Yes. How did you determine that there were five
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the receipt of any of the ARQ data, wasn't it? Indeed, it was written only a day after the request was made. Yes. How did you determine that there were five reasons for nil transactions?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the receipt of any of the ARQ data, wasn't it? Indeed, it was written only a day after the request was made. Yes. How did you determine that there were five reasons for nil transactions? I was I can't remember exactly how I came to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	number. "[2] A customer requests a withdrawal but no funds are present in their account. "[3] A customer has previously entered an incorrect PIN on 3 separate occasions and the card provider blocks the transaction. "[4] The card has been reported stolen and the card has been cancelled. "[5] The transaction does not receive online authorisation from the card provider even with the correct PIN entered. "If Mr Thomas has paid out funds in respect of the above transactions and a loss occurred then this is down to incompetence and not the failings of the Horizon system." Now, this was written by you, prior to the receipt of any of the ARQ data, wasn't it? Indeed, it was written only a day after the request was made. Yes. How did you determine that there were five reasons for nil transactions?

1		for the discipline manager.	
2	Q.	Yes, that's what this document is. This was	
3		sent to you with your original Rule 9 Request	
4		a couple of months ago.	
5	Α.	Right. Okay.	
6	Q.	If we go back to page 1, please. You can see	
7		it's "Personnel", it's the discipline one I'm	
8		asking about at the moment.	
9	Α.	Right, okay.	
10	Q.	You'll see that it relates to Noel Thomas, it	
11		sets out his service and then, bottom of the	
12		page:	
13		"These papers refer to an audit shortage at	
14		[the post office] on Thursday, 13 October 2005."	
15		If we go forwards, please, to page 6, and	
16		four paragraphs in you say:	
17		"Mr Thomas is convinced that the Horizon	
18		system is affecting his balance results, as the	
19		Online Banking summary contains several zero	
20		totals."	
21 22		Then you say: "There are a number of legitimate reasons	
22		why a zero entry would be present on the	
23		summary.	
25		"[1] A customer places their card into the	
		66	
1		knowledge of the system	
1	0.	knowledge of the system. What enquiries, training or knowledge did you	
2	Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you	
	Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons,	
2 3	Q. A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries?	
2 3 4		What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons,	
2 3 4 5		What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that,	
2 3 4 5 6		What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have	
2 3 4 5 6 7		What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall.	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons?	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No.	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons,	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five?	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at the moment, to give to Mr Hughes sorry, Mr yeah, Emlyn Hughes in respect of where I was with the case from a discipline or make	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at the moment, to give to Mr Hughes sorry, Mr yeah, Emlyn Hughes in respect of where I was with the case from a discipline or make decisions on Mr Thomas' role as a subpostmaster.	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at the moment, to give to Mr Hughes sorry, Mr yeah, Emlyn Hughes in respect of where I was with the case from a discipline or make decisions on Mr Thomas' role as a subpostmaster. Well, I'd ask you to remember that answer for	
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. Q. A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at the moment, to give to Mr Hughes sorry, Mr yeah, Emlyn Hughes in respect of where I was with the case from a discipline or make decisions on Mr Thomas' role as a subpostmaster. Well, I'd ask you to remember that answer for a little later today because what we'll see is that what you set out here does become part of	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q. Q. A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at the moment, to give to Mr Hughes sorry, Mr yeah, Emlyn Hughes in respect of where I was with the case from a discipline or make decisions on Mr Thomas' role as a subpostmaster. Well, I'd ask you to remember that answer for a little later today because what we'll see is that what you set out here does become part of the prosecution case, that these are the five	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. Q. A.	What enquiries, training or knowledge did you rely on to say that there were five reasons, legitimate reasons, for zero entries? I can't remember what prompted me to write that, in terms of getting information. I may have made some phone calls. I may have taken some advice. I can't recall. Were you saying these were the only five reasons? No. Well, if there were more than five reasons, potentially, why did you only list these five? Because this document wasn't to facilitate any criminal proceedings or make any legal decisions. This was just where the case was at the moment, to give to Mr Hughes sorry, Mr yeah, Emlyn Hughes in respect of where I was with the case from a discipline or make decisions on Mr Thomas' role as a subpostmaster. Well, I'd ask you to remember that answer for a little later today because what we'll see is that what you set out here does become part of	

1		Why didn't you wait for the results of the
2		ARQ data to come back?
3	Α.	Because it was the Post Office procedures to
4		send an interim report to the conduct manager,
5		normally within the week of the audit, or loss
6	~	being occurred.
7	Q.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
8		zero entries being present in the audit, without
9 10	•	receipt of the ARQ data?
10 11	Α.	I'm hypothesising, I think, as what they could
12		be. I can't answer that because I can't remember.
12	Q.	
14	α.	"Amongst the reasons why a zero entry might be
14		print are the following" or "Here is
16		a non-exhaustive list". You're setting out the
17		reasons, and there are five of them, for
18		a legitimate zero entry being present, aren't
19		vou?
20	Α.	· · · · · · · · · · · ·
21	Π.	I just know, probably from my experience on the
22		counter and through the system, these were
23		reasons I may have seen before, may have
24		experienced before, or maybe I made a phone
25		call. Any answer I give to that, I'm guessing,
		69
1		periods are", and then you set them out.
2		Can you see that?
3	A.	Yes. I've not seen this document prior to now.
4	Q.	Do you need time to read it? It's three pages.
5	•	Ms Matthews? I'm happy for you to carry on. I'm just you
6 7	Α.	
7 8		
	0	know, I haven't had prior sight of it.
	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues:
9	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity
9 10	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office,
9 10 11	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who
9 10 11 12	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been
9 10 11 12 13	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their
9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch.
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page,
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page, 14 September to 12 October 2005. Then on to
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page,
<ul> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> </ul>	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page, 14 September to 12 October 2005. Then on to page 3, please.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page, 14 September to 12 October 2005. Then on to page 3, please. "In conclusion:
<ul> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> </ul>	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page, 14 September to 12 October 2005. Then on to page 3, please. "In conclusion: "No problems highlighted with the integrity
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q.	know, I haven't had prior sight of it. Can you see that the document continues: "Fujitsu had no concerns with the integrity of the data received from Gaerwen Post Office, similarly the Horizon System Helpdesk who monitor the working of the system have not been alerted to any hardware problems through their offsite monitoring or by any complaints raised by the branch. "I will summarise each week in detail." Then you set out summary of 18 November to 24 November and, over the page, 19 May to 25 May, and then the foot of the page, 14 September to 12 October 2005. Then on to page 3, please. "In conclusion: "No problems highlighted with the integrity of the data or the system.

1		because I can't remember what forced my decision
2		making to write that. I can't remember.
3	Q.	Can we move forwards, please, to a couple of
4		months later to look at the offender report
5		prepared for criminal investigation and
6		prosecution purposes, POL00044867.
7		If we look at page 3, please, we should, if
8		we scroll down, see a date. It's partially
9		obscured but I've checked and that's 12 December
10		2005; can you see that?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	So this is your investigation report, and it's
13		a three-page report for the purposes of criminal
14		investigation and prosecution of 12 December
15		2005. Can we go back to page 1, please. You
16		say:
17		"The purpose of the report is to provide
18		additional information on the nil transactions
19		for which Mr Thomas has stated is the reason
20		for the audit shortage Mr Thomas claimed
21		that this loss had started some 12 months prior
22		to the audit.
23		"As requested by the Criminal Law Team,
24		I obtained and analysed 3 periods of Horizon
25		data covering a twelve-month period. The 70
1		examined have valid reasons for the transactions
2		having no value attached to them.
3		"The majority of declined withdrawals with
4		nil value are immediately followed by
5		an authorised withdrawal for various amounts and
6		are undertaken by the same clerk on the same
7		terminal.
8		"The nil transactions are undertaken by both
9		Mr Thomas and Mrs Thomas on terminal 1 or
10		2."
11		What qualifications did you have to analyse
12		Horizon ARQ data?
13	Α.	I had no qualifications as such to do it.
14	Q.	What training did you have to analyse ARQ data?
15	Α.	I can't remember.
16	Q.	Did you have any training?
17	Α.	I can't remember any specific training, no.
18	Q.	You reach a conclusion that every nil
19		transaction has a valid reason for having no
20		value attached to it.
21	Α.	(The witness nodded)
22	Q.	How did you go about determining that there were
23		no problems with the integrity of the data or
		the system and that all of the nil transactions
24		
24 25		had valid reasons for having no value? 72

(18) Pages 69 - 72

2

4		
1	Α.	I can't remember. I remember getting the disk
2		and opening it up and, again, looking for
3 4		certain transactions and what happened next
		after the transactions. So you could if
5		I remember correctly, it may have been coded.
6		So you're looking for what happened before and
7		after. I mean, I can't really say with any
8	~	surety what happened, what I did.
9	Q.	3
10		their own self-analysis of Horizon raw data?
11 12	Α.	This was the first one that I remember
	~	undertaking and I think
13	Q.	Did you speak to any other Investigators to say,
14		"Look this is my first one, I've got reams and
15		reams of ARQ data. What do I do with it? Do
16		I analyse it and offer my own opinion on what it
17	•	shows and doesn't show?"
18 19	Α.	With this case, this was one of my first cases,
20		so I was mentored quite closely with undertaking
		this one. So I can only presume that I wasn't
21 22	Q.	the only person involved in it.
22	Q.	Can we move on, please, and look at what happened next in relation to Gareth Jenkins.
23 24		Can we just look at what you say in your witness
24 25		statement first, please, about Mr Jenkins.
25		73
1		from the documents this was Brian Pinder.
2		I think Gareth Jenkins was a Fujitsu expert on
3		Horizon and Penny Thomas was the contact for
4		obtaining Horizon data. I have never met Gareth
5		Thomas or Penny Thomas and my interaction with
6		them was regarding their witness availability.
7		All other requests were made via the Casework
8		Management Team who would be the interface into
9		all requests made to Fujitsu."
10		Does that remain the case, that you had
11		not your recollection is that you'd not met
12		Gareth Thomas sorry
13	Α.	l don't recall
14	Q.	I think you mean Gareth Jenkins there.
15	Α.	I've been calling him all sorts. I don't
16		remember him specifically.
17	Q.	Then lastly, page 98 sorry, paragraph 98, at
18		the foot of the page:
19		"With regards to the request for a statement
20		from Gareth Jenkins, I would have asked the
21		Casework Team for a statement regarding the
22		Fujitsu involvement and it would be the Casework
23		Management Team who would go via their agreed
24		channels and obtain this, with Gareth Jenkins
25		offered by Fujitsu as their subject matter
		75

2		"From my recollection, I did not have any	
3		direct communication with Penny Thomas or Gareth	
4		Edwards"	
5		I think you mean Gareth Jenkins there, don't	
6		you	
7	Α.	Sorry, yes.	
8	Q.	rather than the Rugby International?	
9	-	" apart from to manage them as witnesses	
10		in the case, for example dates to avoid, dates	
11		required in court, etc."	
12		Having looked at emails now, do you now know	
13		that that's incorrect, that you did have direct	
14		communications with both Penny Thomas and Gareth	
15		Jenkins?	
16	Α.	Yes. However, I haven't as I explained	
	А.		
17		earlier, I haven't had time to go through, word	
18		by word, every document you sent me because of	
19		the time restraints. But I can see that I did	
20		have some liaison with them but I don't recall	
21	~	it.	
22	Q.	Then page 33, please, at paragraph 97. You say:	
23		"I have been asked to consider [some	
24		documents]. I recall meeting somebody at the	
25		post office to remove the equipment and presume 74	
1 2		expert. I was not involved in this process apart from [asking] for a statement."	
2 3		apart from [asking] for a statement." Does that remain your recollection?	
2 3 4	Α.	apart from [asking] for a statement." Does that remain your recollection? Yes.	
2 3 4 5	A. Q.	apart from [asking] for a statement." Does that remain your recollection? Yes. Can we look at some contemporaneous materials	
2 3 4 5 6		apart from [asking] for a statement." Does that remain your recollection? Yes. Can we look at some contemporaneous materials and the drafts of witness statements attached to	
2 3 4 5 6 7		apart from [asking] for a statement." Does that remain your recollection? Yes. Can we look at some contemporaneous materials and the drafts of witness statements attached to emails, which indicate that both Graham Ward,	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		apart from [asking] for a statement." Does that remain your recollection? Yes. Can we look at some contemporaneous materials and the drafts of witness statements attached to emails, which indicate that both Graham Ward, the Casework Manager, and you, were involved in	
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Firstly, page 31, paragraph 90, you say:

"From my recollection, I did not have any

25 desktop records amounts entered for payment but 76

1		then shows 'Nil' when the transaction log is	
2		printed, and it is this that we need to refute.	
3		"Various emails passed between myself and	
4		your team on this matter and the reply below	
5		"	
6		We have looked at those, the October '05 emails. He continues:	
7		emails. He continues: "Nil transactions could also be caused by	
8			
9		errors in PIN pad, counter, agents or host code	
10		depending on what constitutes a 'nil	
11		transaction'. This cannot be determined without	
12		access to the appropriate logs.	
13		"Penny also sent with the respective ARQ	
14		data, additional spreadsheets which showed all	
15		'Nil' transactions for the periods.	
16 17		"We therefore require of the usual statement	
18		producing the Transaction and Event logs (Penny has sent me a draft and I have suggested one or	
19		two minor amendments). We will also need the	
20		above spreadsheets produced by whoever put them	
20 21		together, explaining the headings and under what	
21		circumstances 'Nil' transactions can occur.	
22		Finally, 'to cover all the angles' I would also	
23		like to produce the call logs during the entire	
24		period so we can see whether the postmaster	
25		77	
1	Α.	I probably would have had some involvement in	
1 2	A.	I probably would have had some involvement in that. From my recollection, it also went to the	
	Α.		
2		that. From my recollection, it also went to the	
2 3		that. From my recollection, it also went to the Criminal Law Team.	
2 3 4	Q.	that. From my recollection, it also went to the Criminal Law Team. Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?	
2 3 4 5	Q.	that. From my recollection, it also went to the Criminal Law Team. Was Mr Ward a manager of yours? He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He	
2 3 4 5 6	Q.	<ul><li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the Criminal Law Team.</li><li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li><li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He worked in, obviously, another function of the</li></ul>	
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. A.	<ul><li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the Criminal Law Team.</li><li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li><li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He worked in, obviously, another function of the same team.</li></ul>	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A.	<ul> <li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the</li> <li>Criminal Law Team.</li> <li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li> <li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He</li> <li>worked in, obviously, another function of the</li> <li>same team.</li> <li>Were there any reporting lines between you and</li> </ul>	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q.	<ul> <li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the</li> <li>Criminal Law Team.</li> <li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li> <li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He</li> <li>worked in, obviously, another function of the</li> <li>same team.</li> <li>Were there any reporting lines between you and</li> <li>Mr Ward?</li> <li>No.</li> <li>What was the division of labour between Mr Ward</li> </ul>	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the</li> <li>Criminal Law Team.</li> <li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li> <li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He</li> <li>worked in, obviously, another function of the</li> <li>same team.</li> <li>Were there any reporting lines between you and</li> <li>Mr Ward?</li> <li>No.</li> <li>What was the division of labour between Mr Ward</li> <li>and you in relation to obtaining witness</li> </ul>	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the</li> <li>Criminal Law Team.</li> <li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li> <li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He</li> <li>worked in, obviously, another function of the</li> <li>same team.</li> <li>Were there any reporting lines between you and</li> <li>Mr Ward?</li> <li>No.</li> <li>What was the division of labour between Mr Ward</li> <li>and you in relation to obtaining witness</li> <li>statements from Fujitsu in Mr Thomas' case, as</li> </ul>	
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>that. From my recollection, it also went to the Criminal Law Team.</li> <li>Was Mr Ward a manager of yours?</li> <li>He wasn't a direct manager of mine, no. He worked in, obviously, another function of the same team.</li> <li>Were there any reporting lines between you and Mr Ward?</li> <li>No.</li> <li>What was the division of labour between Mr Ward and you in relation to obtaining witness statements from Fujitsu in Mr Thomas' case, as far as you can remember?</li> <li>As far as I remember, they did it.</li> <li>Who is the "they"?</li> <li>The Casework Manager team and Fujitsu. I don't recall much interaction with them at all.</li> <li>Can we go back to page 4, please, and then scroll down. If we just look at the bottom of that email from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward, and then scroll onto the next page:</li> </ul>	

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1	9

1		ever reported this alleged fault with the system
2		a statement similar to the Bill Mitchell
3		statement will be ideal."
4		So this is the Post Office, through Mr Ward,
5		asking Fujitsu, through Mr Pinder, for a witness
6		statement fulfilling these functions, agreed?
7	A.	Yes.
8	Q.	Was there any formal process that you were aware
9 10		of at this time by which such a request could be made?
11	Α.	No.
12	Q.	Again, it was dealt with, person to person, by
13	ч.	email; is that right?
14	Α.	It I didn't know how Graham did it, if I'm
15	7.0	being honest. It was just I a statement was
16		needed and he was the liaison point in.
17		I didn't know whether he met them. I didn't
18		know whether it was via email. I didn't know.
19	Q.	Who was responsible for managing requests for
20		witness statements from Fujitsu?
21	Α.	The Casework Manager.
22	Q.	That's Mr Ward?
23	Α.	Yes, or one of his team.
24	Q.	Who had responsibility for assisting with any
25		drafting, reviewing and finalising a statement?
		78
1		see if this meets your requirements."
2		So this is 23 March, Ms Lowther forwarding
3		an email or replying to Mr Ward's email, and
4		then if we go up the page, please, and scroll
5		up, reply from Mr Ward:
6		"The layout is presumably unfinished,
7		paragraph spacings, etc?
8		"As per my earlier email, and more
9		importantly the 3 spreadsheets sent with ARQ
10 11		data need to be produced as exhibits. "Also, the line which begins at the foot of
12		the page appears unfinished?"
13		Then this:
14		"And I'm concerned at the words 'system
15		failure' which is also in an earlier line
16		'There has been some sort of system failure'
17		What does this mean exactly and is there any
18		indication of a system failure at this office
19		during the period in question?"
20		Then if we go up, please, a page. Just
21		scroll a little bit more, please, thank you.
22		We'd better stop there, thank you.
23		Let's look at the draft statement that was
24		included and about which Mr Ward was concerned
25		by the use of the words "system failure",
		80

1		FUJ00122204. So it's in the name of Mr Jenkins.
2		If we scroll down, please, he introduces himself
3		in the first paragraph and then he says:
4		"There are three main reasons why a zero
5		value transaction may be generated as part of
6		the banking system:
7		"1. The transaction has no financial effect
8		(ie a Balance Enquiry or a PIN change]
9		"2. The transaction has been declined by
10		the bank.
11		"3. There has been some sort of System
12		Failure. Such failures are normal occurrences."
13		That third paragraph that Mr Jenkins
14		includes in this draft of his statement, can we
15		call that the system failure reason,
16		Ms Matthews, to summarise it rather than reading
17		it out?
18	Α.	Okay, yes.
19	Q.	That's the thing that Mr Ward was concerned
20		about, agreed?
21	Α.	Agreed, yes.
22	Q.	Can we go, please, to the next email in the
23		chain, FUJ00122203. If we scroll to the foot of
24		the page, thank you, an email from Neneh Lowther
25		to Mr Jenkins:
		81

1	properly, or if not, any respect in which it was
2	not operating properly, or was out of operation
3	was not such as to effect the information held
4	on it.
5	"Any records to which I refer in my
6	statement form part of the records relating to
7	the business of Fujitsu Services. [They] were
8	compiled in the ordinary course of business from
9	information supplied by persons who have or may
10	reasonably be supposed to have personal
11	knowledge of the matter dealt with in the
12	information supplied, but are unlikely to have
13	any recollection of the information or cannot be
14	traced. As part of my duties, I have access to
15	these records."
16	Then Mr Jenkins has typed:
17	"I am not sure the yellow bit is true. Can
18	this be deleted? All I've done is interpret the
19	data in spreadsheets that you have emailed to
20	me."
21	So if we take into account the email that we
22	just looked at and this attachment to it, would
23	you agree that Mr Jenkins was saying, "I can't
24	include those two yellow paragraphs because I'm
25	not sure they're true, can they be taken out, 83

1		"Hi Gareth,
2		"I have updated your [witness statement]
3		with the column headings", et cetera.
4		Then scroll up thank you, bit more
5		Mr Jenkins to Ms Lowther and Mr Pinder:
6		"Neneh,
7		"I've annotated it with Revisions.
8		"In particular, I don't feel I can include
9		the last two paras, which may make the statement
10		useless."
11		So remember that:
12		"I don't feel I can include the last two
13		paras, which may make the statement useless."
14		Let's look at the statement, please,
15		FUJ00122204. Then go to page 3 and scroll
16		a little bit. Can you see that there is
17		a passage apparently highlighted, which consists
18		of two paragraphs, which I think are the last
19		two paragraphs that Mr Jenkins was referring to.
20		Originally, it said:
21		"There is no reason to believe that the
22		information in this statement is inaccurate
23		because of the improper use of the computer. To
24		the best of my knowledge and belief at all
25		material times the computer was operating
		82
1		please?"
2	A.	That's how it reads to me, yes.
3	Q.	What impact do you think that had on the balance
4		of what Mr Jenkins was saying, that he felt
5		unable to say that there was no reason to
6		believe that the information in the statement is
7		inaccurate because of improper use of the
8		computer?
9	Α.	I don't know what he's trying to say in that
10		statement because it seems to contradict itself.
11		So I don't know because I've not seen that
12	~	statement before.
13	Q.	Looking at it now, do you think this is
14		significant, that
15	A.	Yes
16	Q.	the expert from Fujitsu is unwilling to sign
17		a statement or have included in a signed
18		statement a paragraph which says, "To the best
19 20		of my knowledge and belief, the computer was at
- 201		au material times operating properly"?

- 20 all material times operating properly"?
- 21A.What concerns me is he's written that and then22put the caveat at the bottom "I'm not sure the
- 23 yellow bit is true".
- 24 **Q.** And "Can it be deleted please"?
- 25 **A.** That's -- I've not seen that before, and 84

88

1		that's	1		"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the
2	Q.	Is that very worrying?	2		computer was at all material times operating
3		It's very concerning, yes. That takes away from	3		properly", that would be very concerning?
4		the whole point of getting a statement.	4	Α.	It would be, yes.
5	Q.	Do you recall seeing this draft of the	5		Can we go forwards a day, please, to 24 March
6		statement, the 23 March 2006 draft?	6		2006, FUJ00122217. Can we start, please, at
7	Α.	I don't recall having sight of that, no. That	7		page 2. This is when Fujitsu send what we've
8		doesn't look familiar to me and, if I'd have	8		just looked at back into the Post Office. Top
9		seen that, I would have raised concerns over it.	9		email:
10	Q.	What about the bit on page 1, if we go back to	10		"Hi, Graham,
11		that, and scrolling down. Do you remember this	11		"Please see attached [so this is Ms Lowther
12		part of it, where Mr Jenkins is saying one of	12		to Mr Ward] second draft for the above with the
13		the reasons, the three main reasons, why a zero	13		further explanation regarding the issues you
14		value may be generated is that there has been	14		raised. Please let me know of any amendments
15		some sort of system failure and that such	15		ASAP as we need to put this in the post to you
16		failures are normal occurrences?	16		by lunchtime"
17	Α.	I don't recall reading this statement.	17		Then if we go to page 1, please, foot of the
18	Q.	That would have been new information to you,	18		page, Mr Ward replies to Ms Lowther and you're
19		wouldn't it?	19		now copied in. Can you see that?
20	Α.	Yes.	20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	It would very significant information to you,	21	Q.	"Neneh, this statement needs more work. I've
22		wouldn't it?	22		attached a suggested draft with a number of
23	Α.	It would have been, as a system failure, yes.	23		comments"
24	Q.	Taken together with the fact that Mr Jenkins	24		So, to be clear, what's happening here is
25		wasn't prepared to sign a statement which said,	25		the Post Office is going back to Fujitsu with
		85			86
1		its own draft of the witness statement:	1		to Mr Jenkins:
2		" (as mentioned previously I think the	2		"Please see the email below and the new
3		'system failure normal occurrence' line is	3		draft statement."
4		potentially very damaging). It may be worth	4		Let's look at the statement as it then
5		considering someone from our team taking	5		stood, ie after the Post Office had amended it.
6		a statement directly from Gareth (where is he	6		FUJ00122218. If we go to page 2, please, and
7		based?)	7		scroll down, please. Thank you.
8		"Whilst there is some urgency with this, it	8		So the section between "Should be
9		is more important to get it right and ensure we	9		spreadsheets" and "declined by the Bank" is all
10		are not embarrassed at court, which we certainly	10		Mr Jenkins, as in the original. Then the next
11		could be if we produced a statement accepting	11		sentence has been added in by Mr Ward in the
12		'system failures are normal occurrences'."	12		brackets. I wonder whether this could be
13		So, to be clear, what's happening here, the	13		highlighted:
14		Post Office Casework Manager is amending a draft	14		"(This is a really poor choice of words
15		witness statement from the Fujitsu expert	15		which seems to accept that failures in the
16		agreed	16		system are normal and therefore may well suppo
17	Α.	Agreed.	17		the postmaster's claim that the system is to
18	Q.	and is expressing concern that the expert's	18		blame for the losses!!!!)"
19		mention of system failures being a cause and	19		Can you see that the two reasons that
20		system failures being a normal occurrence is	20		Mr Jenkins gave in his first draft of the
21		damaging damaging to the Post Office and	21		witness statement are included, "transactions
22		potentially embarrassing for it, agreed?	22		had no financial effect", "transaction has been
23		Agreed.	23		declined by the bank" yes
24		It was no firmtheousing theouse of the set o	04		
25	Q.	If we go further up the page, thank you, Ms Lowther forwards that email and the new draft	24 25		Yes. and the third one, "system failure", has been

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20 Α.

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25 **A**.

Q.

Yes. Δ.

Remember those two paragraphs that Mr Jenkins

said that he was uncomfortable including have

Q. So Mr Jenkins had said, "I'm uncomfortable with

these, can they be deleted", and it looks as if

Fujitsu that system failures were one of the

A. From that statement, yes, but I don't recall

that. I can't remember that. But it was

an issue, then it's always a possibility. That's their belief as to what's happened.

Q. Would you agree with Mr Ward that the system

was actually a witness saying, "There is

the loss of which we're accusing this

I don't know the context in which it was

written. I can't really comment on that.

subpostmaster"?

failure reason was simply a really poor choice of words by Mr Jenkins or was it, in fact,

something much more fundamental than that? It

a reason related to the system that may explain

90

the end-to-end system which are not part of

normal operation, but are anticipated and the

system is designed to cope with them. Such

a malicious attack (but that doesn't apply to

presented). In all cases the system is designed

those failures that appear in the evidence

to identify such failures and handle them in a way that the customer, the postmaster, Post

Office Limited and the FIs are all clear as to the status of the transaction and any necessary

financial reconciliation takes place. I guess one option is to delete the paragraph since it

is purely an introduction to the following more

That can come down, thank you. I don't recall, I don't recall seeing it, no.

Would it have been normal, given that you were

the Investigator in the case, to have received

the email that I've just shown you and

Thank you. Can you recall receiving this

updated statement from Mr Ward when it was sent

detailed description."

to him?

failures could be engineered as part of

three main causes of nil transactions, agreed?

always -- you know, if somebody had raised it as

At the time, you were being put on notice by

Mr Ward has indeed deleted them.

gone from the statement.

1		deleted?	
2	Α.	Yes.	
3	Q.	So the Post Office is deleting passages from	
4		a witness statement suggesting that there may be	
5		a system fault causing the loss that the	
6		postmaster was pointing to, agreed?	
7	Α.	Agreed.	
8	Q.	And the Post Office is suggesting that it be	
9		deleted because it may well support the	
10		postmaster's claim, agreed?	
11	Α.	Agreed.	
12	Q.	As an Investigator, would you regard it as	
13		appropriate or inappropriate to delete passages	
14		from an expert's witness statement and set out	
15		your own view of events?	
16	Α.	l think it's they're an expert for a reason.	
17		That's their opinion. I don't know whether	
18		Mr Ward was looking at the terminology used or	
19		the actual basis behind it but, either way, it's	
20		somebody's statement and it has to be their	
21		words and it has to be true.	
22	Q.	Then if we go to page 3, please, and just pan	
23		out a little bit, please. You'll see that the	
24		usual operation of the computer parts have been	
25		deleted from the statement, can you see that? 89	
1	0	But, in any event, what we can see is the Post	
2	ч.	Office here expunging from the draft witness	
3		statement, the "it might be the system that's at	
4		fault" reason for the nil transactions, and	
5		expunging from the witness statement the	
6		paragraphs which Mr Jenkins said he didn't want	
7		included, saving that "I've no reason to believe	
8		that the system was other than working	
9		correctly", agreed?	
10	Α.	Yes.	
11	Q.	Can we move forwards, please, FUJ00122217.	
12		We see on 28 March Mr Jenkins replying back	
13		to Ms Lowther and Mr Ward, you're not included	
14		on this:	
15		"I've added some further annotations to your	
16		annotations. Does this move us forward?"	
17		Let's look at the draft, please, it's the	
18		one we were just looking at, FUJ00122218, and	
19		page 2. Scroll down, scroll down.	
20		So, after the part in brackets, "This is	
21		a really poor choice of words", written by	
22		Mr Ward, Mr Jenkins replies, and I wonder if	
23		this can be highlighted:	
24		"Please can you suggest something better	
25		then? What we have here are genuine failures of	

deleted?

Mr Jenkins' draft updated statement?
t doesn't appear to be, no. I would have
92
(23) Pages 89 - 92

1		expected to have seen it. My role in it was
2		obviously, I knew that Mr Jenkins was going to
3		be asked to give a statement. I didn't know the
4		intricacies around or what took place.
5	Q.	Can we move forwards, please, FUJ00152587. Just
6		to check where we are, if we go to page 2. The
7		email we've just looked at, Jenkins to Ward and
8		Lowther. "I've added some further annotations
9		does this move us forward?"
10		Then if we go to page 1, please. That is
11		sent on by Mr Ward to Mr Pinder, copied to
12		Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins, and he, Mr Ward,
13		says:
14		"I do not understand why this statement,
15		which was originally requested on 10 March is
16		taking so long to be put together. I appreciate
17 10		it is slightly unusual, but I do not understand
18 19		the confusion as I thought I'd made our requirements clear.
20		"Unfortunately, Gareth's annotations do not
20		take us forward at all (and I'm sure this not
22		Gareth's fault). Gareth has indicated in the
23		attachment below that the 3 spreadsheets
24		produced by your team (which show the 'NIL'
25		transactions) were not produced by him,
		93
1		these requirements in one statement?"
1 2		these requirements in one statement?" Were you the Investigator dealing with the
		Were you the Investigator dealing with the
2	А.	•
2 3	A. Q.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there?
2 3 4		Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes.
2 3 4 5		Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described
2 3 4 5 6		Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no. Can you otherwise recall the Post Office's
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no. Can you otherwise recall the Post Office's requirements in relation to the statement that
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	Q. A. Q.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no. Can you otherwise recall the Post Office's requirements in relation to the statement that the Post Office was requesting from Fujitsu in relation to nil transactions? That the parameters that I would expect in a statement would be to do with the ARQs and the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no. Can you otherwise recall the Post Office's requirements in relation to the statement that the Post Office was requesting from Fujitsu in relation to nil transactions? That the parameters that I would expect in a statement would be to do with the ARQs and the obtaining of them.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. Q.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no. Can you otherwise recall the Post Office's requirements in relation to the statement that the Post Office was requesting from Fujitsu in relation to nil transactions? That the parameters that I would expect in a statement would be to do with the ARQs and the obtaining of them. This is talking about the Post Office's requirements for the content of a witness statement, isn't it, not about the ARQ? Yes, but I wasn't aware of this. Can we look, please, at FUJ00155721. Can we see at the top of the page, an email exchange within
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. Q.	Were you the Investigator dealing with the case that Mr Ward is referring to there? The Gaerwen one, yes. Did Mr Ward discuss with you what are described as the Post Office's requirements for the contents of the witness statement? I have no recollection of that, no. Can you otherwise recall the Post Office's requirements in relation to the statement that the Post Office was requesting from Fujitsu in relation to nil transactions? That the parameters that I would expect in a statement would be to do with the ARQs and the obtaining of them. This is talking about the Post Office's requirements for the content of a witness statement, isn't it, not about the ARQ? Yes, but I wasn't aware of this. Can we look, please, at FUJ00155721. Can we see at the top of the page, an email exchange within Fujitsu:

1		therefore as he quite rightly points out, he is
2		not in a position to produce them in his
3		statement. He also points out there are
4		differences in the headings, which I wasn't
5		aware of.
6		"As already stated, we urgently need
7		a statement producing these 3 additional
8		spreadsheets, explaining in general terms, under
9		what circumstances 'nil' transactions occur and
10		in particular how the 'nil' transactions at
11		Gaerwen occurred (as detailing on the
12		spreadsheet). The same statement needs to
13		included a paragraph which states that there is
14		no evidence of a system error at Gaerwen
15		(assuming this is the case) in relation to the
16		'nil' transactions at the office. We do not
17		need to mention 'system failures being normal
18		occurrences' if there is no evidence of such a
19		problem at this office.
20		' "As I've indicated on an earlier email, it
21		may now be best if the investigator dealing with
22		this case arranges to meet Gareth to take the
23		statement in person Can you confirm that you
24		fully understand our requirements to ensure
25		Gareth is in a position to 'tie up' all
		94
1		statement and comments which Gareth can provide
2		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has
2 3		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to
2 3 4		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her
2 3 4 5		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things
2 3 4 5 6		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to
2 3 4 5 6 7		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to discuss all aspects of the prosecution service.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to discuss all aspects of the prosecution service. "She may also bring another member of the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to discuss all aspects of the prosecution service. "She may also bring another member of the Investigation Team along which will all help to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to discuss all aspects of the prosecution service. "She may also bring another member of the Investigation Team along which will all help to oil the wheels when requests come in."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to discuss all aspects of the prosecution service. "She may also bring another member of the Investigation Team along which will all help to oil the wheels when requests come in." Did you attend a meeting with Mr Jenkins for
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		so it shouldn't take too long. Once she has done this I thought it would be nice to introduce her to the Security team, show her around the audit room to see how we do things and then perhaps a few minutes open forum to discuss all aspects of the prosecution service. "She may also bring another member of the Investigation Team along which will all help to oil the wheels when requests come in." Did you attend a meeting with Mr Jenkins for the purposes of taking a witness statement from
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1	•	L aan't
1 2	A. Q.	I can't
2	Q.	sorry to speak with a Fujitsu employee face to face, to take a witness statement from
4		them?
5	Α.	l can't remember.
6	Q.	Do you now recall attending and taking
7	а. А.	No.
8	Q.	a witness statement on 6 April 2006
9	α. Α.	(The witness shook her head)
10	Q.	with Mr Jenkins at Fujitsu's office?
11	Δ.	I can't remember. I know I've been I think
12	7.1	it was in Reading, and I know I've been on one
13		occasion. I seem to think it was to do with the
14		equipment that was being checked because I asked
15		for it to be checked, but I can't recall.
16	Q.	Can we look, please, at FUJ00122237. We can see
17		a witness statement dated 6 April 2006 from
18		Mr Jenkins. If we scroll down you can see what
19		he says. Just read that slowly. Then go over
20		the page, please, and then scroll down, and then
21		scroll down, keep going. Just stopping there.
22		Then read carefully the last paragraph:
23		"There is no reason to believe that
24		information in the statement is inaccurate
25		To the best of my knowledge and belief at all
		97
1		says that the system was operating at all times
2		properly has been overcome, hasn't it?
3	Α.	It appears to be, yes.
4	Q.	How has that come about?
5	Α.	I don't know because I don't remember. I don't
6		even remember taking that statement.
7	Q.	Would you accept, on the basis of the documents
8		that we've looked at, that it appears that the
9		Post Office sought to harden up Mr Jenkins'
10		witness statement?
11	Α.	It appears that they go in self-preservation
12		mode, by the sound of it.
13	WIR	<b>BEER:</b> Sir, might that be an appropriate moment to break for lunch?
14 15	ein	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, certainly.
16		BEER: I wonder whether we can take a slightly
17	WIT	
17		shorter lunch, given the earlier finishing time today, and reconvene at 1.30?
10	SIP	WYN WILLIAMS: Subject to any representations
20	Sin	from the transcriber, yes.
20 21	MP	BEER: She's saying fine, thank you.
21		WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. So 1.30, then.
23		BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
23		.43 pm)
25		(The Short Adjournment)
		99

zon IT	' Inq	uiry 24 Novembe
1		material times the computer was operating
2		properly"
3		Then over the page, that's the end of it.
4		So having looked at the email
5		correspondence, having looked at the comments in
6		the email correspondence and the process of
7		travelling drafts of Mr Jenkins' witness
8		statement and having looked at that last signed
9		version of the witness statement, can you see
10		that, firstly, Mr Jenkins originally said that
11		an explanation for the nil transactions may be
12		a Horizon system fault and that that has been
13		taken out of his signed witness statement?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	Secondly, he said that he was unprepared to sign
16	ω.	a witness statement saying that, at all material
17		times, the Horizon system was operating
18		properly, but that has been added back in to his
19		witness statement. Can you see that? It's the
20		-
20 21	•	last paragraph, we just read.
	A.	Yes. Sorry, yes.
22	Q.	So the passage indicating that it might be
23		a system fault has evaporated, hasn't it?
24 25	A. Q.	Yes. And his unwillingness to sign a statement which 98
1	•	30 pm)
2	MR	<b>BEER:</b> Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and hear
3		me?
4	SIR	<b>WYN WILLIAMS:</b> Yes, thank you.
5	MR	<b>BEER:</b> Ms Matthews, can you see and hear me?
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	Good afternoon.
8		We saw, before lunch, that Mr Thomas had
9		said that the balances were affected by a series
10		of Horizon generated zero lines, that Fujitsu
11		were approached, and a witness with expertise
12		had said that the system errors within Horizon
13		were capable of generating zero lines and that,
14		through an exchange of emails and other
15		communications, that evidence was edited out of
16		the final statement served by Mr Jenkins,
17		agreed?
18	Α.	Yes.
19	Q.	I want to turn to how the case was presented in
20		court, then, please. Can we start, please, with
21		POL00044885. Do you remember these kinds of
22		documents, a summary of facts prepared in
22		accordance with that rule of the Magistrates

23 accordance with that rule of the Magistrates

Court rules?

24

25 A. Yes.

99

1	Q.	Can you remember what the purpose of the summary	
2		of facts were or was?	
3	Α.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
4		case to the I think it went to the	
5		prosecuting solicitor who was attending court.	
6		I'm not sure if it went to the defence. I don't	
7	_	know.	
8	Q.	Who drew these up?	
9	Α.	It would have been the Criminal Law Team.	
10	Q.	So, in this case, it would be Juliet McFarlane;	
11		is that right?	
12	A.	Yes.	
13 14	Q.		
		we keep scrolling, that this appears to have been saved in a member of the Criminal Law Team.	
15 16		Juliet McFarlane's, work folders; can you see	
10		that?	
18	Α.		
10	Q.	Do you know whether this was served on the	
20	ω.	court?	
20	Α.	l don't know.	
22	Q.	In any event, can we go to page 2, please. At	
23	ч.	the foot of the page, the document has	
24		summarised what Mr Thomas had said interview,	
25		and then says this:	
		101	
1		Legal team actually got the discipline report.	
2		I'm not sure. But it does look the same, yes.	
3	Q.		
4		that?	
5			
5	Α.	Yes.	
6	A. Q.		
	_		
6	_	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the	
6 7	_	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to	
6 7 8	_	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's	
6 7 8 9	_	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's what the Magistrates Court rules say your own	
6 7 8 9 10	_	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's what the Magistrates Court rules say your own summary of the five legitimate reasons for	
6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's what the Magistrates Court rules say your own summary of the five legitimate reasons for a zero entry appearing in an online summary?	
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A.	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's what the Magistrates Court rules say your own summary of the five legitimate reasons for a zero entry appearing in an online summary? Yes.	
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's what the Magistrates Court rules say your own summary of the five legitimate reasons for a zero entry appearing in an online summary? Yes. What we don't see is Mr Jenkins' expression in the course of the early drafts of his witness statement, the fact that it may be a system error, do we? No. Do you know how that's come about? I don't have any dealings in the presentation of this document or in the drafting of it. We can take the document down, please. What was the process or practice of the communication of information, the like of which we've just seen in the emails just before lunch, from the	
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	That was for now. So they've lifted, in the document we know that this is disclosed to defendants and presented to the court, that's what the Magistrates Court rules say your own summary of the five legitimate reasons for a zero entry appearing in an online summary? Yes. What we don't see is Mr Jenkins' expression in the course of the early drafts of his witness statement, the fact that it may be a system error, do we? No. Do you know how that's come about? I don't have any dealings in the presentation of this document or in the drafting of it. We can take the document down, please. What was the process or practice of the communication of information, the like of which we've just seen	

1		"There are a number of legitimate reasons
2		why a zero entry might be presented on an online
3		summary. These may be because:
4		"1. A customer enters an incorrect PIN
5		number.
6		"2. A customer that is no funds in their
7		account.
8		"3. An incorrect PIN number is entered on 3
9		separate occasions.
10		"4. The card has been stolen or cancelled.
11		"5. The transaction is unauthorised.
12		"Horizon data showing nil transactions have
13		been analysed over a specified period between
14		November 2004 and October 2005. Fujitsu had no
15		concerns regarding the integrity of the data
16		received from Gaerwen Post Office. Further the
17		Horizon System Helpdesk had not been alerted to
18		any hardware problems."
19		Can you see that, at the foot of page 2 and
20		the top of page 3 there, the so-called
21		legitimate reasons why a zero entry might appear
22		on an online summary is lifted from your report
23		for the purposes of disciplinary proceedings,
24 25	•	that we looked at this morning?
25	Α.	It looks the same, yes, but I wasn't sure the 102
1	۵	Sorry in respect of what?
1 2	А. Q.	Sorry, in respect of what? So we've seen that there were email exchanges
2	A. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges,
		So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of
2 3		So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was
2 3 4		So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of
2 3 4 5		So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that
2 3 4 5 6	Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team?
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that, but there were several more, and I would have
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that, but there were several more, and I would have expected the Casework Manager or the Management Team to have forwarded them on.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that, but there were several more, and I would have expected the Casework Manager or the Management Team to have forwarded them on. Why would you expect Mr Ward to forward those to the Criminal Law Team when you were the Officer
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that, but there were several more, and I would have expected the Casework Manager or the Management Team to have forwarded them on. Why would you expect Mr Ward to forward those to the Criminal Law Team when you were the Officer in the Case, essentially, the Investigator?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. A. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that, but there were several more, and I would have expected the Casework Manager or the Management Team to have forwarded them on. Why would you expect Mr Ward to forward those to the Criminal Law Team when you were the Officer in the Case, essentially, the Investigator? Because some of them I didn't even have sight
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. Q.	So we've seen that there were email exchanges, there were at least three iterations of a witness statement from Mr Jenkins; what was the process for disclosing/communicating that kind of information to the Criminal Law Team? I would have presumed that, if them documents would have been available to me, I would have disclosed them to the prosecution lawyer sorry, to the Criminal Law Team. However, I would have expected the Casework Team to have forwarded their documentation on to the Criminal Law Team for consideration. We've seen that, in some cases, you were in possession of the material, because you were a copyee on the email chains? On one. I don't even recall looking at that, but there were several more, and I would have expected the Casework Manager or the Management Team to have forwarded them on. Why would you expect Mr Ward to forward those to the Criminal Law Team when you were the Officer in the Case, essentially, the Investigator?

<ol> <li>Q. That's why I'm asking what the process was. W</li> </ol>
--

- 2 it the case that somebody like Mr Ward had
- 3 a duty to fulfil disclosure obligations himself
- 4 directly to the Criminal Law Team or would he
- 5 provide material back to you?
- 6 A. I don't know what the process was at that time.
- 7 I don't think there was any structured process
- 8 when it came to dealing with Fujitsu because it
- 9 was a new area. I certainly wasn't aware of
- 10 what any set procedure would have been, in
- 11 regards to the communication between Fujitsu and
- 12 the Casework Team, but I wouldn't have expected
- there to be documents and statements that I wasunaware of.
- 15 **Q**. I mean, this example we're looking at does
- 16 relate to Fujitsu but it need not relate to
- 17 Fujitsu. Mr Ward or another member of the
- 18 Casework Team could be having communications
- 19 with any witness?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What was the process for ensuring that material
- 22 created in the course of the investigation was
- 23 collected together by the Disclosure Officer and
- 24 passed to the prosecutor?
- 25 **A.** I don't recall what the process was. 105
- 1 Material Schedule?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can you help as to whether that occurred in this4 case or not?
- 5 **A.** I didn't do it because I didn't know of their
- 6 existence but anything that happened after my
- 7 documentation had gone into the Criminal Law
- 8 Team -- and it happened on a few other
- 9 occasions, not with the case that we're going to
- 10 talk about today -- then the material would be
- 11 added by the Criminal Law Team onto the
- 12 schedules, and then disclosed.
- 13 Q. We discussed earlier your initial analysis of14 the ARQ data, which you said you analysed to
- 15 look for anomalies and patterns, and I asked you
- 16 about what training and experience you had in
- 17 analysing ARQ data to look for anomalies and
- patterns. Did you, when you were undertakingthat work, record what you did?
- 20 **A.** It was a document, I think there was like a log,
- but I certainly made an entry in my notebook to
  say what I'd done.
- 23 Q. Would that be --
- 24 **A.** I can't recall specific -- sorry. I can't
- 25 recall specifically what I did but it would be

- Q. Is that because there wasn't one?
- A. I don't think there was. I can't recall ever
   seeing one, whereby what the lines of
- 3 seeing one, whereby what the lines of4 communication laid down guidelines would be,
- with regards to the Casework Management Team.
- 6 **Q.** Does it follow that you can't say that
- 7 Mr Jenkins' earlier drafts of statements dated
- 8 23 and 24 March 2006 were provided to the
- 9 Criminal Law Team?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Irrespective of the means by which it occurred,
- 12 do you accept that it was necessary for
- 13 Mr Thomas and the court to be informed that one
- 14 of the three main reasons for nil transactions
- 15 were system faults?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 **Q.** Did you know that the law at the time required
- 18 a prosecutor -- including in that
- 19 an Investigator -- to retain, record and
- 20 disclose final versions of witness statements
- where draft versions differed materially fromthe final version?
- 23 A. I presume I would have done, yes.
- 24 Q. So you were aware of the duty to record the
- 25 existence of such draft statements on an Unused 106
- 1 recorded, what I did, and I don't know whether 2 I'd made it in my notebook or whether it was 3 a Word document, in terms of what I received and 4 how I did it. I can't recall specifically. 5 And, to be fair, I might be getting confused 6 with some analysis work that I did in Royal 7 Mail, so -- where it was recorded on logs. So 8 I can't be specific. Was your analysis served as used evidence? 9 Q. 10 Α. I can't recall because I can't recall if I did 11 it. 12 Q. Does it follow --13 Α. I just can't remember what happened in that 14 moment in time, as to -- the ARQ system was 15 quite new when I asked for it. It wasn't -- and 16 I'm not sure there was even a set procedure for 17 what to do in the casework management processes. Q. Does it follow that you can't say that the 18 19 record of your analysis and the results of your analysis was served as unused material as well? 20 21 A. I can't -- I don't know what was served. 22 **Q.** Can we move on, then, to closer to the court 23 appearance, and we've seen the witness 24 statements taken from or provided by Mr Jenkins. 25 Were you treating him in your own mind at this 108

1		time as an expert witness?
2	Α.	I think I was just treating him as a witness to
3	_	the case.
4		So not as an expert?
5	Α.	It was never stressed to me he was an expert
6		witness; he was just a witness in the case.
7	Q.	What does a witness in the case mean?
8	Α.	He was somebody that would be able to give
9		an account as to what had happened in
10		a particular circumstance and
11	Q.	So a witness of fact, essentially?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	Would you have treated him differently if you,
14		in your mind, were treating him as an expert
15		witness?
16	Α.	I don't think so because, at that point, my role
17		was one of an administrative to ensure he was
18		aware of the court times, hearings, location,
19		et cetera.
20	Q.	But we've seen from the emails we looked at this
21		morning that you were copied in to a draft
22		statement and an arrangement was made for you to
23		attend at 11.00 at Fujitsu's premises to take
24		a witness statement from him. If you did attend
25		on 6 April 2006 and took a witness statement
		109
4		
1		at that time the actions that were taken in
2		relation to this case were checked and, you
3		know, put through somebody else, whether that be
4		the second officer or my line manager at the
5	_	time.
6	Q.	Who was your line manager at the time?
7	Α.	Paul Dawkins.
8	Q.	Can we look at when the case is in court, by
9		looking at FUJ00152616, and look at page 3
10		please and scroll down, thank you.
11		This is an email, it's dated 12 July 2006
12		if we just scroll up a little bit we'll catch
13		it, there from Mr Jenkins to you. He says:
14		"Diane,
15		"I discussed this with [somebody else] that
16		the last two weeks in September was the best
17		time to go away on holiday but since [something
18		else] we'll try and arrange some other time."
19		So there's some discussion about his holiday
20		and leave arrangements. He says:
21		"I understand also that the trial is
22		Caernarfon. Do you have any idea as to how much
23		time will be involved and what exactly is
24		required? I've never been to court in any
25		capacity and my knowledge of such things is
		111

1		from him, you would need to know, in your own
2		mind, whether you were treating him as an expert
3		witness or not, wouldn't you?
4	Α.	I don't even recall taking a witness statement.
5	Q.	I know that you said that this morning but
6		assume that you did, for present purposes.
7		Would you agree that you'd have to establish in
8		your own mind how you were treating him, what
9		his status was?
10	Α.	In my mind at the time, I think I just had him
11		as a witness. I'm not sure it was specified to
12		me that he was an SME.
13	Q.	If he was treated by you as an expert, can you
14		help us as to what differently you may have
15		done?
16	Α.	I can't because it didn't I didn't do that,
17		so I can't offer what I would have done
18		differently. Because I don't recall how he was
19		categorised at the time. Also, I'm not at
20		that time, as I explained earlier, I was being
21		mentored in my role, because I was quite new.
22		So, I mean, I think that email says to bring
23		somebody else or mentions taking somebody else.
24		I don't know whether I did, I don't know
25		whether I went. I can't remember. But I know 110
1		based on films and TV (which I'm sure are
2		inaccurate!)"
3		Then can we see your reply at page 2,
4		please and scroll down replied same day.
5		"Hi Gareth,
6		"Thanks for that."
7		First couple of paragraphs are about
8		practical arrangements, and then the third
9		paragraph:
10		"All witnesses will have to be present on
11		the 1st day unless the defence has agreed their
12		statement and don't wish to ask any questions
13		about that evidence. It is pretty much as you
14 15		see on the TV really but remember that you will
16		have sight of your statement prior to taking the stand and can only be asked questions
17		, ,
18		specifically about your statement. "A lot can happen between now and
19		25 September as Mr Thomas' defence are still
19 20		asking a lot of questions so we will wait with
20 21		anticipation."
21		So Mr Jenkins was making it clear to you
23		he'd never been to court?
23 24	Α.	Yes.
25	Q.	He was asking for your help?
_0	щ.	112

(28) Pages 109 - 112

1	Δ	Yes.	1		Casework Team.
2		You told him that going to court is pretty much	2	Q.	
3	ч.	as you see on the television.	3	ч.	understanding was typical of other Investigators
4	Α.	That's what I put on the email, yes.	4		at that time?
5		Is that accurate, that what happens in court is	5	Δ	I can't speak for other Investigators. I was
6		like what happens on television?	6		new at this time.
7	Δ	Sometimes yes, sometimes no. But there was	7	Q.	
8	7.1	a conversation I had with Mr Ward, I think it	8	<b>.</b>	team as to this request for help or guidance by
9		was, about the fact that Fujitsu by	9		Mr Jenkins?
10		telephone Fujitsu people haven't been to	10	Α.	
11		court before, so, obviously, I don't know	11		I would have had a discussion with my mentor and
12		whether other arrangements need to be put in	12		my line manager.
13		place. I don't know whether there was. Well,	13	Q.	You tell him that you can only be asked
14		there clearly wasn't.	14		questions specifically about your statement.
15	Q.	Looking back, maybe with the benefit of some	15		Where did you learn that information from?
16		reflection, do you considered this to be	16	Α.	That's what I was told to write.
17		adequate advice	17	Q.	Told by whom?
18	Α.		18	Α.	That would have come from probably my team.
19	Q.	for a prosecution witness who had never give	19	Q.	What does that mean: "my team"?
20		oral evidence in court?	20	Α.	Either the person mentoring me or my line
21	Α.	No.	21		manager.
22	Q.	Would you agree that the advice given bears no	22	Q.	Did that line "You can only be asked questions
23		relation whatsoever to the sort of guidance and	23		specifically about your statement", have
24		advice that ought to be provided to a witness?	24		anything to do with the fact that what had been
25	Α.	Yes, that's why I was in communication with the 113	25		expunged from Mr Jenkins' statement was that the 114
1		Horizon system may have errors that caused the	1		You attach a link to a BBC article. What
2		creation of zero lines	2		was the right message that was being sent out?
3	Α.	No.	3	Α.	That was a cut and paste from the what I was
4	Q.	ie "Don't worry about that stuff that we've	4		sent by the Communications Team to refer to.
5		cut out"?	5	Q.	Who, within the Post Office, was responsible for
6	Α.	No.	6		drawing up that message?
7	Q.	"You can't be asked about it"?	7	Α.	That was the Communications Team. It's like
8	Α.	No.	8		a media team where, I don't know, the press,
9	Q.	That's just a bit of casual advice, a bit like	9		et cetera, would go to them for comment, and
10		"Going to court is a bit like you see on the	10		that's what I was told to put.
11		television"; is that right?	11	Q.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
12	Α.	I've explained that's what I was told to write.	12		Communications Team
13	Q.	Can we move on, please. FUJ00152650. This is	13	Α.	They spoke to me.
14		an email from you after the court appearance to	14	Q.	about the contents of an email being sent
15		a range of people, including Mr Jenkins and	15		internally and to Fujitsu?
16		Penny Thomas, Andy Dunks, back in Fujitsu, dated	16	Α.	I think the case was quite high profile, I think
17		8 November 2006:	17		it had been on the TV, and that's when the media
18		"Just to let you all know, Mr Thomas was	18		team, they got in touch with me, and this was
19		sentenced to 9 months in jail on Monday. He was	19		the party line to be told. And that's what
20		also ordered to pay costs and his finances are	20	-	I did; I cut and pasted it from their message.
21		now subject to further investigation.	21	Q.	So you were just following orders?
22		"Thank you for all your help with this case.	22	A.	Yes.
23		Mr Thomas was not expecting a custodial sentence	23	Q.	Did you share the view that a custodial sentence
24		and although not a particularly lengthy	24		sends out the right message to subpostmasters?
25		sentence, it does send out the right message." 115	25	Α.	Not necessarily, no. My view on it was I was 116

			The Po
4			
1 2		not expecting Mr Thomas to get a custodial sentence.	
2	Q.		
4	ч.	Office's PR machine?	
5	Α.	It wasn't the only time I experienced it.	
6	Q.	You were saying you were told to say this, even	
7	ч.	though you didn't think it personally yourself?	
8	Α.	That was the message. I don't think it really	
9		mattered, though. I don't think I was even	
10		asked what my view on it was. It's this is	
11		just this is the this is the response from	
12		the Post Office.	
13	Q.	Can you help us why the communications	
14		department would be dictating your the	
15		contents of an email to Fujitsu?	
16	Α.	I would imagine it's that we all give the same	
17		message. It's a linear approach. I don't know.	
18		I don't know what their reasons were at the time	
19		but that's what I was told to follow.	
20	Q.	Were you aware of a sense that it was important	
21		to the Post Office that this case should set	
22		a precedent to other subpostmasters who raised	
23		a problem with Horizon?	
24	Α.	I don't know if my view on it at the time	
25		was well, I don't know what the reasons were	
		117	
1		had, yes?	
2	Α.	From my recollection and I have relied	
3		heavily on the documentation with this because	
4		l didn't recall it at first but l just don't	
5		think I could get to the bottom of who had done	
6		what in the office.	
7		I couldn't prove or disprove Ms Skinner had	
8 9		or hadn't, and the same with some of the witnesses, although, you know, the witnesses did	
9 10		give some accounts and, you know, on the balan	
10		of probabilities, I couldn't determine who had	Ce
12		done what.	
13	Q.	If we just look at your witness statement,	
14	ч.	please, at page 21, paragraph 68. It's at the	
15		foot of the page, paragraph 68. This under the	
16		heading of "Janet Skinner":	
17		"My views in this case have not changed in	
18		[I think that's 'any'] respect. I was not	
19		convinced Ms Skinner had stolen the money and	
20		there was no evidence to prove she had. I was	
21		therefore unhappy with the theft charge and	
22		conveyed this at the time to the assisting	
23		lawyer."	
		·	

- lawyer.' 24 Yes?
- 25 A. Yes.

1		at the time but I know now, and I probably knew
2		when I was leaving, that there was some lengths
3		that were being gone to to try and protect the
4		system, let's say.
5	Q.	Who did you learn that from?
6	Α.	That was just my view, because I could see what
7		was happening before I left.
8	Q.	What could you see was happening before you
9		left?
10	Α.	That people were raising concerns over the
11		system.
12	Q.	But what about the response to that? What could
13		you see in relation to the response to that?
14	Α.	It seemed to be a denial that anything was wrong
15		and it was like protect at all costs because,
16		obviously, they're invested.
17	Q.	Can we turn to Janet Skinner. That can come
18		down. Thank you.
19		In your witness statement, it's
20		paragraph 68, you tell us, Ms Matthews, that you
21		were unhappy that Janet Skinner was charged with
22		theft.
23	Α.	Yes.
24	Q.	You did not think that she had stolen the money
25		and that there was no evidence to prove that she 118
1	Q.	So you didn't think she had but, more
2		importantly, there wasn't any evidence to prove
3		that she had committed the offence of theft,
4		correct?
5	Α.	Right, yes.
6	Q.	You interviewed Janet Skinner alongside
7		Mr Bradshaw, didn't you?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	Did he, Mr Bradshaw, agree with you that, at

- Q. Did he, Mr Bradshaw, agree with you that, at
- 10 that stage, there was no evidence of theft?
- A. I don't know. I don't know what Mr Bradshaw 11 12 thought at the time.
- Q. Did you discuss it as co-investigators? 13
- 14 A. I would have done but I can't remember what his 15 views were.
- 16 Q. Did either of you say to Ms Skinner "We've dealt 17 with people who have stolen money from the Post
- 18 Office before but we know that you haven't
- stolen the money"? 19
- 20 A. I don't recall saying that.
- 21 Q. So she wouldn't have known that you thought that 22 she was innocent of theft?
- 23 A. No, because when I spoke to Ms Skinner, I did
- 24 some follow-up statements after that and it was
- 25 on the basis of everything put together that 120

3

1		I didn't think she'd stolen anything.
2	Q.	I see. Did you communicate that view to
3		Mr Bradshaw?
4	Α.	I can't remember. I presume I did but, if you
5		want me to say absolutely, I can't remember. We
6		had conversations about all of the cases
7		regularly, so I presume I did but I can't say
8		for sure.
9	Q.	When you reached this view, as you say, as
10		a result of investigation, that Ms Skinner had
11		not stolen the money or there was no evidence to
12		prove that she had, did you communicate your
13		view to Ms Skinner then?
14	Α.	No.
15	Q.	You say that you spoke to or conveyed this to
16		the assisting lawyer; who was the assisting
17		lawyer?
18	Α.	I think it might have been Juliet McFarlane.
19	Q.	What did if it was Juliet McFarlane she
20		say?
21	Α.	I can't remember but I remember, when I saw the
22		charges, I said I didn't really agree with them.
23		But, again, it was a case of she's the legal
24		legally trained person who makes the decision.
25		I don't make them decisions.
		121
1		received the actual summonses or anything.
2		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone
2 3		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing
2 3 4		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because
2 3 4 5		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know,
2 3 4 5 6		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one
2 3 4 5 6 7		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison and I don't take it's not something I take
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	А.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison and I don't take it's not something I take great pleasure in seeing.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison and I don't take it's not something I take great pleasure in seeing. Might that contain a whiff of understatement.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison and I don't take it's not something I take great pleasure in seeing. Might that contain a whiff of understatement. I wasn't asking you whether
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	А.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison and I don't take it's not something I take great pleasure in seeing. Might that contain a whiff of understatement. I wasn't asking you whether I don't know what your question is meaning to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	I think, yeah, I think it was just the one phone call, because as I've said, like I'm guessing I said something along the lines of because I can't remember exactly, that, you know, I couldn't point the finger definitely at one person because there seemed to be a lot of people there and there was a lot of people had different opportunities and reasons. So, you know, Ms Skinner was adamant she hadn't stolen it and never made any admissions to that, from my recollection, and I was shocked that the theft charge was there. So, presumably, when she was sent to prison, leaving behind her two teenage children, you thought that was monstrously unfair? It's never a good thing when people go to prison and I don't take it's not something I take great pleasure in seeing. Might that contain a whiff of understatement. I wasn't asking you whether

25 **Q.** No, it's a matter of fact.

123

- 1 Q. Did you speak to your line manager about it?
  - A. He would have known.
  - Q. I'm sorry?
- 4 A. He would have known because that would have been
- 5 the communication at the time. I'm not sure if
- 6 it was still Mr Dawkins or not at that point.
- 7 We had several managers.
- 8 Q. Presumably, if you think (a) that Ms Skinner had
- 9 not stolen the money but (b), perhaps more
- 10 importantly, there wasn't any evidence to prove
- 11 that she had, but the lawyer was pressing ahead
- 12 with a theft charge, that would be quite
- 13 a significant event, wouldn't it?
- 14 A. I can only presume that she thought there was15 some evidence in there that warranted that
- 16 charge.
- 17 Q. We haven't seen any communications between youand the lawyer over this issue. Was this all
- 19 done orally?
- 20 A. It was a phone call, when I got the -- well, I'm
- 21 trying to remember correctly. I think it was
- a phone call that I made to her when I receivedthe charges.
- 24 Q. Was it just the one phone call?
- 25 A. Sorry, notification of the charges. I hadn't 122
- 1 A. It is a matter --
- 2 **Q.** She left two teenage children behind whilst she
- 3 went to prison.
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- Q. It is emotive, you're right, and I'm asking you
   what your reaction was when she was sent to
   prison, leaving her two teenage children behind.
   Please give me an answer.
- 9 A. It's not a nice feeling and she -- as far as
- 10 I was aware, she went to prison for false
- 11 accounting, not theft. But it's never a good
- 12 thing and I never like it and it's, you know --
- 13 I'm sorry it's happened.
- 14 Q. Can we look, please, at POL00106906 and at
  page 51, please. If we just scroll down we can
- 16 see the entirety of the document. It's a letter
- 17 from Ms Skinner's Area Intervention Manager,
- 18 Angela Bettison -- and scroll up, please --
- 19 dated 12 December 2005, to Ms Janet Skinner. It20 says:
  - "Dear Janet,

21

22

"We recently discussed the change in your

- 23 remuneration to Traffic Related Pay, this will
- 24 commence from 1 January 2006. The new contract
- 25 is currently being drawn up and will be sent to

1		Vicky Harrison (Contracts and Services Manager)
2		to be signed off and you will of course receive
3		а сору.
4		"This means that all of the hard work that
5		you have put into the office in recent weeks
6		will be paid in February's remuneration.
7		"Thank you for your continued hard work and
8		help running North Bransholme Post Office."
9		This is some evidence it's a couple of
10		months before the audit and interview that
11		Ms Skinner was a dedicated subpostmistress
12		working well, wasn't it?
13		I didn't have anything to do with this letter so
14		I don't know, but it sounds like they were very
15		grateful and supportive, yes.
16		Would this be the kind of document that ought to
17		be brought to a reviewing lawyer's attention, so
18		that he or she could consider whether
19 20		a subpostmistress like this would be likely,
20		very shortly thereafter, to commit crimes
21 22	Α.	against the Post Office? I don't know.  That would be for the Legal team.
22		I don't know whether they would take that into
23		consideration or not. And I know Ms Skinner was
25		highly thought of and was given responsibility
25		125
4		often further on from the investigation
1 2		after further on from the investigation interviews, yes.
3	Q.	If we just scroll down under "Observations":
4	ч.	"The defendant a former subpostmistress
5		The charges concern the theft of monies from the
6		post office during the course of employment."
7		Then over the page and scroll down, please.
8		Last paragraph on the page:
9		"Counsel is requested to advise on evidence,
10		and, in particular, whether he considers any
11		additional evidence is required. Counsel's
12		attention is drawn to the enclosures at 9 and 10
13		above"
14		They're the two minutes that we've just
15		looked at:
16		" and is asked whether a theft charge is
17		still appropriate in all the circumstances.
18		Mrs Wisker is a temporary subpostmistress at
19		North Bransholme who took over the office
20		following Janet Skinner's apprehension. These
21		enquiries have not yet been completed in the
22		case against Mrs Lyell. Whilst clearly the new
23		information does not fare well with the
24		prosecution case particularly as Mrs Lyell was
25		a witness (now unused) this does not necessarily
		127
		121

	for more than one office and she wouldn't have
	been given that if she wasn't considered to be
	a stand-up subpostmistress.
Q.	Can we turn to disclosure of other information,
	please, and look at POL00044673. This is
	instructions and a brief to counsel in the case
	of the <i>R v Janet Skinner</i> . If we go to the last
	page, please in fact it's not the last page,
	it's page 4, please and scroll down. They're
	dated December 2006, drawn up, it seems, by
	Ms McFarlane and Mr Taylor, the legal executive.
	Now, I suspect you don't have any role in
	the creation of these instructions and brief to
	counsel; is that right?
Α.	<i>(Unclear)</i> , yes.
Q.	If we go back to page 1, please, can we see that
	there's a list of documents that the barrister
	was sent. If we scroll down a little bit more,
	items 9 and 10 are copies of minutes from you,
	dated 4 December 2006 and 24 November 2006. As
	we're going to see, I think, they concern
	somebody called Wendy Lyell; do you remember
	Wendy Lyell?
Α.	I don't remember without being prompted by the
	documents but I do recall there was something
	126
	mean that Mrs Lyell is the only thief at the
	office. Counsel may in any event feel that the
	papers do reveal a very significant
	sophisticated method of false accounting on
	behalf of the Defendant in order to conceal
	a loss for which he raised little concern with
	her staff."
	Can we look at one of the minutes please
	that's referred to as enclosure 9 and 10
	POL00048272. If we scroll to the bottom please
	and just a bit more, please, we'll see this is
	one of your two minutes that are referred to in
	those papers to counsel, dated 24 November 2006.
	Then scroll to the top, please. So it's
	addressed to Juliet McFarlane:
	"As discussed today on the telephone, I am
	forwarding the committal papers in respect of
	Janet Skinner.
	I have contacted Joanne Wisker, temporary
	subpostmistress at North Bransholme office to
	ascertain the details surrounding the suspension
	of Wendy Lyell, who is a witness in the case

the branch of [£2,800-odd]. "Mrs Wisker, who also owns Chanterlands

against Ms Skinner. This following a loss at

1		Avenue Post Office, was contacted by a member of
2		staff as they were concerned over the movement
3		of £2,000 between individual stock units. It
4		appears Mrs Lyell contacted a colleague, Avril
5		and said she had removed £2,000 out of her
6		individual sealed stock unit pouch as she was
7		concerned over running out of cash before the
8		remittance into the branch was received.
9		Mrs Lyell added that she would return the cash
10		today, which was her next schedule day on duty.
11		"Mrs Wisker stated she arrived at the branch
12		this morning and spoke with Mrs Lyell. It is
13		unclear when the conversation between Mrs Lyell
14		and Avril took place. However, when Mrs Wisker
15 16		checked Avril's stock unit, it shows a loss of
10		£2,000. "There was an issue over a bag of £2 coins.
18		0
10		totalling £500" The next paragraph:
20		"The situation at the present time is that
20		Mrs Lyell has been suspended from her duties
22		pending further checks being undertaken by
23		Mrs Wisker."
24		Then at the end:
25		"Mrs Wisker has a number of areas to check
		129
4	~	
1	Q.	Did that also mean that you were the Disclosure
2		Officer?
2 3	Q. A.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law
2 3 4	Α.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team.
2 3 4 5		Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of
2 3 4 5 6	Α.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the
2 3 4 5 6 7	Α.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Α.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to
2 3 4 5 6 7	Α.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule? That would be the Criminal Law Team and the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule? That would be the Criminal Law Team and the Prosecution Support Office. So any additional
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule? That would be the Criminal Law Team and the Prosecution Support Office. So any additional material from what I'd already forwarded would
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule? That would be the Criminal Law Team and the Prosecution Support Office. So any additional material from what I'd already forwarded would be added to or an additional schedule would be
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule? That would be the Criminal Law Team and the Prosecution Support Office. So any additional material from what I'd already forwarded would be added to or an additional schedule would be done by them to present the cases to the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Officer? Yes, I disclosed things to the Criminal Law Team. Is that how you viewed the duties of a Disclosure Officer, to disclose things to the Criminal Law Team, rather than having a responsibility both to the defendant and to the court to give disclosure? Yes. So who would have been responsible for ensuring that information of the kind that we see here was relayed to the defence? That would be the Criminal Law Team. Who would be responsible for ensuring that material like this went onto an Unused Material Schedule? That would be the Criminal Law Team and the Prosecution Support Office. So any additional material from what I'd already forwarded would be added to or an additional schedule would be done by them to present the cases to the defence.

1		and verify information. She is to keep me
2		informed throughout this process with any
3		relevant finding which I will relay to
4		yourself."
5		So this is a formal means of communication
6		of information relevant to the case against
7		Mrs Skinner from you to the relevant lawyer; is
8		that right?
9		(No audible answer)
10		Sorry I missed your answer there?
11	Α.	Yes, sorry.
12	Q.	Wendy Lyell was somebody who you had taken
13		a witness statement from?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	She was a lady that worked in Mrs Skinner's
16		branch
17	Α.	Yes.
18	Q.	and she was subsequently arrested for theft?
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	Yes? Now, I think you were the Lead
21		Investigator in this case by now. We're now in
22		late 2006.
23	Α.	Yes.
24	Q.	Yes?
25	Α.	Yes, sorry. Can you not hear me? Yes.
		130
1		Material", in the case of Janet Skinner. Then
2		if we look at the foot of the page, we can see
3		the date of the schedule, 16 November 2006. Can
4		you see that?
5		(No audible response)
6		Then if we go to the top, please, it states:
7		"The Disclosure Officer believes that the
8		following material which does not form part of
9		the prosecution case is NOT SENSITIVE."
10		Then you signed that at the bottom, didn't
11		you?
12	Α.	Presumably, yes.
13	Q.	If we scroll down, see under where it says,
14		"GRO" that means General Restriction Order.
15		We've blacked out your signature?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	So were you responsible for typing documents
18		like this up?
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	Did you, consistently with the answers you gave
21		a moment ago, believe that this was just a means
22		of communication of information to the lawyer as
23		opposed to a declaration, essentially, to the
23 24		defence and to the court?
24		

**A.** No, I saw it as a declaration, but it always 132

1	went to the Criminal Law Team because there were	1		it isn't. Can we move forwards in time to see
2	occasions where I don't know in this	2		what happened, then POL00048292. This is
3	particular case, but I do recall times when they	3		a letter of 6 December from Juliet McFarlane to
4	would move things around on schedules. So I may	4		you and the Post Office Investigation Team; can
5	have put it as unused and they'd moved it onto	5		you see that?
6	the used.	6	Α.	Yes.
7	So sometimes what I'd actually forwarded was	7	Q.	She says:
8	not exactly the same as what was disclosed,	8		"The committal papers have been approved and
9	maybe the other way as well. Maybe some things	9		served on the Defence Solicitors", and she
10	that I put as unused they would see as evidence.	10		encloses a copy.
11 <b>Q</b> .	So you were responsible for typing these up.	11		Then scroll down:
12	The reviewing lawyer would look at them and	12		"I have noted the present position regarding
13	sometimes move things from used to unused, and	13		Wendy Lyell and that police enquiries are
14	from unused to used, or from non-sensitive to	14		continuing. This information will need to be
15	sensitive?	15		disclosed to the defence in due course. Further
16 <b>A</b> .	I don't know about the sensitive part because	16		attempts will need to be reviewed to see whether
17	I don't recall too much being on them, if	17		the charge of theft stands. Apprehension of
18	anything, but certainly between the used and	18		Mrs Lyell is not in itself conclusive evidence
19	unused, yes, because they obviously cast their	19		that she alone was the thief. However this will
20	legal eye upon it, of which I'm not legally	20		depend on the evidence revealed in due course.
21	trained, and they consider things differently.	21		I have also removed Wendy Lyell's statement from
22 <b>Q</b> .	In any event, take it from me that the material	22		the bundle, this can be placed on the unused."
23	relating to Wendy Lyell isn't on this schedule?	23		That's an example of what you were just
24 <b>A</b> .	Okay.	24		describing, yes?
25 <b>Q</b> .	Okay? I don't want to run through it all, but 133	25	Α.	Yes. 134
1 <b>Q</b> .		1		relation to a committal hearing we can see on the 12 December 2006. What Ms McFarlane is
2	solicitors were instructed on the same day,	2		
3	6 December, POL00048303. This is a letter from	3		saying is that "We're not going to reveal this
4	Juliet McFarlane to agency solicitors, Myer	4		information about Ms Lyell now, we're going to
5	Wolff Solicitors in Kingston Upon Hull:	5		reveal it in due course"; can you see that?
6	"I would first refer you to the minutes of	6		Yes.
7	24 November 2006 and 4 December 2006 from the	7	Q.	Were you aware of anything like a duty of
8	Officer Diane Matthews."	8		candour when attending committal proceedings?
9	We've looked at one of those:	9	A.	No.
10	"As I understand it Mrs Wisker is the	10	Q.	Were you trained on being open and transparent
11	temporary subpostmistress at North Bransholme.	11		to a court at the point of committal hearings,
12	Police enquiries have not yet been completed.	12		ie to reveal information at the point of
13	Whilst clearly the new information does not bear	13		committal which tended to undermine the
14 15	well with the prosecution case particularly as	14		prosecution case?
15	Ms Lyell is the witness, this does not	15	A.	
16	necessarily mean that Ms Lyell is the only thief	16	Q.	In any event, so far as we can tell, there was
17	at the office. The papers in any event do	17		no disclosure of the Lyell information at or
18	reveal a very sophisticated method of false	18		before the point of committal.
19	accounting on behalf of Ms Skinner in order to	19		Then can we turn to much later during the
20	conceal a loss for which she raised little	20		confiscation proceedings, again
21	concern with her staff. Naturally the above	21	Α.	Can I just take a comment that I've not
22 22	information will need to be disclosed to the	22		I wasn't aware of that letter. I wasn't copied
23	Defence (although the officers reports	23		in. I don't believe I've seen the letter to
24	themselves are confidential)."	24		Myer Wolff. So I didn't know that had been
25	So this is a letter of 6 December in 135	25		served. But I would have expected them 136

135

served.	But I would have expected then	m			
	136				

(34) Pages 133 - 136

1	~	documents to be served.
2	Q.	Can we look, then, at what happened later during
3 4		the confiscation proceedings, POL00048819. Can we see this is an email of mid-2007 from Juliet
4 5		McFarlane to you and others. She says:
6		"Diane
7		"I am presently dealing with the
, 8		Confiscation proceedings. The Defence would
9		like to know whether Mrs Lvell was prosecuted
10		(by the police?) and if so the details. Could
11		you enquire and get back to me."
12		Then POL00048829, your reply:
13		"No charges were brought against Ms Lyell by
14		Humberside Police. [She] was interviewed but
15		there was no evidence to support a prosecution."
16		Then POL00048856, letter of 3 July 2007 to
17		defence solicitors Max Gold Partnership. Second
18		paragraph:
19		"With regards to your comments raised in
20		paragraph 9 I am informed by the Investigation
21		Officer that whilst Ms Lyell was interviewed by
22		Humberside Police there was no evidence to
23		support a prosecution."
24		Okay, that can come down, thank you.
25		So we can see the revelation of some
		137
1		Can I take you, please, to your statement
2		which is, it's likely to be in front of the
3		document handler, but it's WITN08330100. So I'm
4		going to refer you to page 35, paragraph 107.
5		Ms Matthews, paragraph 107. Do you have that,
6		page 35?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	It's the bottom of that page. What you say
9		there is this:
10		"When I left POL in 2008, the issue of the
11		Horizon system having bugs and its integrity
12		were just starting to be raised."
13		You go on to say:
14		"I did not become involved in this whilst in
15		POL and where raised as mitigation in my
16 17		investigation, I followed the process and raised the issues."
18		
19	Α.	Okay? Yes.
20 21	Q.	So the date that you have within your statement is potentially an important one for the Inquiry
21 22		to reflect on. Now, you've said in your
22		evidence this afternoon at, I think, about
23		2.05 this afternoon that the Post Office was
25		denying that there were issues with the Horizon
		139

1		information in the course of the conference
2		occasion proceedings against Janet Skinner.
3		Can you help us: was the material about the
4		possible prosecution or the arrest of Wendy
5		Lyell revealed to Janet Skinner or her Legal
6		team before she was convicted.
7	Α.	I wouldn't know. That should've been done by
8		the prosecution office or Criminal Law Team.
9	Q.	That was their responsibility, was it?
10	Α.	Yeah, I just would have expected them to have
11		done that.
12	Q.	What about you compiling a supplemental schedule
13		of unused material?
14	Α.	That just wasn't the way it worked.
15	MR	BEER: Yes, thank you very much. Those are the
16		only questions I ask.
17		I'm going to look around the room to see
18		whether there are any other questions.
19		Just one set of questions, sir, from
20		Mr Stein.
21	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
22		Questioned by MR STEIN
23	MR	<b>STEIN:</b> Good afternoon, my name is Sam Stein.
24		I represent a very large group of subpostmasters
25		and mistresses.
		138
		100
		100
1		system. Your words were "That was denial at all
1 2		
		system. Your words were "That was denial at all
2		system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs".
2 3		system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that
2 3 4	А.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this
2 3 4 5	А.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message?
2 3 4 5 6	А.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time
2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time was passing on with some more people blaming,
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time was passing on with some more people blaming, rightly so, the Horizon system, and saying I've never heard the words "bugs and defects" until late, you know well, as I was about to leave, but it seemed, when the questions were raised and that conversations that I can I can't recall who said them, but it was "It won't be Horizon system, it's not Fujitsu, it's" and it's like it was a total denial. And it's just my interpretation that this was done because they were heavily invested in it. It had to work. Not just from I don't think just from a monetary point of view they were heavily invested. I think also from
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time was passing on with some more people blaming, rightly so, the Horizon system, and saying I've never heard the words "bugs and defects" until late, you know well, as I was about to leave, but it seemed, when the questions were raised and that conversations that I can I can't recall who said them, but it was "It won't be Horizon system, it's not Fujitsu, it's" and it's like it was a total denial. And it's just my interpretation that this was done because they were heavily invested in it. It had to work. Not just from I don't think just from a monetary point of view they were heavily invested. I think also from a reputational point of view they were heavily
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time was passing on with some more people blaming, rightly so, the Horizon system, and saying I've never heard the words "bugs and defects" until late, you know well, as I was about to leave, but it seemed, when the questions were raised and that conversations that I can I can't recall who said them, but it was "It won't be Horizon system, it's not Fujitsu, it's" and it's like it was a total denial. And it's just my interpretation that this was done because they were heavily invested in it. It had to work. Not just from I don't think just from a monetary point of view they were heavily invested. I think also from a reputational point of view they were heavily invested and I think the fallout to admit, at
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time was passing on with some more people blaming, rightly so, the Horizon system, and saying I've never heard the words "bugs and defects" until late, you know well, as I was about to leave, but it seemed, when the questions were raised and that conversations that I can I can't recall who said them, but it was "It won't be Horizon system, it's not Fujitsu, it's" and it's like it was a total denial. And it's just my interpretation that this was done because they were heavily invested in it. It had to work. Not just from I don't think just from a monetary point of view they were heavily invested. I think also from a reputational point of view they were heavily invested and I think the fallout to admit, at that point, they just didn't want to face.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A.	system. Your words were "That was denial at all costs". Now, can you help us just understand that a little bit more: who was sending out this message, this denial at all costs message? I don't know what person, but I just, as time was passing on with some more people blaming, rightly so, the Horizon system, and saying I've never heard the words "bugs and defects" until late, you know well, as I was about to leave, but it seemed, when the questions were raised and that conversations that I can I can't recall who said them, but it was "It won't be Horizon system, it's not Fujitsu, it's" and it's like it was a total denial. And it's just my interpretation that this was done because they were heavily invested in it. It had to work. Not just from I don't think just from a monetary point of view they were heavily invested. I think also from a reputational point of view they were heavily invested and I think the fallout to admit, at

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1	team. I don't have any firm comments made by
2	individuals to back what I've just said up but
3	my feeling at that time was that, when these

- 4 issues were raised, they wanted them to be put
- 5 to bed. That's just my opinion.
- 6 Q. Now, the date, 2008, and the message that was 7 being sent around by POL, that "denial at all
- 8 costs" message, how close to the date of when
- 9 you left in 2008 was this occurring: was that in
- 10 the months or year before?
- A. I'm sorry, I can't give you a date. I just knew 11
- I was getting more and more unhappy working 12
- 13 there because of certain things that were
- happening, and I made the decision to leave 14 because of it. 15
- 16 Q. Those certain things that were happening, were
- 17 they relevant to the purposes of the Inquiry, in
- other words regarding the Horizon system and its 18 19 issues?
- 20 Α. No, it was more a personal issue with the Head 21 of Security at the time.
- 22 Q. Ms Matthews, when considering the question of 23 the way that POL was denying these issues, can
- 24 I just see if we can probe a little bit further.
- 25 Your line manager was who at that time? 141
- 1 should keep schtum about this and keep it quiet? 2 Α. No. 3 Q. It's just a coincidence, is it, that you're one 4 of a number of witnesses that can't seem to 5 remember who sent out the message about keep 6 quiet about the Horizon system? That's just us 7 coincidence, is it? 8 A. I think it's quite unfair to say them things 9 when you're asking me about conversations from a long time ago and I've done my utmost to try 10 11 to recall and be honest in this situation. It 12 was a feeling amongst people that that's what 13 was happening. 14 It wasn't a conversation where somebody 15 dictated "This the line we're going to take", it 16 wasn't like that. But things were happening 17 more often and -- in terms of subpostmasters 18 saying it was the system, and it was getting 19 more and more frequent and that led you to
- 20 believe is there something in it? 21 So I don't -- it wasn't a message where, you 22 know, we were all brought together or people 23 were told, "This is what we're going to do". It 24 wasn't that sort of situation. 25 MR STEIN: Sir, no further questions.
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- A. When I left, I think it was somebody called 1 2 Julian Tubbs
- Q. Julian? Repeat that please? 3
- 4 A. Julian Tubbs, but he was only by line manager
- for a very short period of time. Prior to that 5
- 6 it was Dave Pardoe. 7 Q. Now, those two individuals, Mr Tubbs and 8 Mr Pardoe, do you think the message was being sent around -- the message of denial at all 9 10 costs was being sent around by those 11 individuals; were they communicating that to 12 vou? 13 **A.** I don't think I ever had a proper conversation 14 with Mr Tubbs and it's not my belief that Mr Pardoe made them assumptions. 15 16 Q. Ms Matthews, this particular issue, which is 17 that that POL was denying and was trying to tell 18 its staff members that there are no issues with 19 the Horizon system, this has come up with now 20 a number of witnesses before this Inquiry, and 21 there appears to be a collective amnesia about 22 this amongst individuals like yourself, in other 23 words not able to recall who on earth was 24 setting out this message. 25 Has word gone around, Ms Matthews, that you 142 1 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you. Is that it, Mr Beer? MR BEER: Yes, it is, sir. 2 3 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, thank you very much, 4 Ms Matthews, for giving your witness statement 5 and for answering a good many questions today. 6 I'm grateful to you. 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 8 MR BEER: Sir, we return now at 10.00 am on Tuesday 9 with Mr Graham Brander. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine. Thank you. 10 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir. 11 12 (2.34 pm) 13 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am 14 on Tuesday, 28 November 2023) 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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nobody [2] 12/23 13/13 nodded [1] 72/21 Noel [1] 66/10 non [4] 34/15 69/16 131/25 133/14 nor-sensitive [3] 34/15 131/25 133/14 normal [9] 81/12 85/16 87/3 87/12 87/20 88/16 92/2 92/21 94/17 normally [3] 6/16 11/3 69/5 North [5] 48/17 125/8 127/19 128/20 135/11 Northern [1] 8/3 not [127] 2/1 2/8 9/24 12/1 12/2 12/24 13/3 16/15 19/15 19/16 19/20 20/1 23/10 25/10 25/22 28/22 29/1 29/3 30/20 32/23 35/14 36/3 36/13	nothing [3] 4/6 58/24 59/8 notice [1] 90/8 notification [1] 122/25 notified [1] 41/18 November [11] 1/1 5/3 71/17 71/18 102/14 115/17 126/20 128/13 132/3 135/7 144/14 now [36] 1/12 1/23 3/12 32/11 37/3 51/21 51/24 52/5 52/10 52/17 57/11 59/16 67/17 71/3 74/12 74/12 84/13 86/19 94/21 97/6 103/6 112/18 115/21 118/1 126/12 127/25 130/20 130/21 130/21 136/4 139/22 140/3 141/6 142/7 142/19 144/8	occurrences [2] 81/12 85/16 occurrences' [2] 87/12 94/18 occurring [1] 141/9 October [15] 39/25 49/2 50/14 51/13 57/15 61/13 62/24 63/2 65/12 65/17 65/19 66/14 71/20 77/6 102/14 October 2002 [1] 39/25 odd [2] 49/3 128/24 Oddette [2] 56/1 58/6 off [6] 4/5 12/22 23/13 31/3 65/19 125/2 offence [2] 41/14 120/3 offence/s [1] 41/14 offences [1] 40/17 offender [3] 40/20 40/23 70/4	104/22 105/23 111/4 131/2 131/6 132/7 135/8 137/21 Officer's [1] 34/17 officers [4] 7/15 10/19 10/21 135/23 offices [9] 6/17 8/2 8/11 8/16 10/11 11/23 12/4 58/17 96/22 offsite [1] 71/14 often [3] 60/6 117/3 143/17 oil [1] 96/10 okay [18] 19/14 22/6 22/10 23/11 38/2 47/9 52/15 54/5 55/9 61/11 66/5 66/9 81/18 96/18 133/24 133/25 137/24 139/18 on [172] once [3] 76/18 96/2 96/23 one [61] 4/5 7/20	96/6 136/10 opening [1] 73/2 operate [1] 22/24 operated [5] 42/13 52/6 52/8 52/11 52/17 operating [11] 22/5 55/5 58/16 61/9 82/28 83/2 84/20 86/2 98/1 98/17 99/1 operation [7] 21/24 24/21 27/22 33/15 83/2 89/24 92/2 operational [3] 39/13 41/12 41/18 opinion [4] 73/16 89/17 140/24 141/5 opportunities [1] 123/9 opportunity [2] 3/11 76/20 opposed [1] 132/23 option [2] 40/23 92/13
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				(60) whiff - zero

(60) whiff - zero