1	Thursday, 30 November 2023	1	Office came to realise that there was no
2	(10.30 am)	2	realistic prospect of successfully convicting
3	MR BEER: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear	3	Mr Brown of any criminal offence and,
4	us?	4	accordingly, before the trial date, no evidence
5	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can.	5	was offered and Mr Brown was acquitted.
6	MR BEER: Thank you very much.	6	Mr Brown was a claimant in the Group
7	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Before you call Mr Singh to give	7	Litigation. He received a modest amount of
8	evidence, Mr Beer, I'd like to say a few words.	8	compensation as a consequence of that litigation
9	Many of you will know from reports in the	9	and I understand that, much more recently, he
10	media that a former subpostmaster and Core	10	received an interim payment under the Group
11	Participant, Mr Thomas Brown, recently passed	11	Litigation compensation scheme. However,
12	away. Mr Brown began his career as	12	Mr Brown's compensation award under that schem
13	a subpostmaster in 1979 or 1980. He was based	13	had not been finalised prior to his death.
14	in the northeast of England and, over very	14	The Inquiry Team and I would like to extend
15	nearly 30 years, he managed and owned Post	15	our deepest sympathies to Mr Brown's family and
16	Office branches in that area very successfully.	16	friends. From all I have read and heard about
17	An audit in 2008 purported to show a very	17	Mr Brown, he will be greatly missed.
18	large shortfall. That alleged shortfall was	18	Thank you, Mr Beer.
19	based upon data produced by Horizon. Mr Brown	19	MR BEER: Thank you sir, I know that Mr Brown's
20	was suspended and shortly thereafter his	20	family couldn't be here today to hear you say
21	contract with the Post Office was terminated.	21	that but they are watching, each of them, from
22	In due course, Mr Brown was declared bankrupt.	22	the northeast, in Newcastle, and I think, in due
23	The Post Office began criminal proceedings	23	course, they're to apply to become Core
24	against Mr Brown which reached the Crown Court.	24	Participants in the Inquiry.
25	However, my understanding is that the Post	25	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, one can never be certain of
	1		2
		4	
1	anything but I imagine that their grounds for	1	must tell me that you wish to rely upon the
2	becoming Core Participant are compelling,	2	privilege against self-incrimination.
3	Mr Beer.	3	If, therefore, any questions are put to you
4	MR BEER: Thank you, sir.	4	by any of the lawyers who ask you questions or
5	Can I call Jarnail Singh, please.	5	by me which you do not wish to answer, on the
6	JARNAIL SINGH (sworn)	6	grounds that to answer such questions might
7	Questioned by MR BEER	7	incriminate you, you must tell me immediately
8	MR BEER: Please do take a seat, Mr Singh.	8	after any such question is put. At that point,
9	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.	9	I will consider your objection and, thereafter,
10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Before Mr Beer asks you any	10	rule upon whether your objection should be
11	questions, Mr Singh, I think it appropriate to	11	upheld.
12	address you as follows. Under our law,	12	I understand from Mr Beer that you are
13	a witness at a public Inquiry has the right to	13	represented here today by a solicitor. No
14	decline to answer a question put to him by	14	doubt, if the issue relating to
15	Counsel to the Inquiry, by any recognised legal	15	self-incrimination arises, the solicitor will
16	representative or by me, if there is a risk that	16	assist you and, if at any stage during the
17	the answer to that question would incriminate	17	questioning, you wish to consult your lawyer
18	the witness. This legal principle is known in	18	about the privilege against self-incrimination,
19	shorthand form as the privilege against	19	you must tell me so that I can consider whether
20	self-incrimination.	20	that is appropriate.
21	Mr Singh, fairness demands that I remind you	21	Do you understand all that, Mr Singh?
22	of that principle before you give your evidence.	22	THE WITNESS: I do, sir. I'm very grateful. Thank
23	If at any stage you wish to rely on the	23	you.
24	privilege, it is for you to make that clear to	24	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.
25	me in respect of any question put to you, ie you	25	Over to you, Mr Beer.

1	MR BEER:	Thank you, sir.
2	Му	name is Jason Beer and
3	behalf	of the Inquiry. Can you g

d I ask questions on behalf of the Inquiry. Can you give us your

full name, please? 4

5 A. Jarnail Singh.

6 Q. Thank you very much for coming to give evidence

7 to the Inquiry today and tomorrow and for

8 previously providing a witness statement to us.

9 You should have a copy of that witness

10 statement --

A. I've got it here, yes. 11

Q. -- in front of you. Thank you. It's 89 pages 12

13 in length, excluding the indexes to the exhibits

14 and it's dated 6 October. For the transcript,

15 the URN is WITN04750100.

16 A. Yes.

23

1

17 Q. If you turn to the 89th page, please, is that

your signature? 18

19 A. That is my signature but I think we discussed

20 before, I need to amend a few paragraphs.

21 Q. Yes, before I ask you whether the contents are

22 true to the best of your knowledge and belief,

I think there are a series of corrections you'd

24 like to make?

25 A. Yes, please.

5

recall this meeting or ever discussing Gareth

•	result the meeting of ever discussing Careti
2	Jenkins' witness statement with him. As far as
3	I recall, I had very limited involvement with
4	Mr Jenkins. I cannot recall any discussions
5	where he was informed of his duties to the
6	Court, although I would have assumed Counsel
7	would have informed him of the same."
8	Which is the correction or clarification

9 that you would like to make? A. The only word there is "very limited", and that 10

11 can go. That can be:

"I had more involvement with Mr Gareth 12 Jenkins." 13

14 Q. Sorry, so the sentence which says, "As far as I recall I had very limited involvement with 15

16 Mr Jenkins" --

A. I had more --17

Q. Hold on. Mr Singh, if you let me ask the 18 question first --19

20 **A**. Sorry.

-- then when I finish speaking, if you start 21

22 speaking --

23 A. Yes, let me know.

24 So the sentence which says, "As far as I recall

25 I had very limited involvement with Mr Jenkins",

7

1 Q. If we go to page 19, please, and paragraph 51,

if that could be brought up on the screen,

3 please. Paragraph 51, the sentence which reads:

"When the matter was committed to the Crown 4

Court, once instructed, Counsel were asked to 5

6 draft the indictment and in doing so, look at

7 the summons, and also provide advice on

8 evidence. Essentially they would revisit and

9 review the whole case."

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What's the correction you'd like to make to

that? 12

15

13 A. Just to add a paragraph just to clarify, I think

14 for you and anybody who wants to have a look at

this statement, is that if we can add:

16 "After counsel has been instructed, the case 17 papers are passed on or passed on to the legal 18 executives to manage and progress the case in 19 the Crown Court."

20 That's all.

21 Q. Thank you. Can we turn to page 25, please. On

22 paragraph 70. This reads:

23 "[A document] references a meeting which 24 I attended with Gareth Jenkins, Warwick Tatford 25 and Jon Longman in October 2010. I do not

1 what is the amendment you would like to make --

2 Δ Well --

Q. Hold on. 3

4 A. I was looking at you --

5 Q. What is the amendment you would like to make to

6 that?

7 A. That should read:

"As far as I recall, I had more or greater involvement with Mr Jenkins."

Q. So the opposite to what it says? 10

Δ Yes. 11

8

9

Q. Is that right? 12

13 Yes.

14 Q. The third correction, please, page 26,

15 paragraph 76, which is at the foot of the page.

16 It reads:

17 "My understanding is that when 18 a subpostmaster was found guilty, repayment 19 directions were given by the Court. Counsel 20 would forward these to [the Criminal Law Team] 21 who would make sure they were complied with by 22 the Defence. If enforcement proceedings were

23 needed because the directions were not complied

24 with, the Investigation and Security Team would

25 approach us and we would make the appropriate

1		application to the Court. To clarify, this was	1		I think that's fine. That's fine.
2		before the separation of the businesses. When	2	Q.	So it was the enforcement team who would made
3		the businesses separated, enforcement	3		they were complied the with by the defence
4		proceedings were dealt with by [Cartwright	4	A.	Yes.
5		King]."	5	Q.	not the Criminal Law Team?
6		What's the correction or clarification you'd	6	A.	Yes.
7		like to make there?	7	Q.	Is that the effect of the amendment you want to
8	A.	Just give me a second.	8		make?
9		Yes, where it says, "Counsel would forward	9	A.	Yes.
10		these to CLT", if we delete if we add there	10	Q.	So it should read:
11		something to the effect of:	11		"Counsel would forward these to the Criminal
12		" and these were copied on to the	12		Law Team and the Enforcement Team, the latter of
13		Investigation and Security Team."	13		whom would make sure they were complied with by
14	Q.	Thank you.	14		the defence."
15	A.	And I think if you delete so it should read:	15	A.	Yes.
16		"My understanding is that where the	16	Q.	Thank you. Then lastly page 67, paragraph 200.
17		subpostmaster is found guilty repayment	17		Towards the bottom of the page
18		directions were given by the Court. Counsel	18	A.	Oh.
19		would put forward these to CLT who would in turn	19	Q.	it reads:
20		copy this to the Investigation and Security Team	20		"I had limited contact with Mr Jenkins and
21		"	21		am not in a position to comment on any views
22		And if we can then	22		that he expressed in relation to the disclosure
23		" who would make sure they were complied	23		being sought by the Defence and the relevance of
24		with by the Defence"	24		the material sought to the case. His main point
25		(The witness read to himself)	25		of contact was Jon Longman."
1		What's the correction or clarification	1		and I'm not going to ask you about every part of
2	Α.	Ah I think that's where	2		it; do you understand?
3		hold on.	3	Α.	Yes.
4	_	Sorry, I should be looking at you. Sorry.	4	Q.	• •
5	Q.	•	5		today to assist the Inquiry with the issues
6		would like to make to that, please?	6		arising in Phase 4 of the Inquiry, that is the
7	Α.	I think that should be:	7		investigation and prosecution of subpostmasters
8	_	"I had more contact with Mr Jenkins"	8		for criminal offences. We're going to ask you
9	Q.	So it should read:	9		to return kindly next year to give evidence
10		"I had more contact with Mr Jenkins"	10		about the issues in Phases 5 and 6 of the
11		I had, yeah, something	11		Inquiry, and that includes: your interactions
12	Q.	and "am" or "am not" in a position to	12		with Simon Clarke; your interactions with
13		comment?	13		Cartwright King more generally; the
14	Α.	Um I think that's yeah, I think that'll	14		circumstances in which Mr Clarke's shredding
15	_	be fine, I think	15		advice came to be written; your involvement with
16	Q.	That should stay. So it's:	16		the Second Sight reviews; your communications
17		"I had more contact with Mr Jenkins"	17		with Susan Crichton and other senior members of
18	Α.	Yeah.	18		the Post Office, Chris Aujard as well and Brian
19	Q.	, and the second	19		Altman KC.
20		account, are the contents of that witness	20		I'm not going to ask you about those matters
21		statement true to the best of your knowledge and	21		today although some of the documents I'm going
22		belief?	22		to refer you to touch on Phase 4 issues, even
23	Α.	Yes. Yes, it is.	23		though they were created in 2012, 2013 and 2014.
24	Q.	Thank you. A copy of that witness statement is	24		Can I start please with your professional
25		going to be uploaded to the Inquiry's website 11	25		background. In your witness statement, 12
		The state of the s			· -

- paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, which is on page 3 -- no 1
- 2 need to display it for the moment -- you
- 3 describe your roles within the Royal Mail Group
- 4 and within Post Office Limited and you exhibit
- 5 a copy of your CV, your curriculum vitae,
- 6 setting out your qualifications and your career.
- 7 Can I summarise it, those two sources --
- 8 paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 and the CV -- as follows,
- 9 and tell me whether I get it right:
- 10 Firstly, is it right that between 1985 and
- 1989 you were a legal executive in private 11
- 12 practice and that involved work in two firms.
- 13 In the latter firm you worked in conveyancing,
- 14 buying and selling houses.
- 15 Α. Yes.
- 16 Q. You joined the Post Office as a legal executive
- 17 in December 1989 and, again, you worked in
- 18 conveyancing, specifically in the Post Office's
- 19 commercial conveyancing department?
- 20 Α.
- Whilst you were working for the Post Office you 21 Q.
- were admitted as a solicitor in December 1992; 22
- 23 is that right?
- 24 That's right, yes. Α.
- 25 Does that mean that you were studying for your
- 1 Prosecutions Department?
- 2 A. When I joined? No, I think I -- I think I --
- 3 the structure of the team was, I think, there
- 4 was the Head of Criminal Law Team --
- 5 Q. Sorry, say that again?
- 6 A. There was -- the structure of the Prosecutions
- 7 Department when I joined, was that there were
- 8 head -- Head of the Criminal Law Team.
- 9 Q. Who was that?
- That was Mike Heath, and then you'd eight senior 10 A.
- 11 lawyers on the same position, I think they were,
- 12 then you had three or four legal executives,
- 13 three or four admin staff, and four or five
- 14 secretaries
- Q. I see. 15
- So --16 Α.
- 17 Q. It's just in your CV, if we can have it up on
- the screen, WITN04750101, thank you. If we look 18
- at the second page, look at foot of the page, do 19
- 20 you see the last paragraph where it says:
- 21 "In August 1995 I transferred to the
- 22 Prosecution Division as the senior lawyer ..."
- 23 No, well, maybe "the" need to come out. I think Α.
- 24 we were all on the same grade, basically. Some
- 25 more experienced than others but they were all

- 1 Law Society finals whilst you were working in
- 2 the Conveyancing Department?
- 3 A. Yes, yes I was, yes.
- 4 Q. Then in September 1993 you transferred to the
- Post Office's Litigation Department; is that 5
- 6 right?
- 7 A. That's right, yes.
- That was handling civil work; is that correct? 8
- A. No, no, the -- yeah, that was the Civil 9
- 10 Litigation Department before I joined the
- Prosecution Department. 11
- So you transferred to the Litigation Department 12 Q.
- 13 in September 1993 --
- 14 '90 --Α.
- 15 Q. -- and worked on civil work --
- 16 A. Civil work, yes.
- 17 Q. Then in August 1995 you transferred to the
- 18 Prosecutions Department?
- 19 A. That's right, yes.
- 20 Q. You tell us in your CV that upon transfer to the
- 21 Prosecutions Department, you were the senior
- 22 lawyer in the Prosecutions Department; is that
- 23 right?
- 24 A. Yes, yes, I was, yes.
- 25 Q. Was there only one senior lawyer in the
- 1 known as senior lawyers and I think subsequently
- 2 they changed the titles.
- 3 Q. So where it says, "the senior lawyer", that's
- 4 a bit misleading, isn't it?
- 5 A. Possibly.
- 6 Q. So that should be "as one of eight senior
- 7 lawyers and there wasn't any other grade, we
- 8 were all senior lawyers"?
- 9 A. Yes, I think so. I think --
- Q. Okay. Did that remain the case that you were 10
- 11 one of the senior lawyers --
- 12 Α. Yes

- 13 -- until separation in 2012?
- 14 A. I don't know. Subsequently, there were various
- structures, there were various roles, name 15
- changes, to principal and principal lawyers and 16
- 17 team leaders, and all sorts of things like that.
- 18 But, generally, we were the same grade doing
- more or less the same work. 19
- 20 Q. Okay. That can come down. Thank you.
- 21 Did you manage other lawyers.
- 22 A. No, no, I don't think any of us did, apart from
- 23 the team leader or the, you know, the Head of
- Criminal Law. I think they managed -- I don't 25 think anybody actually managed anybody else,

- 1 apart from the legal executive and they
- 2 basically assisted you, they worked with you,
- 3 rather than sort of managed them as such,
- 4 because they were experienced.
- 5 Q. So when the name "senior lawyer" got changed to
- 6 "Team Leader", you weren't in fact leading
- 7 a team at all?
- 8 A. I think it -- I don't think anything really
- 9 changed apart from separation. On separation,
- 10 obviously I was --
- 11 Q. We're talking about before separation --
- 12 A. No, I think there was a team leader -- or not
- team leader, he was the Head of Criminal Law,
- 14 I think that was one grade and I think he
- 15 managed and supervised everybody else.
- 16 Q. Okay, it's just a moment ago you said the name
- 17 changed from senior lawyer to Principal Lawyer
- 18 to Team Leader, referring to the role you were
- 19 undertaking. Did that happen before separation
- 20 in 2012?
- 21 A. No, no. Sorry, it's probably -- I'm trying to
- 22 sort of adjust to the Inquiry's -- yeah, there
- 23 was the -- the -- yeah, sorry. Let me clarify.
- There was the Head of Criminal Law Team, he
- 25 managed, basically, the senior lawyers, and
- 1 I worked very closely with one of the senior
- 2 partners in the firm, the first firm I joined,
- 3 and I did about three -- three or four years
- 4 with --
- 5 Q. That was defending though, presumably?
- 6 A. It was defending but he did quite a bit of
- 7 prosecution. I assisted with him -- I assisted
- 8 him. I don't know whether it was Trading
- 9 Standards, or something like that now, I mean
- 10 years and years ago now, but he did something
- and I did a lot of preparation for him. Did all
- the research and everything else. But I have
- no -- that's right, I mean, you can say that.
- 14 Certainly, that was the only experience I had of
- 15 criminal law.
- 16 Q. As a legal exec?
- 17 A. As a legal exec, yes.
- 18 Q. Had you done any private prosecution work?
- 19 **A.** No
- 20 Q. Had you ever had to give advice on the Full Code
- 21 Test in the Code for Crown Prosecutors?
- 22 **A.** Prior to --
- 23 Q. Prior to joining as a senior lawyer in August
- 24 1995?
- 25 **A.** No.

- 1 I think the Principal --
- 2 Q. Sorry, he managed the senior lawyers?
- 3 A. He managed all the team, basically, yeah the
- 4 legal executives, the secretaries, the admin,
- and also the, you know, the lawyers. That's
 basically it. He was the head of the team,
- 7 and --
- 8 Q. So from August '95 until separation in 2012, you
- 9 remained the same grade --
- 10 A. Yeah --
- 11 Q. -- senior lawyer --
- 12 A. More or less, yes.
- 13 Q. More or less or, in fact, the same?
- 14 A. Yeah, nothing changed for me, no.
- 15 Q. At the time you became the senior lawyer you
- were, I think, by my calculations, two years and
- 17 eight months qualified; is that right?
- 18 A. Yes, I think so.
- 19 Q. You hadn't practised in criminal law whilst
- 20 you'd worked at the Post Office; is that right?
- 21 A. Not with the Post Office, no.
- 22 Q. Had you ever done any prosecution work before?
- 23 A. In -- when I first started, I was the personal
- representative under the duty scheme, you know,
- when it came in, 1984/85, whenever it was, when
 - 18
 - Q. Had you ever had to determine questions of
- 2 evidential sufficiency, whether to move to
- 3 a charge or a summons before?
- 4 A. Not as a -- not on the prosecution side of it.
- 5 I mean it's not anything I've looked at the
- 6 evidence, taken witness statements for the
- 7 senior partner -- well -- most of the
- 8 preparation work was done by me.
- 9 Q. Had you ever had to deal with whether
- 10 a prosecution was in the public interest from
- 11 the prosecution side?
- 12 **A.** No.

- 13 Q. Did you always report to the head of the
- 14 Criminal Law Team?
- 15 A. Well, talking about now, the Post Office
- 16 prosecution?
- 17 **Q.** Yes.
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 **Q.** From August '95 --
- 20 **A.** Yes --
- 21 **Q.** -- to separation in 2012?
- 22 A. -- yes, well -- well, I inherited a very small
- 23 casework, but I worked very closely with the --
- 24 two of the senior lawyers, very, very closely.
- 25 Q. Who were they?

A. I worked very closely with a number -- one or or Victoria 1 1 2 two senior lawyers. 2 Q. Was this your full-time job? 3 Q. Yes, and who were they? 3 A. Yes. 4 A. There was Tony Brentnall and one other lady 4 Q. You didn't have any other jobs? who -- Debbie Stapel. A. Well, I was -- I had a consultancy type of thing 5 5 6 Q. Were you reporting, nonetheless, only to the 6 going on but that's more to do with working with Head of Criminal Law? 7 7 somebody else to gain some other experience, but 8 A. I think -- I think -it wasn't substantive, or anything like that. 8 9 It was a bit like a hobby. It would be like Q. Was he or she your line manager? 9 10 A. I think -- I suppose -- yeah. Yes. I think so, 10 being monitored, you know, in a business 11 capacity type of thing. 11 Did that remain constant until separation in 12 I did a -- it was a businessman I met and he 12 Q. 13 2012? 13 wanted me to do some work for him and he was A. I think it was Mike Heath originally and then 14 basically acting as my mentor, and I set up 14 when I think Rob Wilson took over, yes -- he 15 a consultancy in consultation with the 15 16 was -- yeah. 16 Law Society, and it was properly registered 17 Q. So they were your line managers? 17 under the legislation, the Law Society knew A. They were the line managers, yes. 18 about it, the Post Office knew about it, but it 18 19 Q. Where were you located? 19 didn't have any impact on any other work I did 20 A. In, firstly, Impact House in Croydon. Then 20 for the Post Office at all. 21 subsequently Victoria -- Eccleston Street in 21 Q. Can we just look at your CV please, 22 Victoria. 22 WITN04750101. You set out your employment 23 Q. Were all of the lawyers located there? 23 history here, if we scroll down, and then if we 24 A. All of the prosecution team has always been 24 go over the page, please, December '89 to May 25 together in -- you know, either in Impact House 25 '15, so 26 years at the Post Office in its 22 1 various guises. Then if we go to the foot of 1 applications, transfer of equity, drafting 2 the page, please, it says April 1996 to present, 2 leases, drafting commercial assignments, 3 "J Singh Judge Solicitors, Crawley West Sussex". 3 leases/licences, auction transactions and 4 A. Yes. 4 property litigation. 5 **Q.** Then over the page, please: 5 "Worked with a range of clients including 6 "In relation to property law, experienced in 6 large and small businesses [including] 7 7 both Commercial and Residential Property Law, acquiring, selling, leasing or developing 8 including Have a detailed [I think that must 8 property of all types, limited companies and 9 mean 'including having a detailed'] knowledge of 9 limited liability partnerships and private 10 the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987, the Housing 10 individuals with active portfolios [then I think Act 1996" --11 11 a full stop] Freehold commercial property 12 A. Yes 12 acquisition and funding including the 13 Q. -- "the Leasehold Reform Housing and Urban 13 introduction of commercial lenders where 14 Development Act 1993, the Land Registration Act 14 appropriate. 15 2002 and the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 15 "We were an accredited Law Society

16

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"Acted on numerous residential conveyances in the local Crawley, Horsham and West Sussex areas, as well as lease and rental agreements for both Private and Council tenancies. Extensive experience in all property matters up to senior level dealing including the following buying and selling of residential and commercial

properties [I think there are some words missing

23

25 there], commercial and residential remortgage

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

2002.

24

Is that all accurate, that from 1996 onwards

Conveyancing Quality Scheme practice. Our

accreditation provides [presumably that means

'provided'] recognition of our adherence to good

conveyancing procedures which also led to our

introduction onto the panel for some major High

providing efficient and high quality

Street Mortgage lenders."

you were doing that?

practice, management standards and commitment to

- A. Yes, it is, yes. At that time, the indemnity
 insurance was taken care of by the Law Society
 and it was practical. It worked. Yes, it did.
- 4 Q. So you had two jobs?
- 5 A. I didn't -- there wasn't that much work in that
- 6 sense but what I did do was I worked very
- 7 closely with the previous employers, referring
- 8 work to them, so I -- the firm I left
- 9 beforehand, and the previous firm when first
- 10 I started. A lot of the work was done for the
- 11 local community, more or less. They came to see
- me and I referred them on.
- 13 It wasn't sort of a full-time job, as such,
- 14 it's more or less doing the community service,
- 15 like putting something back in the community,
- 16 more then --
- 17 Q. It looks -- I'm so sorry, I spoke over you.
- 18 **A.** Sorry.
- 19 Q. It looks like quite a lot of work?
- 20 A. Well, it looks like -- on paper, it's completely
- 21 different to what the reality was. The reality
- 22 was that it worked for me and, instead of
- 23 collecting stamps, I was able to put something
- 24 back in the community. A lot of people were
- 25 grateful for it, for the referral for the
 - 25
- 1 A. It was, yeah -- yes, you could say that. But it
- 2 didn't interfere --
- 3 Q. Well, I am saying it and I'm asking you whether
- 4 it's true.
- 5 A. It is true. Yes. But it's -- it was true up to
- 6 about year 2000/2001, and I think after that,
- 7 the indemnity insurance got so much, purely
- 8 because it went -- it went on the free market.
- 9 Instead of £20, £30 a month, it went up to God
- 10 knows what it did, and all I did then was
- 11 restricted it to monitoring or mentoring --
- 12 I think it is the expression -- by this
- 13 businessman. I did bits and pieces for him --
- 14 a bit -- you know, advised him, drafted letters
- and things for him because he was grateful for
- 16 that.
- 17 Q. You said that it is true up until 2000. If we
- 18 look at the foot of the previous page, it says
- 19 April '96 to present.
- 20 A. Yes, presently it's true. Presently, as you
- 21 know the work I've done, I'm acting as -- I'm
- 22 working as a consultant for one of the firms --
- 23 Q. Hold on, just stop. If we look at the next
- 24 page, please, and scroll down, here, you detail
- 25 what you do since you left the Post Office and

- 1 recommendations I made, and the Law Society was
- 2 happy with it, because I think it was the Law
- 3 Society who recommended it and I said "Look,
- 4 this what I'm doing, this is my full time job,
- 5 the Post Office obviously doesn't interfere,
- 6 there's no conflict, but this what I want to
- 7 do". And I think what they actually recommended
- 8 very kindly, "Look, why don't you set it up as
- 9 a consultancy? You can do both", and I think as
- 10 and when the practice certificate was up for
- 11 renewal --
- 12 THE STENOGRAPHER: Sorry, can you slow down?
- 13 A. As and when the practice certificate came up for
- 14 renewal, it was done as a bulk renewal by the
- 15 Post Office and they knew very well what I was
- doing, but it didn't interfere because it was,
- 17 like, you know, either collecting stamps or
- doing something like that, which is useful to
- the community it was useful to me and that was
- 20 a reason why I did what I had to do.
- 21 Q. Is a summary of that, for the entirety of the
- 22 period we were looking at, as well as being
- 23 a senior lawyer in the Prosecutions Department
- 24 of the Post Office, you were also in private
- 25 practice?

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- 1 I'm not going to ask you any questions about
- 2 what you've done since you left the Post
- 3 Office --
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. -- because that's March '16 onwards and then
- 6 August 2021 onwards.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I'm asking you about this period from April 1996
- 9 to the present day. You've just told us that,
- in fact, it was only until 2000 or 2001 that
- 11 that carried on?
- 12 A. Well, maybe that needs correcting or amending
- but, certainly, it's in existence but I don't do
- 14 any work through it, purely because I don't want
- to do it. But I -- if I wanted to, I could do.
- 16 It's there. If I want to put it into practice
- now, the fact is that I can't use it purely
- 18 because I -- I'm inundated from a lot of
- 19 paperwork from the Inquiry.
- 20 So, you know, this a full-time job, dealing 21 with the Inquiry, the questions and preparing
- 22 statements and reading the documentation
- forwarded to me by the Inquiry. But it's in
- 24 existence, any time I want to work with it I can
 - do. It always has been and I think the Law 28

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- 1 Society are quite happy for it to be there.
- 2 I mean, there's nothing untoward in that.
- 3 I mean, I don't know what's the point you're
- 4 trying to make. It didn't interfere with --
- 5 Q. I'm not making any point. I'm just letting you
- 6 speak at the moment.
- 7 A. Okay, well, you tell me what the upshot of it
- 8 and I'll explain it to you.
- 9 Q. I've asked you, is it correct that, for the
- 10 entirety of the period that we're looking at, as
- well as being a senior lawyer in the 11
- 12 Prosecutions Department, you were also in
- 13 private practice? I think you said yes.
- A. Yes. Yes, I suppose I was. Yes. 14
- Q. If we scroll up this page, please. You were 15
- 16 acting in on numerous residential conveyances in
- 17 that period, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 You were working with large and small businesses
- 20 buying and selling or leasing properties; is
- 21 that correct?
- 22 A. That's correct as well, yes.
- 23 Q. You say this is the equivalent to having a hobby
- 24 of collecting stamps?
- 25 Α. Yes.

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- 1 Α. Yes.
- 2 Q. From 2012 onwards, from the separation of the
- 3 business onwards, did you manage any other
- 4 criminal lawyers within the Post Office?
- 5 A. No. There was no other criminal lawyers there.
- 6 Q. It was just you?
- 7 Α. Just me.
- 8 Q. From that time onwards, from separation onwards,
- 9 was the Criminal Law Team sufficiently
- staffed --10
- A. Well --11
- 12 Q. -- ie, by you and you alone?
- You mean this is Post Office Limited now, 13
- 14 1 April '12 onwards? No.
- Q. It wasn't sufficiently staffed? 15
- Well, the --16 Α.
- 17 Q. In what respect wasn't it sufficiently staffed?
- A. Well, firstly, I had no assistants. I had no --18
- 19 at CLT, the Criminal Law Team, before -- prior
- 20 to it, I had a secretary who basically did all
- 21 the typing for me because I'm not very good at
- 22 IT. I had a desktop but I dictated everything
- 23 to her, she put everything together and then you
- 24 had the legal executives putting the bundles
- 25 together for the jury, for the advance

Q. Yes, we'll move on, thank you.

2 In paragraph 7 of your witness statement,

3 you say that when you transferred over to the

4 Post Office in 2012, you were the only in-house

- criminal lawyer within the Criminal Law Team; is 5
- 6 that right?
- 7 A. That's right.
- 8 Q. What was the reason for the Post Office reducing
- 9 the number of in-house criminal lawyers?
- 10 A. I think you'd need to ask somebody senior.
- 11 I have no idea why they did that. All they did
 - was separated the businesses and I think the --
- 13 their plan, the business plan was to have one
- 14 senior lawyer -- senior criminal lawyer, one
- 15 commercial lawyer to head those teams and to
- 16 have -- my understanding was to oversee and
- 17 manage the work done by a private firm who'd
- 18 done the -- tendered the work out to the private
- 19
- 20 I think that was their model and I fitted in
- 21 with the, you know, the criminal -- criminal law
- 22 aspect of it or the prosecution side of it.
- 23 Q. So the model was to outsource the work to
- 24 a firm, is that right, but to retain one lawyer
- 25 in-house?

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- 1 information, for the Magistrates Court.
- 2 I didn't have any of that. So I basically
- 3 said "Look, I can't do the job you're trying to
- 4 tell me to do", so a lot of the work, basically
- 5 all the work, literally from the beginning to
- 6 the end of the case, went to Cartwright King.
- 7 So that was the only way it worked. So the only
- 8 thing I did was basically managed them and did
- 9 the admin or the advice sought by the seniors
- 10 within the Post Office.
- 11 Q. Thank you. Did you complain about this?
- Well, I -- I don't know what you mean by 12
- 13 complaint? I mean --
- 14 Q. Raise a grumble, express your dissatisfaction,
- 15 express annoyance or other cognate expressions?
- A. It was an open-plan office. We had the head of 16
- 17 Legal, which was -- I've forgotten his name now,
- 18 Hugh Flemington, I think it was, and the
- 19 director of -- or counsel was Susan Crichton. 20
- She was a lovely lady, and Hugh, we got on 21 really well. As and when we needed it, needed
- 22 them to discuss matters, I did. I said, "Look,
- 23 you know, I can't deal with it the way it is,
- 24 the way I want to do it", because the whole
- 25 point was it was a challenge and I have always

been up for challenges.

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And I think they understood, or they didn't understand, I don't know what they did or didn't do about it now but, certainly, I did the best I could and I was glad that you had Cartwright King with the senior experienced expertise to work with, that's the sort of thing I was looking for, basically, and I just fitted in with their team.

And that's how it sort of worked out for me and I was able to have a direct communication with them, and I think every time I phoned, there was always somebody on the other side to discuss matters to help me with some of the advices internally, which the Post Office needed or wanted.

- 17 Q. You had a long career as a criminal lawyer 18 within the Royal Mail Group and then the Post 19 Office Limited?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Given that long career within the Criminal Law
- 22 Team, until you left the Post Office in 2015,
- 23 it's right, isn't it, that you presided over
- 24 a number of prosecutions which have subsequently
- 25 been found by the Court of Appeal to involve

entailed the paperwork I received, I assessed it in line with the law, the evidence, the public interest, and whether it was appropriate for charges to go before the courts.

So, in that respect, you know -- I didn't do the complete job, I didn't do the investigations, I didn't know anything about the Horizon in the sense about how it operated so we had a witness statement to actually explain it and then we had the barristers in turn to approve it, and then it went before the judge to deal with the enforcement side of things, if it needed.

So, in that respect, of course I feel very upset and aggrieved that it had gone so far, because the whole idea of becoming a lawyer wasn't to do any wrong, and I certainly -the -- I didn't want to be here today. I wanted to enjoy a long legal career within the Post Office and whoever, and now to carry on doing the next stage of my life.

And certainly, in that respect, of course I take responsibility for the -- what I've done and sometimes you wake up, sometimes you can't sleep, and say "I wish I'd done more. Why did

miscarriages of justice; that's right, isn't it? 1

- 2 A. That's right, yes.
- Q. 3 Including a number where the Court of Appeal has 4
 - found that the Post Office didn't actually have
- any proof that loss had occurred to the 5
- 6 organisation?
- 7 A. Yes

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- 8 Q. In your witness statement, would you agree that
- 9 you accept no personal responsible for any of
- 10 the actions or admissions relating to the
- 11 specific cases that you're asked about?
- A. How do you mean? What like -- what do you mean 12 13 by that?
- Q. You don't accept any personal responsibility for 14 any mistakes made in relation to the cases that 15
- we asked you about in your witness statement --17 A. Well, obviously, I -- I'm very grieved --
- 18 Q. That's a different issue.
- 19 A. -- and I'm embarrassed and sorry. I mean
- 20 I think maybe we ought to start by me
- 21 apologising directly to the subpostmasters.
- 22 Obviously, I do, you know, we'll their pain 23 and hurt and I can feel the same. And
- 24 I don't -- I've never met any of them. My
- 25
 - basically employment of job entailed, or my role 34

I accept the fact that Horizon was robust when it wasn't?" But this has been going on since

3 about the year 2000 when it first came into --

4 into place and, after that -- and I think I more 5 or less started doing more of the subpostmaster

6 work, purely because I think when Debbie Stapel

7 went off and started doing the Royal Mail work 8

and started working from home.

So you are relying on other people to tell you that, you know, the system is working, the investigation officers, again, should have been the ones who should have got the evidence from the operators and say, "No, you know, we need more evidence", but then maybe it's our fault as lawyers, and say, "No, where's your proof?

16 Prove the -- prove where the shortfall is?" 17 But I think we're a sort of -- more of us

18 are relying on the -- well, we can only do what 19 we've been given, that is the paperwork and we 20 thought that was appropriate. And we, you know,

21 we worked as a sort of team together and we

22 formulated -- I think I told you about the

23 template which we followed it religious -- well,

24 I certainly did, religiously, so that we don't

25 overlook anything. On top of it, all our work

1		was independently assessed and marked, if you
2		like, by the independent Bar, independent
3		barristers.
4	Q.	What scores did they give you when they marked
5		your work?
6	A.	I don't know that they actually gave us a mark
7		but, certainly, if there was no proof or, you
8		know, whether there was no proof or whatever it
9		was, they would have turned it back and said,
10		"No, it's not good enough. We're not going to
11		proceed with it because there's no evidence."
12	Q.	In the long answer you've given, you reflect the
13		approach that you've taken in your witness
14		statement, would you agree, generating an air of
15		detachment of you personally from everything
16		that was going on, blaming the individual
17		investigators, the Fujitsu witnesses and Fujitsu
18		the company, and the independent Bar for
19		anything that had gone wrong. That's your
20		overall take, isn't it?
21	A.	Absolutely not. I take full responsibility for
22		the bits I was involved in.
23	Q.	The bits

(unclear) and I think -- I was actually going to actually apologise to Julian Wilson's family, seeing that he's not here to see that his good name has been put intact and things have been put right.

You know, you cannot work alone on these things,

can you? I mean, you know, if you're going to

They're the ones who were telling everybody that the Horizon system is wrong and nobody believed them and they've been proved right now and I'm with them.

10 Q. I think in those answers you said that you take11 responsibility for any mistakes that you made?

12 A. Well, I think we worked for the --

13 Q. Is that right?

24 **A**.

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14 A. Yes. Well, I wish none of this has happened.

15 Q. What mistakes did you make?

A. Well, the mistakes I made, presumably, are 16 17 relying on other people to tell me how wonderful the system was. But then I wasn't the only one 18 working there. I mean, you had -- we were --19 20 like I said, we had a team who worked on these 21 cases. We had investigations throughout the 22 country. Maybe it was just a big organisation 23 and we couldn't manage it all. Maybe we were 24 just given too much work to deal with.

I don't know what the answer is. But

do something successful, I think no person can actually exist on his own. You've got to work

actually exist on his own. You've got to workit together. You've got to piece everything

4 together. I'm not blaming the investigators;

5 I'm not blaming the Bar, all I'm saying is that

6 I take this -- took this -- I took this role

7 very, very obviously. I take this -- I -- it

8 really hurts me to actually prosecute anybody

9 to -- somebody to go to court and then lose

their livelihood and also to lose, you know, on

top of it, not only that, and then, you know,

the damage to the reputation and credibility

when there -- when there shouldn't have been any

14 need for it.

15 Q. Overall, would you agree that the impressionthat you seek to create in your witness

statement is one of acting with the utmost

18 professionalism at all times, but of sorrow and

being hurt after the event because, if only you

20 had known about Horizon, everything would have

21 been very different?

22 **A.** Absolutely not. I am not that sort of person.

23 It's not the way -- you made me come across

24 wrong. I take full responsibility for the --

you know, the hurt and the sorrow people

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certainly I take responsibility for everything.

But the last thing I wanted to do is have what

I've got -- what I'm faced with now -- faced

4 with, you know, the subpostmasters who I advised

5 on, saying there's sufficient evidence, being

6 prosecuted and then being sentenced to something

7 that they've been wrongly convicted of and then

8 being punished when they shouldn't have been.

9 And I hope this Inquiry give them something they

10 can actually get on with their lives.

11 **Q.** Have you identified any mistake that you made

12 personally?

13 A. Well, the mistake I made was the fact that

14 I was, again, like everybody else, led to

15 believe that this system was good when it

16 wasn't.

17 Q. So you didn't make a mistake yourself personally
18 in anything you did, other than placing reliance
19 on other people?

20 A. Well, no, I -- you know, like anything else,

21 I mean, I thought I was probably the one or --

well, certainly I can tell you from what I did,

23 all I did was I had a template, each and every

24 time, I put in the tests and followed it through

all the way to the actual matter going to the

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1 court, even the disclosure aspect of it. 2 I mean, I took that very, very seriously, and I, 3 in turn, read through it, went away, came back, 4 made a few notes. So I -- I don't know what 5 you're asking me to say. Yes, of course I put 6 my hand up. Of course, I made mistakes. 7 Everybody does. But these were very, very 8 serious mistakes and I wholeheartedly wish they 9 had never happened. 10

And I sometimes wish, you know, if I had the opportunity to leave the Post Office, I wish I left before this, you know, mess basically. That's all it is, isn't it? Because it wasn't -- somebody senior should have said, "Well, no, where's the evidence? Where's the evidence?" Maybe the biggest mistake anybody made is not actually to say, "Well, look, this isn't good. Where is the evidence? Where is the evidence the system is actually good?"

- 20 Q. You said in the course of one of the previous 21 three answers that it hurt you to prosecute 22 anyone?
- 23 A. Yes.

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24 Q. Can I see whether that's true. Can we look 25 please at paragraph 206 and 207 of your witness 41

1 please. If we can focus on the email on the 2 bottom part of the page, please. 3 Can you see that there's an email there

sent -- we can just see it on the right-hand side. It's sort of squished in, Marilyn Benjamin, I think, on behalf of Jarnail Singh sent on 21 October 2010 at 2.58; can you see that?

9 A. Yes. Yes, I can.

Q. The subject "Regina v Seema Misra at Guildford 10 Crown Court -- Trial -- Attack on Horizon". Can 11 you see that this email does not appear to be 12 13 part of a chain? 14

A. I don't know what you mean by that.

Q. Do you know what a chain of emails is? 15

A. Yes, yes I know. Yes. 16

17 Q. If you look, for example, at the following page,

18 it's blank.

Yes 19 Α.

20 Q. No email there.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Then if we go back to page 5. If you look at 23 the subject heading, can you see that, the

24 subject heading? If that can just be

25 highlighted. 2 come up on the screen. You're saying: 3

"I have considered my email dated 21 October 4 2010 and my memo to Post Office Security and 5 others dated 16 November 2010."

statement, please, which is on page 69. It'll

6 Α. Yeah.

7 Q. "At the time, I thought the outcome of the case was a success and I was relieved that the case 8 9 was concluded.

> "There is a comment in my email that 'it is hoped the case will set a marker to dissuade other Defendants from jumping on the Horizon bashing bandwagon'. I was asked to report back to the team and in doing so, I commented on the outcome and the fact that the Defence's criticisms of the Horizon IT system were dealt with and that the prosecution case was made out. I was aware that the case was of wider interest within the business and my comment in relation to other cases was made with this in mind.

21 "The wording of the email also had some 22 input from Counsel."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can we look, please, at the email to which you're referring there. POL00093686, page 5, 25

1 A. Oh, "Attack on Horizon", yeah.

2 Q. It doesn't say, "Re: Regina v Seema Misra" or 3 "FW: Seema Misra". When you a reply to an email 4 or forward an email, the subject heading 5 changes, doesn't it?

6 A. I don't know. I don't know.

7 Q. You do not know that?

8 A. I don't know.

Q. Would you agree that this looks like 9 an originating email from you, you started off 10 11 the conversation here?

A. Well, I was asked -- normally -- I mean, if 12 13 you've seen the previous reports, they're 14 basically done by legal executives. The case 15 comes in and then we've got a format for it and 16 they do it. And I think, in this case, I did 17 ask Phil Taylor to do it and I was told that, 18 "Jarnail, look, you need to do this because it's

19 going to a wider, you know, the wider audience 20 within the business".

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That's the reason why I did it, and then I did basically, you know -- told the first bit, saying, "Look, this case was, you know, a lengthy trial at Guildford Crown Court after" --

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- 1 Q. We can see what the email says. We're going to
- 2 come to that in a moment.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. Would you agree that you appear to have started
- 5 the conversation off here by this email?
- 6 A. Yes, yeah.
- 7 Q. So you picked both the title and the
- 8 distribution list?
- 9 A. Well, I was given the distribution list. I --
- 10 Q. Who gave you the description list?
- 11 **A.** I think maybe Rob Wilson, maybe, I think, Mandy
- 12 Talbot.
- 13 $\,$ **Q**. So how would they give you the distribution
- 14 list, Rob Wilson and Mandy Talbot?
- 15 A. Well, they said "Look, these people are
- 16 interested. This business, these units are
- 17 interested in this case and you need to send
- 18 it". Even that Doug Evans. Doug Evans was
- 19 the -- I don't know the Head of Legal,
- 20 basically, of the whole business. I've never
- 21 sent Doug Evans anything of that nature.
- 22 Q. So would they have emailed you a distribution
- 23 list or would they have told you orally to whom
- you need to send the --
- 25 **A.** I don't know. I mean this is going back 12/13
 - 45
- 1 A. Well --
- 2 Q. Or was that dictated to you?
- 3 A. If there is -- it was dictated to me. If you
- 4 look at one of the enclosures the Inquiry sent
- 5 me, it's a cover, a brown cover on the file.
- 6 I don't know where it is now, and that's what it
- 7 was. You know, it said, "Jarnail, you ought to
- 8 do it, you're the senior lawyer, it's your
- 9 case", that type of thing, and that's when I did
- 10 the first bit, then I was told that "You need to
- do a little bit more because it's going to go to
- 12 our communication team". I didn't even know we
- 13 had a communication in existence.
- So, basically, then that last bit about the
- 15 jumping on the Horizon bashing --
- 16 Q. I haven't asked you about that. All I'm asking
- 17 you about at the moment is the --
- 18 A. Well, let's stick with that. It wasn't my idea
- 19 to put it the way it is. What I would have done
- 20 is the Post Office Limited v Seema Misra, this
- 21 was the result, the case was concluded after
- 22 a lengthy trial and she was found guilty by the
- 23 jury.
- 24 Q. Whose idea was it? Who dictated to you that the
- 25 words "Attack on Horizon" needed to be included 47

- 1 years.
- 2 **Q**. Yes.
- 3 A. But yeah, I --
- 4 Q. One way or another, they would have given you
- 5 the distribution list?
- 6 A. Yeah, I don't know any of them. I mean, even
- 7 Susan Crichton, I have probably met her.
- 8 I didn't know her. Certainly -- any of them.
- 9 I mean, Mandy Talbot I know because I think she
- 10 was in the civil litigation in the same building
- 11 and Impact House at Croydon. Hugh Flemington,
- 12 I don't know who he was. I mean, subsequently
- 13 when I joined the -- the Post Office Limited on
- 14 1 April '12, I've never met him. I don't know
- 15 who he was. Jacqueline, I don't know. Jessica
- 16 Madron, yes, I think she was at Impact House.
- John, and all the rest of them, I've never even
- 18 met so I don't know who they were. So certainly
- 19 I wouldn't have just plucked them out of the air
- 20 and put them in.
- 21 Q. So you at least picked, if you didn't pick the
- 22 distribution list, you picked the subject title
- 23 of the email?
- 24 A. I don't know --
- 25 **Q**. You --

- 1 in the subject line?
- 2 A. I don't know. I can't --
- 3 Q. Help us.
- 4 A. I honestly -- this is such a long time ago.
- 5 I wish I could. I mean, let me, you know,
- 6 the -- this thing, your papers the Inquiry has
- 7 had forwarded to me, I've read them so many
- 8 times you would not believe it because I do want
- 9 to come and assist. And if -- that heading was
- 10 not something that would naturally come to me.
- 11 Let me put it to you that way. What I --
- 12 Q. It was something that would come naturally to
- 13 you because you viewed this case, didn't you
- 14 Mr Singh, as being about an attack on Horizon,
- 15 didn't you?
- 16 A. Absolutely not. I had no --
- 17 Q. That's why you've headed your email up that way.
- 18 A. No. I can honestly say -- let me put it this
- 19 way: look, Mr Beer, no.
- 20 Q. Who viewed the case as an attack on Horizon?
- 21 A. Well, I think after a period, I think it started
- off as a very simple case. I think Mrs Misra
- 23 pleaded guilty --
- 24 Q. No, who viewed the case as an attack on Horizon?
- 25 A. I don't know. I mean, I wish I could assist.

4		I doubt trace. I have able do not trace.	4		
1	_	I don't know. I honestly do not know.	1	Α.	I don't know whether it's an attack on Horizon,
2	Q.	But you didn't?	2		Horizon I've got no stake in Horizon, I don't
3	_	I did not.	3		even know how it operated or anything of that
4	Q.	, ,, ,	4		nature. Certainly, dealing with the <i>Misra</i> case
5	Α.	I didn't type it.	5		it opened my eyes to all sorts of things,
6	Q.	Okay, you're dictating it to your secretary	6		I mean, before I didn't have. All I was trying
7	Α.		7		to express to you originally was that my case
8		back at the cover of the file, I don't know who	8		was that you have the investigation file, you
9		I was talking to, and I that was where I	9		assess it, as appropriate, in line with evidence
10		I didn't have a paper so I I jotted the notes	10		in the public interest test. And then, if
11		on the cover of the file. And I, you know, if	11		there's an appropriate charge, you put it before
12		you give me time at the break I will tell you	12		the court for the court to decide.
13		where it is. But there is a cover where there	13		But, certainly, this thing doesn't come
14		are scribbles and whatever it is on it.	14		naturally to me and my thing was to
15		I think I know the document you're referring to.	15		I finished the job, the case is completed, the
16		Yeah.	16		legal executives managed it and they would have
17	Q.	But are you saying that somebody dictated	17		done concluded the case they would have
18	Α.	Yes.	18		reported to the, you know, the Post Office
19	Q.	that you needed to use the words	19		support office, and cc'd in the officer. That
20		Yes.	20		would have been normal.
21		"Attack on Horizon"	21		But because this case was the only case that
22		Absolutely	22		actually had a lot of the you know, actually,
23	Q.	Hold on. You dictated an email, even though you	23		went to trial, I think, and obviously, all of
24		didn't believe it was a case about an attack on	24		a sudden, everybody was interested in it. You
25		Horizon? Is that where we've got to?	25		know, Susan Crichton. I mean, I don't know what
		49			50
4		manification also lead of the of times. In the Plan arms it	4		And containly because of the immediance of
1		position she had at that time, but I'm sure it	1		And, certainly, because of the importance of
2		was a senior. And, certainly, the other people	2		the other side you know, the other aspect of
3		involved in it, presumably they had some sort	3		the business, or the wider business, internally,
4	_	of	4	_	that's why it was dealt with in that way.
5	Q.	Why was this case viewed by others as an attack	5	Q.	Isn't it the case that your use of these words
6		on Horizon, rather than simply a lady in	6		is a fair description and it precisely
7		criminal proceedings saying that she was not	7		represents how you saw things at the time. If
8		guilty of stealing money, rather the operation	8		someone said they weren't responsible for losses
9		of the system and errors within it were to blame	9		but that Horizon had system errors, that was
10		for the losses?	10		an attack on Horizon. That's how you viewed
11	Α.	I think you're asking the wrong person.	11		matters, isn't it?
12	_	I certainly wouldn't		A.	No, absolutely not. I like I said, this
13	Q.	So the man that dictated the email that says,	13		system has been in existence. You had senior
14		"Attack on Horizon", is the wrong person to ask	14		people to me with more experience who have been
15		why the case was viewed as an attack on Horizon?	15		dealing with it and it just somehow or other,
16	Α.	Well, I	16		this case landed on my desk and I dealt with it
17	Q.	Is that where we've got to, Mr Singh?	17		as I felt it ought to be done.
18	A.	I think so I honestly, this is this sort	18		I was very careful and cautious and
19		of thing doesn't come naturally to me and,	19		I think maybe we will be coming on to it
20		certainly, my I would have completed the	20		subsequently, I think I put every single
21		case, I'm the lawyer in the case and I would	21		thing in it to make sure that it was very
22		have got one of the legal executives to in	22		thorough. There should be no stones unturned to
23		a normal scheme of things, they would have	23		have this young this lady being either put
		reported concluded the case and that would	24		through it or cortainly found quilty and want to

25

reported, concluded the case, and that would

24

25

have been it.

through it or certainly found guilty and went to

52

prison for it. That is not the sort of thing

- 1 I would want to get involved in.
- 2 Q. You say in your email:

- 3 "After a lengthy trial at Guildford Crown
 - Court the above named was found guilty of theft.
- 5 This case turned from a relatively
- 6 straightforward general deficiency case to
- 7 an unprecedented attack on the Horizon system.
- 8 We were beset with [I think it should read
- 9 'an unparalleled'] degree of disclosure requests
- 10 by the defence. Through [the] hard work of
- 11 everyone, Counsel Warwick Tatford, Investigation
- 12 Officer Jon Longman and through the considerable
- 13 expertise of Gareth Jenkins of Fujitsu we were
- 14 able to destroy to the criminal standard of
- 15 proof (beyond all reasonable doubt) every single
- 16 suggestion made by the Defence.
- 17 "It is to be hoped that the case will set
- 18 a marker to dissuade other defendants from
- 19 jumping on the Horizon bashing bandwagon."
- Would you agree that the language that you used is quite breathless and rather emotive, in
- describing the outcome of Mrs Misra's case.
- 23 A. Yes, I --
- 24 Q. Why did you use breathless and emotive language?
- 25 A. Well, I think the last bit is wrong completely,
 - 53
- 1 Team. I would not say anything of that nature.
- 2 You need to ask him as and when but I can tell
- 3 you now: this is not me. This is not the way
- 4 I would have done it.
- 5 Q. So you said it was approved by him?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Was he one of the dictators?
- 8 A. I don't know whether he did or not. To be
- 9 honest with you -- to be honest, I -- I'm not
- 10 here to name names. I mean --
- 11 Q. I think you just did.
- 12 A. I did, because --
- 13 Q. Because I asked you?
- 14 A. Yes. You asked me and I am here to assist and
- 15 help. I'm not here to, you know, deny
- 16 everything. I mean, like I said, from the
- 17 outset, what is the truth is the truth and
- 18 I can't get away from it.
- 19 $\,$ Q. Can we move on from the platitudes, please, and
- answer my questions.
- 21 A. Yes, go on.
- 22 Q. Who dictate this email to you?
- 23 A. I think various people had input in it but
- 24 I certainly dictated --
- 25 Q. Who dictated it?

- 1 I accept that, the marker. But, like I said to
- 2 you, it was not my language. I would not write
- 3 anything of that nature. All I would have done,
- 4 you've seen the other formats, Mrs Misra found
- 5 guilty at Crown Court, the sentence, and that
- 6 would have been it. But, obviously, because
- 7 this is of interest to the wider internal Post
- 8 Office community or the Royal Mail Group, as it
- 9 was, I was put in a position to do -- to
- 10 actually put my name to it and that's exactly
- 11 what I did. It wasn't --
- 12 Q. Did somebody else type an email which you cut
- 13 and pasted into this one?
- 14 **A.** No, no, no.
- 15 Q. No, okay, hold on --
- 16 A. They dictated it.
- 17 Q. Who dictated it?
- 18 A. I don't know. I mean I don't know, there was
- 19 probably various people over --
- 20 Q. So A collection of people?
- 21 A. Probably, yes, and I think it was approved by --
- 22 Q. Who are the possible candidates for dictating
- 23 your email?
- 24 A. It was -- this wording was approved by Robert
- 25 Wilson, Rob Wilson, Head of the Criminal Law

5

- 1 A. I dictated it for my typist to type out.
- 2 Q. Who dictated it to you?
- 3 A. I don't know. I can't --
- 4 Q. Who are the possible candidates?
- 5 A. Well, I -- like I said, to you it was approved
- 6 by the, you know, the Head of Criminal Law Team.
- 7 That's all.
- 8 Q. So Rob Wilson?
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 Q. So he may have dictated this to you and then
- 11 approved it when he'd seen it?
- 12 A. Well, I don't know whether he dictated it but he
- 13 approved it, and certainly --
- 14 Q. Who are the other candidates for dictating it to
- 15 you?
- 16 A. I think the -- I don't know. I mean -- I'm not
- 17 getting away from it. Maybe it is my fault.
- 18 Maybe I should have said "No, I'm not going to
- 19 put my name to it, if you want to do it, do it
- 20 yourself". Maybe, you know, that's in
- 21 hindsight --
- 22 Q. Is "destroying" -- the use of the word,
- "destroying to the criminal standard of proof",
- 24 appropriate language --
- 25 **A.** No, no.

- 1 -- to have used, given the reality was that this
- 2 was a woman going to prison?
- 3 A. No, I mean, to hear that she was sentenced to
- 4 prison sort of hurt me quite badly. I mean, for
- 5 two or three days I think, you know, it shook me
- 6 because that's not --
- 7 Q. Do you now recognise that the language you used
- 8 was unprofessional?
- 9 A. Yeah, wholeheartedly. No, no, it shouldn't --
- 10 nothing like that should ever be --
- Would you agree that the language discloses to 11 Q.
- 12 us, it's indicative to us, of a degraded and
- 13 debased prosecutorial culture within your
- office? 14
- 15 A. No. No, I wouldn't -- look, Mr Beer it's your
- 16 job to ask that but it's not, no. I think
- 17 I worked with those people very closely and they
- 18 are -- I -- we find ourselves with -- here, and
- 19 I agree with you, it's inappropriate. It
- 20 shouldn't --
- 21 **Q.** The last paragraph where you say:
- 22 "It is to be hoped that the case will set
- 23 a marker to dissuade from jumping on the Horizon
- 24 bashing bandwagon", who within the Post Office
- 25 held that hope?

- 1 Α. Mr --
- 2 Q. It was you: you hoped it.
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. That's why you said "It is to be hoped" --
- 5 A. No, absolutely not. You can ask me that ten
- 6 times, the answer's going to be no, no and no.
- 7 Q. Well, of course. That's why you folded your
- arms and are giggling? 8
- 9 A. Well, I'm not giggling, I'm sort of hurt inside.
- 10 It's giggling because it's -- it's not true.
- 11 I'm not giggling at all. I mean, the idea is
- 12 that, you know, making -- you know, making that
- 13 sort of allegation to somebody who does not even
- 14 believe in it -- I mean, I -- you know, the
- 15 reason why I was there such a long time, I know
- 16 if I had to go to court and actually physically
- 17 see these people, then I wouldn't be able to do
- 18 the job. I think I would have left a long time
- 19 ago.
- 20 At the end of the day, this was a paper 21 exercise. You had the investigation file and
- 22 you dealt with the paper. You basically weigh
- 23 up where there's evidence, sufficient evidence
- 24 for getting a realistic prospect of conviction,
- 25 public interest, and a lot of the time you're
 - 59

- Well, certainly not the Criminal Law Team. 1
- 2 Certainly, I didn't. I mean, I wish I --
- Q. I'm not asking who didn't hold it; I was asking 3 4
 - you who did hold it?
- Well, whoever dealt with the case. You know, 5
- 6 I didn't even know that civil litigation had --
- 7 had cases starting from the initiation of -- or
- 8 the introduction of the Horizon system and,
- 9 presumably, the Civil Litigation Department
- 10 certainly, maybe the Communication Team. You
- 11 know, those are the people whoever dealt with
- 12 the Horizon, whoever had any connections with
- 13 the Horizon.
- 14 I mean, certainly the Criminal Law Team,
- 15 I can put hand on heart, I wouldn't have thought
- 16 anybody had that. I mean, you've heard evidence
- 17 from, you know, a couple of -- a couple of the
- 18 lawyers working there and they were quite badly
- 19 shaken. I think one of the ladies -- I've
- 20 forgotten her name now, Teresa -- Teresa --
- 21 I mean, you saw her give evidence. I mean, she
- 22 was in tears. She was really broken by that --
- 23 Q. So who did hope that the Seema Misra case would
- 24 be a marker that would dissuade other defendants
- 25 from jumping on the "Horizon bashing bandwagon"?
- 1 trying to look for a reason for not -- for them
- 2 to deal with it in an alternative way out of
- 3
- 4 Q. Mr Singh, do you now accept that the aspiration
- 5 that's disclosed in this email, of dissuading
- 6 subpostmasters who believed that there were
- 7 system faults with Horizon from raising such
- 8
- system faults when they were accused of criminal
- 9 offences, was entirely at odds with your
- 10 professional duties?
- A. Well, I -- well, look, in hindsight, you can say 11
- 12 all sorts of things. The thing is --
- 13 Q. Well, I'm saying that and I'm asking you the
- 14 question.
- 15 Well, I don't know what -- are you asking me
- to -- what are you asking me? Please ask me. 16
- Q. Do you accept now that writing this aspiration, 17
- the hope that the outcome of the case will 18
- dissuade other subpostmasters who might think 19
- 20 that Horizon is to blame for their losses from
- 21 raising that when they're accused of criminal
- 22 offences, is at odds with your professional
- 23 duties?
- 24 Of course. Of course it is. I mean, I wish --
- 25 Q. How did you satisfy yourself that other

1		subpostmasters would be jumping on the Horizon	1		I ask you. POL00169170. This is a new document
2		bashing bandwagon?	2		that's recently become available to the Inquiry,
3	A.	I don't I can't. I mean, like I said, this	3		as a result of recent disclosures. If we just
4		is the one and only case that's gone to trial.	4		look at the foot of page 1, please.
5		I didn't even realise that some of the cases	5		We can see thank you, stop there your
6		have been started in more or less when the	6		email of 21 October 2010 at 2.58, the one we've
7		system was installed. So I don't know. I mean,	7		just looked at, yes:
8		you know, in your position, you can write in to	8		"After a lengthy trial the Guildford Crown
9		all sorts of things but certainly that's not my	9		Court the above named was found Guilty of
10		thinking at all.	10		theft."
11		I wish you know, the greater the wish	11		Yes?
12		I had was that wish this sort of case has been,	12	A.	Yes.
13		you know, challenged, or in the courts a lot	13	Q.	Yes?
14		earlier. You know, the year 2001, the year	14	A.	Yeah.
15		2002/3, so we wouldn't have to face this.	15	Q.	Then if we go further up the page, just stopping
16		Certainly, it just landed on my desk and I dealt	16		there, we can see a reply or a forwarding or
17		with it but, certainly, that's not, you know, my	17		a cutting and pasting of your email to a new
18		intentions at all, and I'm not smiling. I am	18		collection of people and, in part, a reply to
19		just sort of feeling so aggrieved that you're	19		Mr Ismay. It says:
20		asking me this because that's not the idea of	20		"Rod
21		you know, it was a challenge to qualify as	21		"Brilliant news. Well done. Please pass on
22		a lawyer and I don't the last thing I wanted	22		my thanks to the team.
23		to finish this off was something like that.	23		"Regards.
24	Q.	Well, let's look at a new document and see	24		"Dave."
25		whether you're less aggrieved by the questions 61	25		That is David Y Smith there, that was the 62
1		Managing Director of the entire company at that	1		been aware of the significance of these
2		time; is that right?	2		challenges and have been supportive of the
3	A.	I don't know. I honestly don't know who Dave	3		excellent work going on in so many teams to
4		Smith is.	4		justify the confidence that we have in Horizon
5	Q.	Do you not recall there were two Dave Smiths on	5		and in our supporting processes.
6		the emails, David X Smith, who was head of IT,	6		"This is an excellent result and a big
7		and David Y Smith, who was the MD of the company	7		thanks to everyone.
8		you worked for, no?	8		"Rod Ismay
9	Α.	No.	9		"Head of Product & Branch Accounting."
10	Q.	Okay. In any event, we know that David Y Smith	10		So just to scroll down a little bit, we can
11		was the MD and he's saying:	11		see what happened, your email has been sent to
12		"Rod	12		some, would you agree, big figures within the
13		"Brilliant news. Well done. Please pass on	13		organisation, including Rod Ismay; you knew who
14		my thanks to the team."	14		he was?
15		Then if we scroll up a little bit further,	15	A.	No. I don't think so.
16		we can see that that email has been repurposed	16	Q.	You didn't? Presumably when you received the
17		by Mr Ismay, and has been sent back to	17		email back you did because, under his signature
18		a distribution list that largely represents the	18		block, it's got that he was head of Product and
19		distribution list of your email. Can you see	19		Branch Accounting?
20		that?	20	A.	Well, that I knew but I'd never met the guy.
21	A.	Yes, and	21		I didn't know I didn't even know what the
22	Q.	He says:	22		head of Product and Branch Accounting was, to be
23		"Dear all please note Dave Smith's thanks	23		honest.
24		to you all for your work on this important case.	24	Q.	Mike Moores, did you know who he was?
25		"Dave and the ET [the Executive Team] have	25	A.	No.

25

		1111	e i ost omice monzon m	ıııq
1	Q.	Mike Young?	1	
2	Α.	No.	2	
3	Q.	Paula Vennells?	3	
4	Α.	I only when I joined the Post Office Limited.	4	
5	Q.	So that was a couple of years after this, or	5	
6		a year and a half after this, in April 2012?	6	
7	Α.	I mean, I probably heard the name but I'd never	7	
8		met her. I didn't have any dealings with her.	8	
9		I don't think I've directly emailed her or had	9	
10		any communications with her. I don't think so,	10	
11	^	I don't.	11 12	
12 13	Q.	But, anyway, the message coming back to you is	13	
14		that Dave, who I've told you was the MD of the		^
		company, and the Executive Team have been aware	15	Q.
15 16	Α.	of the significance of these challenges. Yes.	16	
17	Q.		17	Α.
18	Q.	Did you know about that, when you were litigating the prosecution of Seema Misra?	18	A.
19	A.	No, I don't think so.	19	Q.
20	Q.	That the Executive Team were keeping an eye on	20	Q.
21	Q.	what was going on?	21	Α.
22	A.	No. I honestly did not. I just dealt with it	22	Q.
23	Λ.	in the normal scheme of things. I mean,	23	Q. A.
24		obviously, it was complicated and difficult but	24	Q.
25		I didn't know, you know, that there was a, you	25	Œ.
20		65	20	
1		the Horizon system?	1	
2	A.	No. That is not the way I handled this case.	2	
3	Q.	You see that that's how Mr Ismay seems to have	3	
4		viewed it?	4	
5	A.	Yeah, but then I can't, you know, control what	5	
6		he thinks or he doesn't think.	6	
7	Q.	This more than a pat on the back, isn't it,	7	
8		a congratulatory email about the outcome of one	8	
9		prosecution case, rather than any others, isn't	9	
10		it?	10	
11	A.	I just went quietly went on with my business,	11	
12		I mean, went on and started dealing with the	12	Q.
13		other case. This case was left	13	
14	Q.	Presumably you didn't receive emails from	14	
15		exalted company like this very often at the end	15	A.
16		of each successful prosecution case, did you?	16	
17	A.	To be honest, I don't really I don't know how	17	
18		to put it. I'm not really into all this sort of	18	
19		side of things. I'm not a public sort of	19	Q.
20		person. I didn't think anything of that.	20	A.

know, big interest. I mean, I assume it would be, but -- because, you know, the Post Office are reliant on Horizon because, you know, it was their tailor-made for their business -- you know, I don't know, 12,000, 13,000, 14,000 units they had at the time. But, even that aspect of it, any came to my knowledge purely because having dealt with the Misra case. The Misra case opened up everything and it educated me or advanced me in the whole, you know, the whole business, I suppose. I didn't know anything about, you know, the way the system was put together. Is the way that Mr Ismay describes your work as "justifying the confidence we have in Horizon" accurate? I don't know -- well, I don't know what he thought but, I mean, certainly --Did you see it as you job to justify the confidence --No, no. -- that the organisation had in Horizon? No, no, no, no. Was the prosecution an exercise in justifying an existing belief, an existing confidence, in I was a traditional, old school lawyer and I don't think -- this sort of thing is not for me. And, certainly, you can make whatever interpretations you like but that's not what this was. I mean, the -- I actually tried to assist Mrs Misra in every respect I could. When she said she wasn't, you know, good at IT, I actually for the first time, I think, got her HR record to hopefully, fingers crossed, prove that she wasn't. But, obviously, it didn't. But no, that --Sorry, you're saying you sought out Mrs Misra's HR record to hopefully, fingers crossed, help her out? Help -- assist her in the sense that she was saying -- whatever she was saying, that she wasn't good with the -- you know, with the IT side of it, or whatever it is. I'd ask you to remember that answer --20 A. I will, yeah. Q. -- that you were trying to help Mrs Misra out, 21 22 with your fingers crossed? 23 A. Well, not help her -- well, yeah, that's the

wrong expression, because I probably, you know,

the -- I'm not comfortable with the questions 68

I mean, I don't know whether I saw it, I even

and I think a lot of the time I'm not really IT

read it, once maybe when it came in, closed it,

sort of person. I had a desktop on my desk but

21

22

23

24

1		you're asking and I think because purely	1		be dealing with it. It would be somebody like
2		because that doesn't justify any of the	2		Rob Wilson or maybe Juliet McFarlane. Juliet
3		interpretation you're putting on it. Because	3		McFarlane was a lead in this sort of case, in
4		that that side of it didn't really wasn't	4		the you know, the prosecution of
5		what it was. I didn't even know any of the	5		subpostmasters. It wasn't me. I was at you
6		people, whatever they did or didn't do, or, you	6		know, just more or less dealt with the
7		know, Paula Vennells, Mike Young. I mean,	7		straightforward prosecutions of subpostmasters,
8		I don't know what positions they held until	8		as you would see from the case studies, you
9		even Mike Young, I don't even know how he fitted	9		know, the cases you listed.
10		into the business. Paula Vennells, I did,	10		So it wouldn't have been me, it was just by
11		purely because she was the legal executive at	11		pure coincidence, accident or whatever it was,
12		the Post Office Limited and she was in the same	12		that was the reason why I you know, I dealt
13		office.	13		with it.
14	Q.	Mr Singh, isn't it right that the reason why	14	MR	R BEER: Thank you, Mr Singh.
15	Œ.	this case was seen as significant and important,	15	IVII	Sir, if it's convenient to you, might we
16		and the reason why you wrote your email that	16		take a break?
17		we've just seen is that the case was seen as	17	SIE	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, and what time shall we
		•	18	JIF	resume?
18		essential to justify the continued confidence of		МЕ	
19		the Post Office in Horizon	19		R BEER: 12.10, please.
20	Α.	No.	20		R WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly.
21	Q.	isn't it?	21		R BEER: Thank you, sir.
22	-	Sir, that's an appropriate moment	22	(11	1.52 am)
23		E WITNESS: Can I just add something?	23	(40	(A short break)
24 25		BEER: I'm so sorry, you've got another answer. Yeah, if that was the case, I certainly wouldn't	24 25		2.10 pm) R BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hea
		69			70
1		me?	1	A.	No idea, honest. I mean, at that time there
2	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can.	2		were so company teams set up, so many people
3	MR	BEER: Thank you, sir.	3		coming and going, so many QCs, senior lawyers,
4		Can we move forward, please, Mr Singh to	4		agents. I honestly don't know how he fitted
5		December 2013. I'm still asking you questions	5		into anything.
6		about culture and mindset within the Post Office	6	Q.	Okay. So at this time, December 2013, just to
7		prosecution lawyers team.	7		orientate ourselves, Second Sight was
8	A.	Certainly.	8		undertaking its work, yes?
9	Q.	POL00141653, please. Thank you. Can we turn to	9	A.	Yes, yes.
10		page 5, please. Just to give you some context	10	Q.	This is after Simon Clarke from Cartwright
11		to the questions I'm going to ask, we can see	11		King's Advices, yes?
12		an email to you from Rodric Williams,	12	A.	I don't know. I mean
13		a litigation lawyer:	13	Q.	We know they're July and August 2013?
14		"Jarnail senior management has asked for	14	A.	Yes, possibly.
15		the 'current position on prosecutions when	15	Q.	We're going to come back to all of this next
16		paused/what do we have in train'.	16		year, Mr Singh
17		"Can [we] put something together?"	17	A.	Yeah, right.
18		If you go, please, to page 3 and scroll	18	Q.	ie the extent to which the Post Office
19		down, you say on 4 December:	19		continued to prosecute people, in the light of
20		"Please find attached a Current snapshot of	20		information revealed to it
21		position of [Post Office] prosecution cases.	21	A.	Yes.
22		Let me Know if you need anything further."	22	Q.	and the advice that it received and whether
23		Then if we go to the bottom of page 2,	23		there was an attempt to cover up information and
24		please. An email from you to David Oliver	24		documents that might have led to criminal
25		who was David Oliver?	25		convictions being overturned. But I'm looking
		71			72

1		at it for a different purpose at the moment.	1		board of the Post Office Limited had asked some
2		You say to Mr Oliver:	2		questions; is that right?
3		"Following my discussions with you and	3	A.	Yeah, that's what it looks like.
4		Belinda"	4	Q.	Then under the heading "Live Prosecution
5		Can you remember who Belinda Crowe was?	5		Matters":
6	A.	I think she was head of something, I mean,	6		"1. It was regard acceptable to proceed
7		I don't know what. Because it it was	7		with.
8		difficult, because there's so much going on,	8		"2. Number of the prosecutions were in the
9		people dealing with mediation, people dealing	9		pipeline and currently in Court.
10		with all sorts of aspect of, you know, the	10		"3. Looked at case by case and decision
11		mediation, Chief Executive appearing before	11		made on them to continue."
12		committees, and you know, do you know what	12		Then over the page:
13		I mean?	13		"4. Certain cases terminated after review.
14		And Belinda, I have met her. I don't know	14		Others were safe to continue with Guilty
15		what position. She was heading something or	15		plea. Admissions and not challenged the Horizon
16		other but, you know, years on, I've forgotten,	16		in Court, ie Defendant made full and frank
17		I don't even know her surname. I think,	17		admissions, pleaded guilty, substantial amount
18		probably	18		theft of money, breach of trust, it would have
19	Q.	Crowe.	19		been [a] miscarriage of Justice to let them walk
20	A.	Oh, there it is, there, yeah.	20		three. Therefore the prosecution continued.
21	Q.	You continue:	21		"5. The cases were not stopped because it
22		" here is a quick note which may help	22		did not need to be.
23		with some of the answers to [I think that should	23		"6. Have Post Office stopped every single
24		be 'the'] board's questions."	24		
25		Looking at this, does it seem as if the	25		I think that should read "had":
		73			74
1		"[Had] Post Office stopped every single	1		impossible workload, as and when prosecution is
2		prosecution, what signal would/does that send	2		resumed.
3		out about confidence in the Horizon system."	3		"Hope this helps."
4		Now, I'm going to come back next year to ask	4		So it seems like you're explaining which
5		you about what all of this means and what was	5		cases are going to court and which cases have
6		being done in terms of deciding which cases to	6		been advised on, yes, and why you're continuing
7		proceed with, which cases were proceeded with	7		to work on cases and the Investigation Team are
8		because an admission had been made, which cases	8		continuing to work on cases, even though General
9		were proceeded with because an admission had	9		Counsel had given instructions that no further
10		been made but no Horizon disclosure had been	10		summonses were being issued, yes?
11		given, and the like. But then you continue:	11	A.	Well, I mean, I don't know. I don't know how to
12		"Advised On	12		explain this but it's such a long, long time
13		"Here former General Counsel [I think that	13		ago. There was, you know, there's so much
14		should be 'gave'] instructions that no further	14		pressure and I think the it's very easy now,
15		summons to be issued for the time being.	15		you've got the time to actually consider all
16		"1. Security Team wished to continue	16		that but that was on a don't forget the

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investigating and cases [I don't know this

recollections deteriorated prior to any

following reasons:

statements being taken.

means] were advice on and prepared for the

"b) so that Investigation Team could

prosecution in ready condition thereby avoiding

75

continue to process the work and get the

"a) so that evidence was not lost/witnesses

issued, yes? w. I don't know how to a long, long time ow, there's so much -- it's very easy now, tually consider all that but that was on a -- don't forget the prosecution has been tendered out to a third party and that's more or less what their position was, for me to advise in turn. So it wasn't --

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Q. At the moment I'm not asking you to justify what was done or asking you the substance -- about the substance of what was done; this is just to give you some background to the email that we're

25 looking at, to see in what context it was sent. 76

1	Α.	res, it's an update.
2	Q.	Can we go to page 1, please. At the bottom o
3		the page. Mr Oliver replies to you:

".larnail

"Thanks for this.

V-- !4|- --- -|-4-

"I have a few questions now and will probably come back with a few more if okay ..."

Then if we just go to the top of the page, you replied saying:

"Please see my reply in red below."

Yes?

12 A. Yeah.

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13 If we scroll down, there are four questions and Q. if we can highlight those questions to start 14 with, so we can see what they were, in yellow, 15 16 please. So question 1 is:

> "On the live prosecution cases can you give me a few paras with why you are proceeding with the POCA enforcement hearings?"

> Yeah? Then there's your reply, which would have been in red in the email, in the original; do you understand?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then over the page, please. Question 2 is under 25 that bullet point:

77

"These are not mutually exclusive. As the landscape now stands in most of the cases it is better that we have the expert instructed as any case begun now will attract some type of Horizon issue because this is the passing bandwagon people are jumping on. When we have a few wins under our belt the Horizon challenges will melt away like midnight snow. In some cases, eg Redman, we do not need the expert as she has made full admissions but the cases where Horizon can be completely ruled out are few and far between even if it only goes to quantum (value of loss).

"Much of the work requested in our charging advices is dotting Is and crossing Ts. Most of the cases advised for charge will be sound prosecutions with comparatively little extra work when we either have an expert's statement in the bundle or we can get one if the Horizon is raised in a case.

"If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get back."

You see in that answer -- and this is December 2013, after Second Sight has started is work, after the Clarke Advices have revealed, in

1 "What is a PCMH stage?"

2 Yes?

A. Yes. 3

4 Q. Then your reply, we can see it because it's in a different font begins "The PCMH stage is", 5

6 yeah?

7 Then question 3 is:

8 "What is a mention before trial?"

Yeah? 9

10 A. Yes.

Q. Then question 4 is: 11

"Of the 31 advised on cases how many are 12 13 being worked on for further evidence, how many 14 has there been advice to charge and how many are 15 awaiting the expert witness?" 16 Can you see that?

17 Α.

18 So they're the four questions and everything 19 else is your reply in red; can you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. On that fourth question, that's the one I want 22 to ask you about, you reply to the question "How 23 many have been worked on for further evidence, 24 how many has there been advice to charge and how 25 many are awaiting expert [evidence]", you say:

1 Mr Clarke's view, that Mr Jenkins was 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

a discredited prosecution witness and couldn't be relied on in court, and that disclosures needed to be made which may undermine the safety of some criminal convictions -- you're saying that people raising Horizon Issues are doing so because there's a "passing bandwagon". Why did you form that view? A. I don't know. I had -- it's a sort of -- this 10 isn't just one person, this -- we worked as

11 a team, because there was so much going on, it 12 was a team effort team view. It wasn't 13 a decision made by me. It was a decision by 14 people working on it, and not only internally 15 but externally. They were people with a lot of 16 experience in this type of work. So this is not 17 a personal view. It was the view, the general 18 view, put in that -- put in that answer.

This is your email? 19 Q.

20 Yes.

It's no one else's email? 21

22 A. No, but we -- we worked as a team. I don't

23 know, I can't explain as to --

24 Did somebody dictate this email to you?

Possibly. I don't know. I mean, certainly --25

1	I honestly can't answer that. It's such a long
2	time ago. Certainly, when you're pressurised
3	situation is completely different. Now, it's
4	completely different because now we've got the
5	time to consider it, time to actually digest it
6	all but that's what it was at that time

But I can't give you any explanation of why it was put in that way because there's too many issues that came together.

Q. Why in December 2013 did you and the team still
view the Horizon issue as a passing bandwagon

that people were jumping on?

13 A. I don't know, I've got no -- I can't explain it
14 to you. I don't know why that view was at that
15 time. I don't know.

Q. What evidence had you got by December 2013 that
 there were no issues with Horizon affecting the
 integrity of the data that it produced?

19 A. I don't know.

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Q. Why was it important to get some wins under yourbelt?

22 A. Again, I don't know.

Q. Why did you say, "When we've got some wins underour belt the Horizon challenges will melt away

25 like midnight snow"?

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1 **A.** No.

2 Q. -- "There's nothing wrong with Horizon" --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- "people who say there is are jumping on
5 a bandwagon. We're going to get some wins and
6 the issue will melt away like the midnight

8 **A.** No.

snow"?

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9 Q. Look at the last paragraph, you say:

"Much of the work requested in our charging advices is dotting Is and crossing Ts. Most of the cases advised for charge will be sound prosecutions with comparatively little extra work."

Is that reflective of how you, in your time acting in the Criminal Law Division, worked, namely your role was just to dot Is and cross

18 Ts?

A. Where are we talking about, old Street or are
 you talking about Eccleston Street? Are you
 talking about the Criminal Law Team or are you
 talking about the Prosecution Support?

23 Q. Let's divide them up, then --

24 A. Yeah, please do that.

25 **Q.** -- from August 1995, until separation in April

83

1 A. I don't know.

2 Q. Please help us.

3 A. I wish I could. It's such a long time ago.

4 Q. Are you struggling because you realise the5 crassness of what you wrote --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- and you haven't got a justification?

8 A. Not at all. If I could, I would, but at the

9 moment I'm struggling in the sense that I can't

10 explain to what happened in the year 2013, and

11 we're in the year 2023, on to '24. At that

time, you know, the situation was what it was.

Now, you know people had been wrongly done, and

14 they've been complaining about something for

15 such a long time and they've been proved right.

And I feel aggrieved about it as much as they do, probably not even more, because I was in a position to do something and I didn't.

19 Q. Is this email further evidence that the mindset20 that you displayed in your evidence of October

21 2010, after the conclusion of the Seema Misra

22

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- continued and was still your mindset in

25 December 2013 --

trial --

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1 2012, was your role then, as a criminal lawyer,

2 to dot Is and cross Ts on advice files?

3 **A.** No.

Q. After April 2012 and before December 2013, was
 your role as a criminal lawyer, when advising on

6 charge, to dot Is and cross Ts?

7 A. No, because I didn't do any of that work.

8 Q. Why did you say "most of the work is dotting Is9 and crossing Ts"?

10 A. I don't know. I honestly can't help you11 because, from what you're suggesting, I didn't

12 advise of any of it. It was tendered out.

13 Q. Is that how you viewed matters? You didn't take

14 a serious look at the evidence. You didn't

15 evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, you

16 didn't apply a critical eye to the evidence in

17 a case: you just dotted the Is and crossed the

18 Ts?

19 **A.** No.

20 Q. So why did you write this?

21 A. As I tried to explain to you, CLT -- this

doesn't refer to the Criminal Law Team in the

sense that we're in the year 2013. In the year

24 2013, I'm basically working with the agents.

The agents are the ones who are doing all the

1	work. They're presumably, that's what their	1 cases", which is highlighted?
2	position was and I'm just highlighting to the	2 A. Is it at the top, isn't there? I can't see
3	within the business as to where we are.	3 it, sir.
4	Q. Can we move on and look at a different summary	4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: It's about halfway down the
5	of the outcome you gave of Mrs Misra's case.	5 screen
6	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Beer, before that comes down,	6 A. Oh, yes, sorry, I've got that.
7	there is one thing that occurs to me. If you	7 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: and it's the fourth question
8	hadn't asked the questions because you're going	8 that you were going to answer, all right, and it
9	to do it in a different context, I won't ask any	9 ends by saying well, let me read the
10	now but, otherwise, I'd be interested to know	10 question:
11	who the expert witness is referred to in the	11 "Of the 31 advised on cases, how many are
12	paragraph that's highlighted.	being worked on for further evidence, how many
13	A. Sir, which one? Where are we?	13 has there been advice to charge and how many are
14	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I'm asking Mr Beer first of all	14 awaiting the expert witness?"
15	whether he wants to deal with it in a different	15 It's that last bit I want to ask you about,
16	way or whether I should ask you the question.	16 all right?
17	MR BEER: Sir, can I answer it in two ways.	17 A. Mm.
18	Firstly, I hadn't presently intended to look at	18 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Because I'd like you to tell me,
19	that issue but it may help us in our	if you could, the identity of the expert witness
20	investigatory work, on reflection, in readiness	20 there being referred to.
21	for next year. So I don't think any harm will	21 A. Sir, at that time, from my understanding is
22	be done by asking now.	22 that Cartwright King were looking for an expert
23	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right.	23 and they couldn't find any, because, as you
24	Well, then, Mr Singh, do you see the	24 I think, you know, you've been hearing a lot of
25	paragraph which begins "Of the 31 advised on 85	evidence, this system is very specialist, this 86
1	Horizon system as relates to the Post Office.	1 2013 when this email being written, or
2	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.	2 subsequently?
3	A. And I think one or two times I did attend with	3 A. Sir, no. It wasn't.
4	them, some at the university, some of the	4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. All right. Thank you.
5	professors, they weren't you know, in	5 MR BEER: Thank you, sir, that can come down.
6	Cartwright King's view, they weren't good enough	6 Can we look at a further summary of the
7	to deal with it. So I don't know at that	7 outcome of Mrs Misra's case, much later, please.
8	time, we didn't find an expert.	8 POL00113015, and can we start at page 10,
9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So when you reply "As the	9 please.
10	landscape now stands in most of the cases it is	10 We can see an email exchange between Lena
11	better that we have the expert instructed", you	11 Hameed and Sophie Bialaszewski I'm sure I've
12	are there indicating, are you, that there should	12 mispronounced that saying:
13	be an expert instructed but you don't know who	13 "Hi Sophie,
14	that person is at that moment in time?	14 "We haven't got that much information as
15	A. Sir, the position there was that all I didn't	there's not CQR yet. But I imagine the legal
16	do any of the work; it was tendered out	16 team will have the criminal case files so
17	exclusive to a third party, Cartwright King, and	17 Jarnail will be able to provide a breakdown of
18	it's basically they are telling me I've asked	the merits of the case. As far as the scheme is
19	for a progress report, how to reply to it, and	concerned, this is a summary of what we have:
20	it's basically their answer. They say, "Look,	20 "Seema Misra was given I post from [some
21	this is the position", and all I'm doing is	21 dates are given].
22	relaying to the business, so I don't it's not	22 "MP at the time of her application was
23	something that I have a personal knowledge of.	23 Jonathan Lord.
24	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: As far as you can recall,	24 "Incidents reportedly occurred in the summer
25	Mr Singh, was an expert ever identified in late 87	25 of 2005. 88

1		"No specific references to Horizon Issues	1		the jury of the theft."
2		cites lack of support as the main factor leading	2		Then bottom of page 8, please. Reply:
3		to the losses.	3		"Hi the Comms Team might need a bit more
4		"Alleges that [Post Office] threatened her	4		to help them tell our side of the story
5		and used mental torture.	5		(Sophie please correct me if I'm wrong!)
6		"Howe+Co represented funding agreement	6		"Is there any more detail you could provide,
7		signed in November.	7		eg around:
8		"Still waiting on a CQR from the	8		"the trial being a fully contested
9		applicant apparently SS [I think that's	9		adversarial proceeding, with X number of
10		Second Sight] have it for refinement."	10		witnesses (including experts) being
11		Go to page 9 and look at the bottom, please.	11		cross-examined;
12			12		·
		We can see who Sophie was, a Public Affairs			"that no appeal was ever pursued against
13		Manager in the Post Office. She now copies you	13		conviction or sentence or both (or if it was,
14		in to this email on 11 June 2014:	14		how far it went);
15		"Thanks so much, Lena. Rodric/Jarnail would	15		"the implications of a jury advert (eg that
16		you be able to provide me with a bullet [point]	16		it's 12 people unanimously agreeing that all
17		or two on the legal position eg unanimous guilty	17		elements of the offences were proved beyond
18		verdict by jury or whatever it would be."	18		reasonable doubt etc)?"
19		Then up the page, please. You reply:	19		Then if we continue to scroll up, please,
20		"Sophie	20		Sophie says:
21		"Something along the lines of:	21		"Yes please! Thanks Rod."
22		"Seema Misra was subpostmistress at West	22		Then scroll up again. Then you reply:
23		Byfleet. She was accused of stealing	23		"How about the following [in inverted
24		£74,000-odd between 2005 and 2008. On 21/10/10	24		commas]:
25		after a seven-day trial, she was found guilty by 89	25		"'After a lengthy trial Guildford Crown 90
1		Court the above named was found Guilty of	1		feel it then. It was just basically reiterating
2		theft'."	2		what was said before. I mean, so, no, that is
3		Is this looking familiar to you, Mr Singh?	3	_	not true.
4	Α.	Well, yes.	4	Q.	Why did you write an email to media and PR
5	Q.	Why does it look familiar to you?	5		people, who were asking you for something that
6	A.	Because it's cut and paste from the previous	6		would allow the Post Office to tell its side of
7		one previous you know, the final result	7		the story to the public in June 2014, which you
8	Q.	The one from four years earlier?	8		didn't believe was true or to be the case?
9	A.	Yeah.	9	A.	Well, look, sir, the position then and now is
10	Q.	"This case turned from a relatively	10		completely different. So I can only apologise
11		straightforward general deficiency case to	11		to everybody, maybe it's hurt their feelings or
12		an unprecedented attack on the Horizon system",	12		even hurt them deeply, but I can't explain,
13		et cetera, et cetera.	13		sorry.
14	A.	Yeah.	14	Q.	Can we look at the response from Sophie in
15	Q.	Then you say, outside the inverted commas,	15		public affairs, at the top of the page:
16		albeit it is a quote from your original email of	16		"Thanks for this, would it be possible to
17		October 2010:	17		get the bullets Rodric sent below with the
18		"It is to be hope that the case will set	18		correct numbers in?"
19		a marker to dissuade other Defendants from	19		Then the three questions are repeated, and
20		jumping on the Horizon bashing bandwagon."	20		she says to you:
21		Those were sentiments that you still felt,	21		"Your para is too emotive for us to use and
22		in June 2013, weren't they?	22		so a factual account would be best."
23	Α.	No, I	23		Was it often the case that public affairs
24	Q.	Why did you write this, then?	24		and PR people told you that your copy was too
2 4 25	Q. A.	I didn't feel them from the outset. I don't	25		emotive for them?
20	۸.	91	25		92

- 1 A. No. I had very little to do with them, to be
- 2 honest. I wish I had even less.
- 3 Q. It's normally the other way round, isn't it? PR
- 4 people are trying to get you to give good copy,
- 5 say things that aren't emotive?
- 6 A. I'm sorry, sir, I can't answer that. I don't
- 7 have much dealings with them. I don't have much
- 8 experience with them so that was the first
- 9 experience and probably the last, and I'm happy
- 10 with that.
- 11 Q. She was asking you just to give her the facts,
- not to overlay emotion onto it, wasn't she?
- 13 A. I don't know what she was asking. It's such
- 14 a long time ago, I have no idea. Hard to
- 15 explain that to you but not -- that was never my
- 16 motive from the outset, up to now.
- 17 Q. By the time you wrote your email, in June 2014,
- 18 where you cut and pasted your email of four
- 19 years earlier, from the last day of the trial,
- 20 that we looked at this morning, you knew about
- 21 the Helen Rose report, didn't you?
- 22 A. I know it was set up. I know they wanted some
- 23 help to help her to -- needed some help. That's
- 24 about it. I don't think I had much more to deal
- 25 with it. I had, by that time, I think
 - U3
- 1 time.
- 2 Q. Had the Post Office been able to find an expert
- 3 that would stand up in court and back the
- 4 Horizon system by June 2014?
- 5 A. I -- again, it's a matter for Cartwright King.
- 6 It wasn't a matter for me. They were physically
- 7 and practically involved in finding it and
- 8 finding it suitable for the Post Office to
- 9 authorise and approve and pay for, to deal with
- 10 it. But I didn't have any dealings with it.
- 11 Q. You were overseeing their work, weren't you?
- 12 A. Only a matter -- no, no, I wasn't.
- 13 Q. What were you doing?
- 14 A. I was helping the Post Office. As I tell you,
- 15 there was too many other --
- 16 **Q.** Sorry?
- 17 **A.** There was other pressing matters.
- 18 Q. What was more pressing than the possible
- 19 wrongful conviction of dozens or even hundreds
- 20 of subpostmasters?
- 21 A. That side of it was taken over by the QC, at
- that time, Brian Altman. You had, you know,
- 23 senior clerks -- senior barristers, counsel from
- 24 Cartwright King, and I think they had a few
- 25 other people involved. They had the senior 95

- 1 Cartwright King had taken care of the
- 2 prosecution side of it because I didn't have the
- 3 capacity or know-how or support to deal with it,
- 4 so they basically were dealing with the
- 5 prosecution side of it. They were dealing with
- 6 her directly.
- 7 Q. You knew by then that Simon Clarke had advised
- 8 that Mr Jenkins was a discredited witness who
- 9 had breached his obligations as an expert
- 10 witness --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- and that the Post Office that breached its
- obligations of disclosure as a prosecutor,
- 14 didn't you?
- 15 A. Yes, I did, yes.
- 16 Q. You knew that those points applied in Seema
- 17 Misra's case, didn't you?
- 18 A. I think it applied all over the board. I mean,
- 19 I -- you know, from the outset, of the
- 20 installation of the actual system itself, yes.
- 21 Q. You knew the Post Office had stopped prosecuting
- 22 because it had been unable to find an expert
- 23 that would stand up in court and back the
- 24 Horizon system, didn't you?
- 25 A. No, I wasn't involved in the prosecution at that

- 1 management involved. As you will probably see,
 - a lot of this email I'm not cc'd in, so no.
- 3 Q. So, given that you knew that Simon Clarke had
- 4 advised that Mr Jenkins was a discredited
- 5 witness who had breached his obligations as
- 6 an expert witness and that the Post Office had
- 7 breached its disclosure obligations as
- 8 a prosecutor, and that those two points applied
- 9 in the Seema Misra case, why were you churning
- 10 out the same old PR message?
- 11 A. I don't know. I can't answer that because
- 12 I can't explain it to you years -- you know,
- 13 years and years ago.
- 14 Q. That had previously been an internal message,
- 15 hadn't it?
- 16 **A.** Yes.

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- 17 **Q**. But you were now repurposing it for public,
- 18 external consumption, weren't you?
- 19 A. Absolutely not. If I'd known that, then
- 20 I wouldn't have done. This is internal team and
- 21 it's not just for communication; it's for other
- 22 people as well. I mean, I wasn't involved in it
- and I was cc'd in and I told them what the
- position was in the *Misra* case, that's all --
- 25 how the results came out and what results were,

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- basically updating them to whatever theconclusion of the case was.
- Q. Can we go to what your reply was to Sophie's
 suggestion that your paragraph was too emotive
 to use and ask for a factual account instead.
 Page 1 of this email chain, then if we scroll
- down. Your email back to her, to Sophie, with
 other people copied in, including Chris Aujard,

9 you say:

"Sophie

10

11 12

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"Mrs Misra continues to protest her innocence via the media. The summary below shows that there was ample evidence to justify a conviction."

Then if you just look at the document, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, and then if you go over the page and then just scroll through it, please. Then you sign it off "Hope it helps".

First of all, who actually drafted this

20 email?

- A. Various people. I had a -- there was various
 people involved in drafting. It's not just --
- 23 it was -- err --
- Q. It appears to contain no spelling mistakes or
 missing words, which, if you'll forgive me for
 97
- 1 A. No, no. I --
- Q. So this tends to suggest it is somebody else whois writing it?
- 4 **A.** Possibly, yes. To be honest, I -- now that you mention it, you keep -- you know, you've got the
- 6 time to analyse it, scrutinise it but, at that
- 7 time, it was difficult, I mean, to do what did,
- 8 for an individual, it was next to impossible.
- 9 So you had people assisting, helping, putting10 stuff together.

11 You're ric

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You're right on that but, certainly, Jo Hamilton case, Noel Thomas case, I've never dealt with them. I don't know --

14 Q. Can we go to page 5, paragraph 20, please. Your15 email says:

"Horizon is a complicated computer system about which even eminent experts can make mistakes. There was no reason to doubt Professor McLachlan's expertise and good faith but time and time again he had to be corrected by Mr Jenkins. Professor McLachlan is not the only expert to have misunderstood Horizon. I have spoken to colleagues who prosecute these cases and they have come across other experts

saying, is your normal way of writing, ie with spelling mistakes and missing words, and it doesn't appear to be in your style of writing.

4 A. I can't help you on that. I don't know, but
5 there's -- it's such a long time ago. I mean -6 I have no idea. But there are, you know, it's
7 a teamwork. It's not one individual to put it
8 all together and the other thing is I'm not
9 a good typist, as you probably worked out. I'm
10 used to dictating work, and I don't -- it

probably had gone to somebody to have it typed for me to approve with a few others.

13 Q. Can we look at some of the other contents to see
14 whether it helps you. Page 4, paragraph 18,
15 please, the author says:

"The two criminal files I looked at are of some significance. Jo Hamilton and Noel Thomas have been prominent critics of Horizon in the media. Their cases were similar to Mrs Misra's. Both were [subpostmasters] who chose to hide deficiencies by false accounting over a long period of time, rather than declare their losses", et cetera.

Is that something that you did, look at the criminal files of Jo Hamilton and Noel Thomas?

both sides in *Misra* were completely beholden to
 Gareth Jenkins and his deep knowledge of
 Horizon "

4 Again, is that you speaking there? "I have 5 spoken to colleagues"?

- 6 A. Possibly not. Haha, I don't know.
- 7 Q. Or is it somebody else?
- A. I have -- my job was enjoyable because I was
 talking to a lot of people, I was gaining a lot
 out of it. It was stretching. It was
 complicated. But that's the sort of thing
- 12 Leniov So it was enjoyable in that sense
- 12 I enjoy. So it was enjoyable in that sense but
- 13 I can't say to you -- that certainly -- you
- 14 know, that more or less goes back to the fact
- that there was a number of people involved in
- assisting and advising and putting these sort ofthings together.
- 18 **Q.** So this might be you actually writing this?
- 19 A. No. Maybe a contribution towards it. There's20 a lot of people making contributions towards

21 these things --

- Q. At the moment, Mr Singh, I'm just trying to workout, by taking you to bits of this email, to
- 24 help you to work out whether this is your work
- or whether you've cut and pasted something else

- 1 that somebody else has said and repurposed it
- 2 for yourself.
- 3 A. Well, as you know, I mean when you do this work,
- 4 you obviously do have help and, certainly, I had
- 5 a lot of help over that period because it was --
- 6 **Q.** I'm asking about something different, which is
- 7 cutting and pasting somebody else's work --
- 8 A. Yeah
- 9 Q. -- and passing it off as your own.
- 10 A. Yeah, you will get a lot of that everywhere and
- 11 certainly the work I deal with, that was the
- 12 only way I could cope with it and deal with it
- and I did and that probably was a paragraph from
- 14 somewhere or probably a lot more than
- a paragraph, might be quite a few from it, and
- maybe I asked somebody "Look, the *Misra* case,
- 17 can you help me, can you highlight or bullet
- point the lessons we learnt from the *Misra*
- 19 case?" Yes.
- 20 Q. Which other lawyers, other than you and Warwick
- 21 Tatford, were involved in the Seema Misra case?
- 22 A. I think Rob Wilson, Juliet McFarlane, maybe
- 23 Debbie -- I don't know what was -- she's changed
- her name now, hasn't she?
- 25 Q. Debbie Stapel?

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- 1 Somebody has got to put their name to it and, if
- 2 it wasn't me, it probably would have been
- 3 somebody else.
- 4 Q. But in that case, you would say at the beginning
- 5 "This is a summary with multiple contributions.
- 6 I, Jarnail Singh, can't vouch for everything"?
- 7 A. Sir, you would do because you're such a wise and
- 8 experienced practitioner. But when you come to
- 9 my level --
- 10 Q. Did you lack experience and lack wisdom; is that
- 11 what you're saying?
- 12 A. No, no, my level is different.
- 13 **Q.** Sorry?
- 14 A. It's a different level. It's a different degree
- 15 of work. Certainly, you know, if I was doing it
- 16 now, then I probably would have done but, at
- 17 that time, there is pressure of time, and
- 18 there's other matters to be dealt with. People
- 19 wanted these sort of advices, these sort of
- 20 prompters, yesterday, not today, not in seven
- 21 days' time, not in 14 days' time. So what you
- do or what I did was to get help and put
- 23 something together to pass it on.
- 24 Q. Can we go back to the beginning of the email
- then and look at the content. Page 1, please:

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- 1 A. Staples (sic). I don't know. Certainly maybe
 - somebody else from Bell Yard. Certainly the two
- 3 legal executives, the Investigation Officer.
- 4 You name it, it was a big team because it was
- 5 a big -- it was just unmanageable. I mean, the
- 6 Post Office is so vast, to deal with it as one
- 7 individual, it's --
- 8 Q. I'm looking at potential authors because the
- 9 person --
- 10 A. Ah, I'm giving you the -- you know, given you
- 11 basically, you know --
- 12 Q. You were happy to put your name to this and say
- you own this email and the contents of it,
- 14 weren't you?
- 15 **A.** Well, I was happy to put my name to it, purely
- 16 because a lot of it -- you know, from again the
- 17 Misra case, I didn't go to court for seven days.
- 18 I think I started it off, certainly I had a lot
- 19 of counsel's opinions and views and advises on
- 20 it, as you know. But certainly --
- 21 Q. Mr Singh, you wouldn't write an email with all
- 22 of this content unless you were happy with the
- 23 content, would you?
- 24 A. Well, like I said to you, these things work
- 25 purely because it's not for one individual.

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- 1 "Mrs Misra continues to protest her
- 2 innocence in the media. The summary below shows
- 3 there was ample evidence to justify
- 4 a conviction."
 - That was still your belief, was it, in June
- 6 2014
- 7 **A.** No.

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- 8 Q. Why did you very it then?
- 9 A. Because that was the job I was asked to do.
- 10 I was asked to summarise it.
- 11 Q. It was your job to say things you didn't
- 12 believe'
- 13 A. Well, I -- I can't answer that. I mean, you
- 14 know, at that time I wrote it and now, I regret
- 15 it, I suppose
- 16 Q. I'm asking you why you wrote it. Not whether
- 17 you regret it now?
- 18 A. I don't know. It was -- I was asked to
- 19 summarise it, and the -- you know, with the help
- 20 of other people, I summarised it. So you asked
- 21 earlier why didn't I put a summary. There it
- is, the summary below shows, and a lot of the
- people who made a contribution towards it
- 24 obviously made a contribution to assist me at
- 25 that time.

- Q. But you're adopting this as your work. There's nothing on this that tells the reader that this isn't you speaking here?
 A. No. When you do work, you have a lot of researchers, don't you? Do you actually put their names to every single thing, that certain people made a contribution towards it? It's
 - researchers, don't you? Do you actually put their names to every single thing, that certain people made a contribution towards it? It's a team effort. People know whose work it is because they worked with me at that time. It wasn't an individual. I couldn't sit down and churn that out within, I don't know, two hours or three hours or a day, when I was asked to do it. So the only way I could get the work done, it was to, you know, seek a contributions from the people who could help, and they did and here
- **Q.** You say:

we are.

"The *Misra* case at Guildford Crown Court in 2009-2010 as far as I am aware, is the only criminal trial where a jury has been required to consider in detail the integrity of the Horizon system."

Paragraph 2 is a cut and paste of your earlier email. 3:

"Mrs Misra claimed that, although she was 105

protest her innocence via the media and that she is one of number of vocal critics of Horizon. It is perhaps worthwhile setting out the facts of her case and what happened at trial because some of the critical reports of the case have not been accurate."

You set out in paragraph 6 what happened in the audit.

In 7, a plea and case management hearing. Then 8:

"When Mrs Misra's case was listed for trial in June 2009 she brought to Court material from the Internet detailing number of complaints about the Horizon system made by former subpostmasters. The Post Office Limited agreed to an adjournment of the trial to allow the Defence to pursue this line of inquiry, even though it was likely that Ms Misra was jumping on a bandwagon now that she had realised her original defence didn't work."

So it was still your view in 2014 that

Mrs Misra was a bandwagon jumper; is that right?

A. I think hindsight is -- if I'd known what
I known now, then, obviously, no, but the thing

is then -- no, that was not the case, but it

guilty of false accounting, she had not stolen the money whose loss she had concealed. She suggested that one possible reason why the money appeared to be missing might be computer error. The jury heard from expert witnesses for the Crown and Defence. Their evidence was sufficiently detailed as to have lasted two full days. The jury's verdict showed that it was sure that computer error played no role in the case. There has been no appeal against conviction."

Then over the page, please:

"The Defence made very wide ranging requests for disclosure and the prosecution was asked to review material relating to a number of other offices where subpostmasters had made complaints about Horizon. That disclosure process was fraught with difficulties, mainly because the disclosure requests were unfocused and often irrelevant. If we had complied with every disclosure request, the Investigation Department would probably have been paralysed for six months, the investigators being unable to deal with any other work.

"I am aware that Mrs Misra continues to 106

was, like I said, a teamwork or people who knew the -- knew the case, made a contribution towards it, and I think it was decided to put it in.

But, certainly, you know, it wasn't my decision to put it in. Let's put it that way. I certainly wouldn't have -- wouldn't have thought of that, originally, now or any time, because that's not the way I write. I mean as you know -- rightly say, I'm not that good at typing, I'm not very good at putting something like that together but that's why I'm probably one of those that can't work without a team.

I'm not a guy who can just come and work. I need -- every time I did something in life, I would certainly -- in the profession, I always had people around me. I mean, I can do certain things very well certain things not so well, and if I don't, I have people who can. So I put it -- put a sort of team together to do, to be able to exist and then certainly hopefully to do a job or do the work to a high standard, and that's what I've done. It was a team effort.

24 Q. You continue in paragraph 9:

"Mrs Misra changed solicitors and there then 108

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followed a difficult period when [Post Office Limited] was subjected to an avalanche of disclosure requests. We were also served with a series of so-called 'interim reports' by a newly instructed defence expert called Professor Charles McLachlan. These reports raised theoretical possibilities of things that might go wrong with Horizon. The reports contained no evidence for the theories and no explanation as to why any of these theories might be relevant to the West Byfleet office. Our efforts to control these disclosure requests fell on deaf ears. We repeatedly made the point that the case was not about whether the Horizon system was perfect. No computer system can be in perfect and errors can arise on any system. The issue was whether anything had gone wrong at West Byfleet. The person who would know that was Mrs Misra. At the very least she should be able to identify what sort of problems she had encountered and where on the accounts the deficiencies were emerging. She would know this because she would have physically checked the stock against the computer records."

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you had that it's the subpostmaster who would know most about the operation of Horizon, later:

"10. It emerged in the trial that in spite of our requests for a focused approach defence expert Professor McLachlan had never sought any information from Mrs Misra. His theories were simply his own. Mrs Misra had given him no guidance whatsoever as what might be going wrong at West Byfleet.

"[The Post Office Limited] instructed their own expert, Mr Jenkins, from Fujitsu. This was a turning point in the case. Professor McLachlan fairly conceded that Mr Jenkins had given him very great assistance in understanding Horizon. Mr Jenkins was able to explain to Professor McLachlan how many of his theories were not valid and based on a misunderstanding of Horizon. Mr Jenkins advised that the only way to assess any problems at West Byfleet was to obtain the transaction logs and to examine them for potential problems. Obtaining the logs was expensive and their analysis was time consuming. However, after both experts had completed their analysis, neither could find evidence of any computer error whatsoever that

I'm going to come back to that belief that 109

could have contributed to the deficiency.

"In his evidence to the jury Professor McLachlan conceded that all of the theoretical problems he had raised were now irrelevant. He abandoned most of his theories after being assisted to a better understanding by Mr Jenkins. Other theories he had checked against the transaction logs and found to be baseless. In a nutshell his final conclusion was this: he hadn't found any problem but there might still have been a problem that he and Jenkins might have missed. The jury clearly rejected this as wishful thinking, after considering all of the evidence in the case."

13, about three lines in:

"She [Mrs Misra] was on the scene to witness the symptoms of any computer problems while the experts could only trawl through the data long after the event. Any sensible [subpostmaster] would have hunted high and low to ascertain where in the accounts the losses were occurring. A [subpostmaster] should be able to find the location of the problem even if they could not solve it. Mrs Misra had not made any such rigorous checks. She had simply accepted each

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loss rather than declare the deficiency in the monthly balance, as she was required to do, she had hidden it by false accounting."

Over the page. If we go to paragraph 17:

"It can be seen from this summary that there was ample evidence to justify a conviction. The jury was entitled to conclude that there was only one sensible reason for Mrs Misra to cook the books: to hide her own stealing. An honest [subpostmaster] would have reported the loss immediately. This is what they are required to do. It is also the obvious step out of self-interest. At the very least it would nip any problem in the bud and limit the amount of money the subpostmaster might have to repay. Also, if a genuine problem was found with the computer system, there would be no question of repayment. Mrs Misra claimed that she had not wanted to lose the Post Office and that is why she had been so secretive. This ignored the obvious fact that she had allowed the loss to grow to such a catastrophic amount that it would have been better to give the business away. The jury was entitled to reject her evidence as absurd and to conclude that her belated attack

1		on Horizon was nothing but a desperate	1		of a distraction technique?
2		distraction [technique]."	2	A.	No.
3		Was that your view, in June 2014, that	3	Q.	Can we move, please, to POL00108394.
4		Mrs Misra's questions as to the integrity of the	4		Can we look, please, at page 4, please, and
5		Horizon data were nothing but a desperate	5		scroll down, please. Can we see this is
6		distraction tactic?	6		an email to you of March 2014 from
7	A.	Well, no.	7	A.	Yes.
8	Q.	So why did you write it?	8	Q.	a paralegal
9	A.	I didn't. It was as I say, it was a team	9	A.	Yes.
10		effort as a unit. Somebody wanted a summary of	10	Q.	Renata Prywerek?
11		what happened in year 2012 year 2010, at the	11		Did Renata Prywerek work in Post Office
12		trial, and that's basically bringing them up to	12		Limited Legal, or Royal Mail Group.
13		date to what happened in the Misra case.	13	A.	No, Legal. She assisted all of us in the team.
14	Q.	So who in the team was responsible for this	14		I think those are the names of all the people in
15		effort?	15		the team.
16	A.	It was joint effort, put together by number of	16	Q.	She says:
17		people, I think. I more or less told you the	17		"Hi all
18		people who were involved in it, who had a hand	18		"I have been asked by Piero"
19		in it and that's basically all I can help assist	19		Who was Piero?
20		you with.	20	A.	I think I don't know '12, '14, maybe he
21	Q.	Was it representative of an underlying	21		may have been a joint team leader or head of
22		assumption by that team, even in June 2014, that	22		legal when Hugh, I think, left by then. So
23		subpostmasters raising Horizon Issues during	23		I suppose he was a joint Head of the Legal Tean
24		investigations were lying about the causes of	24		at the Post Office Limited.
25		losses at their branch and were doing so as part 113	25	Q.	"I have been asked by Piero to collect 114
1		information about your matters.	1		King] to a number of meetings with expert and it
2		"Could you please create a list of your top	2		is hoped expert [will] be instructed shortly.
3		5 matters including a short description of each	3		"In these meetings discussed important
4		matter."	4		issues and assisted in briefing of the expert.
5		Yes.	5		"By liaising with different areas of Post
6	Α.	Yes.	6		Office Limited gathering information on
7	Q.	Then can we go to page 2, please. Can we see	7		technical aspects and funding and Fujitsu as
8		your reply, to Renata and to Piero:	8		appropriate and liaising between external
9		"Renata	9		lawyers and internal Post Office Limited
10		"Please see below Top five matters in	10		departments.
11		Criminal prosecutions."	11		"Feeding information to experts, who then
12		Yes?	12		become better informed to be able to deal with
13	A.	Yes.	13		Horizon issues/scope.
14	Q.	If we scroll down, please, number 1 is "Auditors	14		"Current and ongoing prosecutions cannot
15	ų.	Training".	15		[recommence] until instruction [of] independent
16	Α.	-	16		[Post Office Limited] computer expert is
17	Q.		17		instructed and his report is [in] hand."
18	Q.	page, I don't think it's in bold, number 2 is	18	A.	In hand, yes.
		"Scotland".	19	Q.	-
19	٨				Yeah? How many experts did you approach?
20	Α.	Yes.	20	Α.	I didn't personally approach any.
21	Q.	Number 3 is "Expert". One of the important	21	Q.	How many meetings did you attend of experts the
22		issues has been to locate a suitable expert and	22		were approached?
23		instruct them, I translate that as.	23	Α.	That was left in the capable hands of Cartwright
24 25	A. Q.	Yes. "Identified an expert. Accompanied [Cartwright 115	24 25		King and, I think, Simon Clarke was basically given the task but I don't know what he did but,

certainly, you know, that's what it was. 1 1 security and prosecution team. As part of its 2 2 Q. You say here that you accompanied Cartwright remit it undertakes investigations and where 3 King to a number of meetings? 3 deemed appropriate will undertake criminal 4 A. I --4 prosecutions in line with the business 5 Q. How many experts did you attend upon? 5 prosecution policy. If an incident is 6 A. I personally -- I think probably one or two, but 6 considered to have sufficient evidence to 7 a lot of it was their CVs, I think they passed 7 prosecute, it is passed to the Post Office 8 8 it over to me. But it was tasked for Cartwright Limited Legal team for review and consideration 9 King because they had the experts there, they 9 against the evidential and public interest 10 wanted to know what they were looking for. 10 tests. Legal teams recommendations are then They're the ones who will prosecute or not 11 passed to the Head of Security and if satisfied, 11 12 prosecute. They're the ones who would advise on 12 he will then make a decision on prosecution." 13 those things, so it was left in their capable 13 Then you say: 14 hands. 14 "a) There is no doubt that this year will be 15 15 the most challenging in terms of number of key So this is basically a one-to-one. I mean 16 she wanted to know five matters I'm involved in 16 factors; the findings of the Second Sight 17 and I gave her five matters. 17 review; the £20,000 threshold on anomalies for 18 They're all about Horizon, aren't they? 18 potential audit and prosecutions policy and Q. 19 Α. Well, yeah. I suppose, yes. 19 significantly proposals have been submitted for 20 "4. [Post Office] Mediation Scheme." 20 Contract Advisers not to precautionary suspend 21 21 Then: as a matter of course, without first considering 22 "5. Revised Prosecution Policy and Future 22 whether or not the subject [remains] in the Post 23 of [Post Office Limited] Prosecutions." 23 Office. 24 You sav: 24 "b) Following the Second Sight review and 25 "Post Office Limited has an in-house 25 revised prosecution policy with the resultant 117 1 cultural shift within the business, greater ever 1 of. 2 assist will be placed on fraud prevention and 2 Q. Prior to that time, had the Post Office enjoyed 3 early intervention activities. It is envisaged 3 a culture of prosecuting cases? 4 that a number of fraud risk programmes will be 4 A. Oh, was that a question, sorry? 5 initiated this year driven by emerging patterns 5 Q. Yes 6 ... the success of these programs will only be 6 A. You have to ask --7 achieved by collaborative approach with other 7 The senior lawyer within the Criminal Law Team? 8 Security strands and key stakeholders." 8 A. Maybe I'm a senior lawyer, maybe that's just the 9 title but I didn't get involved in any of that. You're reflecting here that there was 9 10 10 I don't know what it is, I think it is probably a fundamental shift in 2014 to the approach to somebody like Rob Wilson, maybe somebody -- you 11 prosecutions, aren't you? 11 had Mr Marsh, who was Head of Security, maybe 12 A. That's what I put -- that's what --12 13 That's true, there was a fundamental shift, 13 somebody from the board, maybe -- whatever it 14 wasn't there? 14 is. But I don't -- I can't answer that question A. That's what the business decided. I mean, 15 because I don't know. I wasn't part of it. 15 16 I think it was probably at other meetings, or 16 But all I can tell you is that the reason 17 whatever it is, but it's not my decision, it's 17 why it's there, because obviously I was told what the business was going to do, or what going 18 that's what they -- they were going to do, going 18 19 to do. I don't know. I mean, I'm not part of forward. You know, what the future looked like. 19 Q. Prior to this shift in prosecution policy, were 20 the management. I'm not part of the board, 20 21 the -- maybe one of the meetings, I was part of, 21 criminal investigations and proceedings launched 22 and that's what they decided what -- the way 22 without a proper basis? 23 they were going to go. 23 A. Of course not. I wouldn't -- no, no. 24 So all I'm doing is putting down -- putting 24 Why was a change necessary, then?

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down is one of the things I'm working or part

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25 A. I don't know. As I said to you, I wasn't

1 involved in the first incident of what you're 2 describing as, I don't recognise it. And the 3 second bit is I'm highlighting what I've been 4 told. You know, that's what the Post Office 5 wanted to do and I'm just saying "Well, that's 6 what the Post Office wanted to do in the future, 7 or presently", or -- but I can't answer that 8 because I was not part of any decision making, 9 wasn't part of -- in the management of. I'm 10 just a little bit, more or less a case worker, 11 in the sense I described in my statement.

12 Q. If we go over the page, please, to (c):

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"Cases will only be raised for criminal investigation once all alternative avenues which may culminate in a successful outcome have been explored and dismissed. The decided course of action needs to be proportionate, justified and necessary. Cases raised for investigations will be limited to those likely to seriously damage the brand or reputation of the Post Office. Other cases will be considered where there's a clear and obvious business need to conduct a criminal investigation."

Who decided that cases raised for investigation would be limited to those likely

then, that prosecutions would be launched if they damaged seriously the brand or reputation of the Post Office?

4 A. Well, I think again, it's not down to me.

I don't think I was part of it. I was probably

told about it. It would be the Head of Legal,

the board, maybe Head of Security. Certainly,

you know, you probably have seen so much work,

9 so much is emailed. I'm not probably copied

into most of it. I mean, I'm copied in as and

when they need some advice or assistance on the

12 legal front but, even on the legal front, I'm

13 passing it over to Cartwright King because

14 they're more handle because they're actually

dealing, physically dealing with the prosecution

16 on our behalf.

17 Q. Why were decisions as to whether to launch 18 criminal investigations and pursuing prosecutions clouded by concerns over the 19 20 reputation of the Post Office?

21 A. I can't help you with that because I don't know.

22 I mean, I'm not part of the -- the thing is that

23 if they flash those words out, it may have some

24 meaning but then a lot of the work at that time

25 and even now is all bullet points and -- you

seriously to damage the Post Office's brand? 1

2 A. I don't know. I mean, presumably the board,

3 presumably the management. Maybe the head of

the Legal -- Legal, but certainly this is,

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6 Q. But this time you were the Head of the Criminal 7 Law Team, weren't you?

A. I wasn't head of anything, to be honest with 8 9 you. I just went in as a challenge, as

10 an opportunity and I can reassure you I was not 11

Head of Criminal Law.

I think the outside world did, probably did, because I was the only criminal lawyer and I think originally they wanted Rob Wilson to go in, and at the last minute he dropped out, and I was put forward and I think in the last minute, in the last -- I think this post was on 1 April '12 and I think I was more or less told the end of March, probably the middle of March, "Do you want it?"

And I considered it, went to see Cartwright King, I liked it and I knew it would be tough, so I took that opportunity as a challenge and that's what I did.

25 Q. Who at the Post Office was driving the message, 122

1 know, so you need some sort of content to it,

2 some sort of background to understand what it

3 always means. But I wasn't part of any of that,

4 as to why they decided to do what they did,

5 decided to do.

6 Q. Can we turn please to POL00127280 and look at 7 page 2, please, and scroll down, please. Can we 8 see an email from you here to Angela van den

9 Bogerd, of May 2014?

10 A. Yes.

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Q. In the second paragraph, you say: 11

"There will be cases in which it will be clear from the outset that [Post Office Limited] will need to conduct [a] criminal investigation with [a] view to potential prosecution to protect [the Post Office Limited] brand and reputation and for business purposes."

18 Why would the protection of the Post Office 19 brand and reputation be a relevant consideration 20 in deciding whether to prosecute?

21 I've told -- you know, I've repeated it many

22 times. I have been told that's what they wanted 23 to do. All I'm doing is highlighting it to the

24 rest of the team, as to where they're going.

25 I mean, as to whys and hows and the purposes,

1		I wasn't the person to give you the answer to	1		about it. That's the past. It's been left
2		that. I don't know who where you would be	2		there.
3		able to get the answer now. I don't know who	3	Q.	Earlier in the piece, between, say, 2000 and
4		else is coming to give evidence to the Inquiry	4		2012, were business purposes brought into
5		but, certainly, I can't assist you any more than	5		account when deciding whether to prosecute or
6		what I have. All I've done is highlighted	6		not?
7		where what the Post Office wanted to do and	7	A.	I think the the I don't know. I mean,
8		how they want to do it.	8		I don't know. I mean I you know, it's such
9	Q.	What were the business purposes you referring to	9		a long time ago. You know, to try to explain it
10		there when you say that "sometimes there will be	10		all to you would be wrong of me to tell you
11		cases where a criminal investigation with a view	11		because I can't honestly answer that.
12		to potential prosecution needs to be commenced	12	Q.	Was one of the business purposes you're
13		for business purposes?" What were the business	13		referring to there the protection of the
14		purposes?	14		integrity of the Horizon system
15	A.	I don't know.	15	A.	I don't know. Only the person who
16	Q.	What business purposes could justify a criminal	16	Q.	ie we'll prosecute
17		investigation?	17	A.	who made the decision would know. I don't
18	A.	7 May 2014 I don't know. I mean, I you	18		know what they were thinking, or the reason for
19		know, such a long time ago. I've been away from	19		it being there.
20		this sort area of work and, certainly, the Post	20	Q.	Was one of the business purposes debt recovery
21		Office, for a long time, and I've been involved	21		using criminal prosecution in order to recover
22		in other matters, other legal work. I can't,	22		debt from postmasters?
23		you know, say hand on heart, to tell you exactly	23	A.	I don't personally, no, but I don't know what
24		what it was because I don't I don't remember	24		the other people thought or why they did what
25		as to what the purposes were. I've forgotten	25		they did, but I certainly didn't think of it
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1		that way. I mean, my thing was	1	MR	BEER: Good afternoon, Mr Singh. Can we pick up,
2	Q.	If we've ruled out those two things, the	2		please, with POL00101851, please, and start by
3		business purpose of protecting the integrity of	3		looking at pages 2 and 3.
4		Horizon, and the business purpose of recovering	4		Let's start on 3, and scroll down, please.
5		debt from subpostmasters as a motivator or	5		Can we see this is an email signed off by Nick
6		a relevant consideration for prosecution, what	6		Wallis, the journalist, and scroll up, please,
7		were the business purposes to which you're	7		and if we look at the date of the email it's
8		referring?	8		initially to Melanie Corfield, asking for
9	A.	I'm not referring to anything. All I'm doing is	9		an interview and he says:
10		repeating what I've been told to tell the rest	10		"Thank you for your help with The One Show
11		of the team.	11		transmitted on Tuesday, 9 December. We're now
12	Q.	So just following orders, really?	12		preparing a second film which is due to go out
13	A.	Yes.	13		on The One Show on BBC One at around the same
14	MR	BEER: Thank you very much.	14		time next week. We would be most grateful if
15		It's 1.20, sir. Might that be an	15		the Post Office would be prepared to offer
16		appropriate moment to break? Could I ask that	16		an interview expressing its view in the
17		we come back at 2.10, please?	17		continuing dispute with some subpostmasters over
18	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine.	18		Horizon and associated issues.
19	MR	BEER: Thank you very much, sir.	19		"2) The film we're broadcasting once again
20	(1.2	20pm)	20		refers to concerns over Horizon. This time it
21		(The Short Adjournment)	21		features the story of Steve Phillips from Nelson
22	(2.1	0 pm)	22		in South Wales, as well as interviews from
23	MR	BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear	23		a group of former subpostmasters, including Noel

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.

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Thomas, Jo Hamilton, Julian Wilson, who say they

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felt under pressure to sign off incorrect

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accounts even though they did not understand how sums could be missing.

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"3) In our film former postmasters say it is difficult to investigate the causes of shortfalls for which they are held liable, because of the way Horizon and associated Post Office processes and policy function. They say in order to open for business the day after the close of a trading period they had to agree to pay back alleged shortfalls (either by settling to cash or settling centrally, which implies payment later). They say this put them in a very difficult position", et cetera.

Then, if we scroll up the email, please, and just a little bit more. Thank you. You'll see Melanie Corfield forwards it to Belinda Crowe, Mark Davies, Patrick Bourke, Rod Williams, Ruth Barker, Tom Wechsler, copied to Angela van den Bogerd:

"To see below. Can I suggest we have a meeting/call to discuss please.

"Copying Angela to see if we can get any knowledge about Steven Phillips -- looks as though he is a serving subpostmaster. The other allegations and accusations are all themes we 129

1 in, into -- I can't -- I don't know what the 2 answer to that is.

- 3 Q. Who was leading on the development of robust 4 lines within Post Office at this time?
- 5 A. I was told the Communication Team, presumably, 6
- 7 and presumably higher management or the board or

community -- community -- Communication Team,

- 8 Chief Executive, I presume. I certainly wasn't.
- 9 By that time, every time something happened,
- 10 I just went through our external lawyers because
- 11 they're the ones who were actually prosecuting
- 12 or deciding on issues to do with, you know, the
- 13 way they were going to deal with the
- 14 subpostmasters going forward or presently.
- 15 This isn't about prosecuting; this is about
- 16 promulgating robust lines to a journalist who is
- 17 about to broadcast a programme on the BBC, on
- 18 BBC One.
- 19 A. I can only assume, I mean I can't assist you
- 20 either way, presumably it was the Communication
- 21 Team. That's their job, isn't it, or that's
- 22 what they're employed for but, certainly --
- 23 Q. They're employed to communicate and to develop
- 24 communication strategies and they're employed
- 25 for media relations reasons. They're not

1 have robust lines about and also of course that 2 we are preparing for Jo S.

"But I think we need to be extremely robust about opinion from specialists who have not been involved in this and are commenting from the sidelines."

Then scroll up a little further, please. We can ignore that email. A little bit further.

9 At the top, Rod Williams says to the copy list:

10 "Please copy Jarnail."

11 Indeed, you are then added to the copy list,

12 can you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 **Q.** Just going down to the top of page 2, please.

The line "The other allegations are all themes 15

16 we have robust lines about and we need to be

17 extremely robust about opinion from

18 specialists", is it your recollection that, at

19 this time, this is December 2014, that was still

20 the Post Office's position?

21 A. To be honest, I can't say "yes" or "no" to that.

22 I don't know. I don't know what there was. As

I said, at that time, I more or less was

24 an observer. There were so many things going,

25 so many people doing things. I wasn't copied

1 employed of their own volition to develop --

2 Α.

23

3 Q. -- robust lines; they've got to come from

4 somewhere, haven't they?

5 A. Yes, it's not coming from me. It's above my

6 head. I mean, I don't know how this thing

7 works. That's what I'm saying to you, sir,

8 I don't know.

9 Q. Why were you, at this stage, copied in on this

chain, ie the development of robust lines ready 10

11 for a BBC One broadcast?

12 A. Presumably from a criminal aspect, criminal law

13 aspect of it because the guy who said that

14 I should be copied in presumably had been asked

15 from a civil litigation point, this is the

16 criminal litigation side of it. So that's

17 probably why he said, well, maybe we ought to

get another person on board who can give you 18

19 other aspect of the -- you know, this side of

20

21 Q. Or is it because, at this time, December 2014,

22 you would have continued to say what we've seen

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23 in all of the emails we've seen this morning:

24 that subpostmasters are guilty?

25 A. No.

	Q.	TO the extent to willon they raise questions
2		about Horizon, they're jumping on a bandwagon or
_		

the extent to which they raise avections

3 acting to distract from their own guilt?

4 A. No, I have never held that view. Maybe in the

5 email that's how it comes across but no, the

6 answer is no, no, no.

7 Q. Every email that we've looked at shows that you

8 wrote that. There isn't a single email showing

9 you held the opposite view.

- 10 A. Do you think --
- Q. Why is that? 11
- A. I don't know. You know, that's -- my answer is 12
- 13 no, that's not the view I held from the outset.
- 14 I never held that view. You're bringing this up
- 15 over and over again and my answer is no, no and
- 16 no. I just --
- 17 Q. Can you try and engage with the question rather
- than just saying, "My answer is going to be no 18
- 19 no and no"? If you genuinely --
- 20 A. I am engaging but you're repeating the same
- 21 question about ten different times. The answer
- 22 is going to be the same, isn't it?
- 23 Q. If I'm doing anything wrong the Chairman will
- 24 intervene, so kindly answer my question,
- 25 Mr Singh?

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- 1 difficult case.
- 2 Q. How did they drag you?
- 3 A. Well, they didn't drag me, in that sense --
- 4 Q. Why did you just say they dragged you?
- 5 A. Dragged, in the sense that I was unfortunate to
- 6 have this case that had all sorts of
- 7 complications in it. I mean, if it wasn't
- 8 a straightforward case, then you would have got
- 9 somebody senior, like, you know, Juliet
- 10 McFarlane who was the principal lawyer or the
- Head of Criminal Law. So, no, the answer is to 11
- 12
- 13 Q. Was there, in 2014, December 2014, still a siege
- 14 mentality within the Post Office: "We need still
- 15 to be defending the robustness of Horizon"?
- A. Not from me. I don't know what the other people 16
- 17 were thinking or whatever it was, but certainly
- 18 I -- by that time, I wasn't prosecuting, and
- 19 I think I was just assisting as and when was
- required, as you can see from the email. 20
- 21 Somebody said, "Well, have you included Jarnail
- 22 Singh in?" and, all of a sudden, they remember
- 23 and copy me in.
- 24 Q. Can we move on, please, to POL00101857. Can we
- 25 scroll down, please. Can we see an email of

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1 A. Okay.

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- 2 Q. If you held the view -- if you had an open mind
- 3 about the integrity of Horizon, rather than the
 - view we've seen expressed in countless emails
- 5 now, why did you not reduce it to writing?
- 6 How do you mean? What do you mean?
- 7 Q. Sorry?
- A. Why did I put it in writing? 8
- Q. Why did you not put it in writing? If you had 9
- 10 a genuinely open mind about Horizon, rather than
- 11 "Everyone's guilty, if they blame Horizon,
- 12 they're just jumping on a bandwagon, we'll win
- 13 a few cases and those people will melt away like
- 14 the midnight snow", why do we not see any emails
- 15 to say, "Look, I've got an open mind about this,
- 16 we need properly to investigate it"?
- 17 A. Because I'm not involved in that level. That's
- why, and I've never held that view. I will 18
- 19 never hold that view. It's just unfortunate
- 20 that the -- I was sort of dragged into
- 21 prosecuting these sort of cases or this
- 22 particular case --
- 23 Q. Who dragged you in?
- 24 Well, just it was my case, straightforward case,
- 25 and it turned out to be guite a complex and

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yours of 14 December 2014. You say:

"All

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3 "My comments on Nick Wallis' One Show email

4 dated 12/12/14 to [Melanie Corfield] by numbered 5

paragraphs as relevant to criminal law are as

6 follows ..."

7 So this is a response to the email that we

8 looked at, yes?

- 9 A. Yes, yes, yes.
- Q. 10 You pick up his paragraphs in each case, so his 11 paragraph 3, and you say:
- 12 "Here there are more options for the
- 13 [subpostmaster] ..."
 - Then his paragraph 4. His paragraph 4 read:
- 15 "We asked one former subpostmaster why she
- 16 pleaded guilty to false accounting in court when
- 17 she believed herself to be innocent. She told
- 18 us that she felt she couldn't defend herself
- 19 because she didn't have proper records, that the
- Post Office had taken some potentially useful 20
- 21 items and paperwork away during their
- 22 investigation and she felt she would be
- 23 prosecuted for theft as well as false accounting
- 24 if she had not pleaded guilty to false
- 25 accounting."

1 I'm faced with. This is the advice I'm seeking. 1 Your reply is: 2 2 "[Post Office Limited] cannot comment on Please advise". 3 individual cases. We don't know which case this 3 And that's -- basically I've used that, that 4 4 is. Maybe it is someone who said one thing in advice, to respond to it. It's not a personal 5 interview under caution, which entailed 5 response because I didn't have the expertise to 6 admission of offence of dishonesty, but later 6 deal with it. So what I'd done, like everything 7 chooses to misrepresent the facts purposely. 7 else I do, is to seek expert legal advice to 8 8 Without knowing who it is and what she says we pass on to the business. 9 9 cannot respondent further. Maybe it is Q. So where it says, "My comments", these aren't 10 somebody, who we prosecuted recently, ie file 10 your comments? still exists and if the BBC provides the No. They're not, they --11 11 Α. 12 information, we may then be able to verify this 12 It shouldn't say, "My comments". It should 13 or otherwise." 13 say --14 Why was your initial reaction, without 14 A. It should --15 15 Q. -- I don't know anything about this"? knowing which case Mr Wallis was referring to, 16 that the subpostmaster may have admitted 16 Yes, I sought advice, yes, on Nick Wallis' One 17 dishonesty and then later purposely 17 Show thing. I might even have gone further. 18 misrepresented the facts? 18 Now in hindsight, from experience and knowledge, 19 A. It wasn't my view. As I said previously, 19 I might have said "Look, I am not an expert, 20 I've -- I have no experience of any of these 20 I will seek advice and will revert back to you" 21 21 type of responses to the media. I obviously and the next email would have been "This is the 22 sought on the whole content of it from 22 advice I've had, this is a copy". 23 an expert -- expert being a senior legal adviser 23 That's what I'd have done now, looking in 24 24 or the criminal barrister -- criminal hindsight, but, at that time, the pressure of 25 specialist, and I said "Well, look, this is what 25 the time -- times -- time where you are you 138 1 haven't got the time -- and to focus on the 1 not an expert at everything in the law, there 2 2 particular aspect because, you know, you've got are certain aspects I know, personally I can 3 the tray full of other stuff to deal with. 3 make a contribution towards, but this is advice 4 That's what I did. So that's what I've done on 4 which I'm seeking because I'm not a specialist 5 5 Sunday because Monday to Friday I haven't had in that area and I want the business to have the 6 the energy or the time to deal with this. So 6 best advice there is. 7 that's -- where are we, 11.00 on Sunday morning? 7 Q. So it wasn't your view that the person that the 8 So this --8 BBC were referring to, who they had interviewed, 9 Q. So who was the legal expert that dictated this 9 was somebody who may have said one thing in 10 10 to you? interview under caution, in which they admitted A. I think over the time, I've used various people 11 dishonesty, but then later chose to misrepresent 11 I've known or made contact through my workings 12 12 the facts. That wasn't your view at all? 13 with them. But I think this is probably more 13 I don't know. I mean, this is going back years 14 likely to be, you know, Cartwright King. 14 now. I mean, presumably, from past experience, Q. So what, you get the email from Melanie Corfield 15 knowledge, maybe, maybe not. But I can't say, 15 16 saying the BBC is going to go to press, go to 16 yes, or -- I can -- I can't say "yes" or "no" to 17 broadcast The One Show, can we have some 17 that, so I don't know. 18 comments please? That's forwarded on to you. Q. So we should be able to find an email exchange, 18 19 You don't reply. You instead go off to 19 should we, on all of these things where you're 20 Cartwright King and say, "What should I reply?" 20 going back to Cartwright King and saying, "Look, 21 and Cartwright King dictate an email to you 21 I've received this. Although I'm a senior 22 which says this, and then you send it out as if 22 criminal lawyer, I'm not expert in the criminal 23 it's your own work? 23 law. Can you help me out as to what I should 24 Well, I think there is a -- part of it would be. 24 say?"

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I mean, I would, like, any person -- I mean, I'm

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Then we should be able to find a reply from

1		Cartwright King saying, "Jarnail, say this"?	1	A.	No, no
2	Α.		2	Q.	Because that's just wild speculation, isn't it?
3	, ···	me chatting to them and they'd either dictating	3	Α.	That's what it would be but then it wouldn't be
4		it and me making notes. I can't you know,	4		speculation in the sense that there may be
5		it's years later tell you exactly what	5		some you know, if you come across a case, you
6		happened. But I presumably, if there is	6		might have formed that view, you kept it, and
7		an email, you will be able to lay your hands on	7		then subsequently used it. But without any
8		it because, you know, it's there on the system,	8		knowledge or personal experience, I wouldn't
9		wherever you got this from.	9		have just put it down to like that, or maybe the
10	Q.	Well, that's the problem: it's not. What we've	10		person who is helping and assisting in that case
11		got is the email sent to you and then your reply	11		have come across it, and they highlighted it
12		saying, "My comments are as follows".	12		and maybe rightly or wrongly, maybe
13	A.		13		I shouldn't have used it. I don't know.
14	۸.	that, you know, this years on. You know, my	14	Q.	Is this emblematic of the Post Office's attitude
15		thing is you just I can't I can't assist	15	Œ.	towards subpostmasters who challenged the Post
16		you further.	16		Office's approach to prosecutions, that we
17	Q.	But you wouldn't associate yourself with this,	17		assume that they may themselves have done
18	Œ.	would you? There's a case of a subpostmaster	18		something wrong; we can't countenance the idea
19		blaming the Horizon system. Your response	19		that they might actually be right?
20		wouldn't be "Well, hold on, there might be	20	A.	That's not my view. But, certainly, whether the
21		someone who said things under interview, under	21	Α.	Post Office has the view then I think the
22		caution, in which they admitted dishonesty and	22		witnesses you had in the past and the future,
23		they're now misrepresenting the facts"; without	23		you'll have to ask them. I can't say for the
24		knowing about a case you wouldn't say that,	24		Post Office. I know certainly I would it's
25		would you?	25		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
23		141	25		not my view, I didn't you know, I did what 142
1		I had to do	1		coroll down places. So the contact from the
1	0	I had to do	1		scroll down, please. So the context from the
2	Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which	2		heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the
2		Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind?	2		heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by
2 3 4		Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to	2 3 4		heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible
2 3 4 5		Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got	2 3 4 5		heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would
2 3 4 5 6		Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit	2 3 4	•	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right?
2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work.	2 3 4 5 6 7	Α.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive ingénue, were you?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q. A.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you know, maybe I didn't think it through, probably	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say: "I was the Prosecution lawyer in the case of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you know, maybe I didn't think it through, probably didn't have the time to think it through.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say: "I was the Prosecution lawyer in the case of R v Misra at Guildford Crown Court in 2009-2010.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you know, maybe I didn't think it through, probably didn't have the time to think it through. Thinking it through now, I probably wouldn't	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say: "I was the Prosecution lawyer in the case of R v Misra at Guildford Crown Court in 2009-2010. As far as I am aware, this is the only criminal
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you know, maybe I didn't think it through, probably didn't have the time to think it through. Thinking it through now, I probably wouldn't have.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say: "I was the Prosecution lawyer in the case of R v Misra at Guildford Crown Court in 2009-2010. As far as I am aware, this is the only criminal trial where a jury has been required to consider
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you know, maybe I didn't think it through, probably didn't have the time to think it through. Thinking it through now, I probably wouldn't have. Can we turn, please, to POL00060974. If we	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say: "I was the Prosecution lawyer in the case of R v Misra at Guildford Crown Court in 2009-2010. As far as I am aware, this is the only criminal trial where a jury has been required to consider in detail the integrity of the Horizon system.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q.	Even though you're the author of an email which rather discloses that state of mind? I may be the author of it but I as I said to you, no individual person can do this. It's got to be a team effort. It's got to be a unit because, otherwise, it wouldn't work. But you put your name to all of these emails? Because You weren't some naive <i>ingénue</i> , were you? Probably, looking in hindsight, maybe I was, you know, maybe I didn't think it through, probably didn't have the time to think it through. Thinking it through now, I probably wouldn't have. Can we turn, please, to POL00060974. If we scroll down, please, if we just look at the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q.	heading "Second Sight and QC" appears to be the review that was being undertaken at this time by Second Sight, and the involvement or possible involvement of a QC, and presumably that would be Brian Altman QC, at that time; is that right? That's right, yes. You say: "I was thinking about what we have been working on. Here are my thoughts." You say: "I was the Prosecution lawyer in the case of R v Misra at Guildford Crown Court in 2009-2010. As far as I am aware, this is the only criminal trial where a jury has been required to consider in detail the integrity of the Horizon system. I can say generally about what lessons can be
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1	drawn from Misra. I'm aware of the independent
2	nature of the inquiry and its expertise. I am
3	seeking to merely set out some lessons and
1	tentative suggestions I have derived from
5	completion of a difficult case."

Was this your own work?

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- A. No. It's not completely all my work. It's as I say, I first sought the help and assistance
 and advice from others who know -- you know, who
 could assist with the --
- 11 Q. So when you say, "I am aware", "I am seeking",
 12 and you're making "tentative suggestions", and
 13 "I have derived" ...
- A. Yeah, I mean, looking in hindsight, I mean that 14 probably would have been wise to say "Look" --15 16 maybe even name -- say "Look, I've sought advice 17 from A, B, C and D, these are the thoughts of 18 a number of people, and that will help you in 19 appointing, you know, the QC, Brian Altman, or 20 who else because this is the sort of area we're 21 looking at, the complexity of the Horizon system 22 and you need to be aware of that", basically.

I mean, I don't think there was anything in it. I mean, that's basically more or less what I done previously. So --

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I needed other people's input to complete it and
 this is just assisting legal counsel in the Post
 Office to help her to appoint somebody.

Q. Can we scroll down, please. In the last paragraph on this page, you say:

"It is very easy for a dishonest [subpostmaster], as Mrs Misra was proved to be, to make vague accusations against Horizon where other lines of defence are closed. It is not difficult to attract sympathy for such false claims. A [subpostmaster] is likely to be viewed as a hard-working person of good character. Most [subpostmasters] who steal do so because they are in financial difficulties, often stealing simply to prop up their failing shop business. In such circumstances there will be no evidence of luxurious living. A dishonest [subpostmaster] can use these factors to create a false picture that he or she is the honest, hard-working victim of a complicated yet flawed computer system."

Where did that description of the dishonest subpostmaster come from?

subpostmaster come from?
A. I don't know. I don't know where that came
from, presumably a number of cases the Post
147

1 Q. You continue:

"Horizon is a complex computer system, about which even eminent experts can make mistakes."

Can you see we've seen this before, haven't

5 we

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6 A. Yes, it's the same.

7 Q. This is a rehash --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- of another email?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. "There was no reason to doubt Professor

12 McLachlan's expertise and good faith but time

13 again he had to be corrected by Mr Jenkins."

14 A. Yes. The same.

15 **Q.** "... not the only expert to have misunderstood

16 ... I have spoken to colleagues", et cetera.

17 So here you're passing off as your own

thoughts a cut and paste on an email, which

19 itself was passing off as your own thoughts

something that was, in fact, written by somebody

21 else? Is that where we've got to?

22 A. It's -- yes, I suppose you could say that, yes.

23 Q. Well, I do say that and I'm asking you, that's

24 where we've got to, Mr Singh?

25 A. I think -- I mean, I was involved in it.

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1 Office --

2 Q. You're talking about Mrs Misra here, aren't you?

3 A. Well, that's the -- well, I -- the fact that

4 Mrs Misra's case has been the one that's been

5 more detailed, then that's the reason why it's

6 been highlighted as the *Misra* case, but it would

7 be -- generally, it wouldn't be just one case,

8 you would assume, it would be a lot -- you know,

9 generally the picture has emerged. It wasn't

just my view; it was the view of the people who

11 made a contribution towards this.

12 **Q.** Cartwright King hadn't been involved in the

13 prosecution of Seema Misra, had they?

14 A. No, they hadn't. No.

15 **Q.** So was it your view that you're referring to

16 here then?

17 A. No, I didn't deal with the whole of the case.

18 As I said to you, that's because it was one of

19 those cases where it was difficult. I was away

20 quite a bit in that year because it was

21 a difficult year for me personally. So you had

other people picking up the case on and off, and

23 dealing with it.

24 Q. Whose view are you referring to here?

25 $\,$ **A.** Well, all the people in the -- in our -- in the

- Criminal Law Team. 1
- 2 Q. Is that the collective view of the Criminal Law
- Team that we see revealed there, then? 3
- 4 A. No, I don't think so. It just --
- 5 Q. Who within the Criminal Law Team did not hold
- 6 that view?
- A. I don't think any of us did. It's just a --7
- 8 Q. I thought you just said that --
- Well. I --9 A.
- 10 Q. -- this is the view of the Criminal Law Team?
- A. It's not the view, it's -- when you're writing 11
- something, you just -- it's something that came 12
- 13 about but I can't give you -- I can't say that
- 14 that's the view we generally held or -- in
- 15 hindsight, it was silly, stupid thing to do,
- 16 I suppose.
- 17 Q. Sorry, in hindsight?
- A. In hindsight, it wouldn't be written like that, 18
- 19 would it? I mean, maybe at that time.
- 20 Not with you sitting here having to justify it, Q.
- 21 if that's what you call hindsight?
- 22 A. No, what I mean is, you know, when you had
- 23 reviews, and so forth, then obviously you know
- 24 there's something wrong. But at that time,
- 25 nobody was aware. Everybody was relying on it, 149
- 1 a case, and that you acted as a point of contact 2
 - between the Post Office Limited and Cartwright
- 3 King and would request or forward information as
- 4 and when required. You made a correction to
- 5 that part of your statement this morning,
- 6 I think.

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- In paragraph 7, you give the impression that
 - you were essentially a postbox between the Post
- 9 Office and Cartwright King; would that be fair?
- A. Um --10
- **Q.** This is post-separation. 11
- 12 A. I think at the beginning I wanted to do things
- 13 in a certain way but I think, as soon as Second
- 14 Sight came on board, it was different because
- 15 I had other pressures internally. I didn't have
- 16 the resources. I didn't have the support and
- 17 I think I mentioned to you early this morning
- 18 that I highlighted that to Susan and Hugh, and
- 19 Cartwright King, basically, more or less sat in
- 20 the seats of the Criminal Law Team, as they were
- 21 before.
- 22 And yes, they -- that's right. I mean, as
- 23 and when they needed me, I was there; as and
- 24 when I needed them, they were there.
- 25 What level of supervision and oversight did you Q. 151

- 1 I think, so we assumed that everything was fine.
- 2 So at that particular moment in time, the year
- 3 2010, it was -- the system was working perfectly
- 4 as everybody was -- as far as everybody was
- 5 concerned
- 6 Q. This is July 2013, when everyone knew that
- 7 everything wasn't fine?
- A. Well, it's the background. Susan wanted the 8
- 9 background or something, I think she mentioned
- 10 something in a passing "Jarnail, can you help",
- and that's probably why I mentioned it. 11
- But you're still running the line, aren't you, 12 Q.
- 13 that there's a presumption of dishonesty with
- 14 subpostmasters; they're to blame, not Horizon?
- A. No, that's not the case. I never held that 15
- 16 presumption. I never assumed anything. It's
- 17 just the -- what it was at that particular
- 18 moment in -- at that particular date or time.
- 19 Q. Can we move on, that can come down, please.
- 20 You refer in your witness statement to the
- 21 supervision of prosecutions or investigations
- 22 and charging decisions, undertaken by Cartwright
- 23 King. You say in paragraph 7 that, in respect
- 24 of criminal prosecutions, Cartwright King took
- 25 over full responsibility for the lifetime of

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- 1 perform post-separation when Cartwright King
- 2 took over responsibility in the way that you
- 3
- 4 A. How do you mean -- the Criminal Law Team, or --
- Q. Post-separation, you're the only criminal lawyer 5
- 6 in Post Office Limited. Cartwright King, you
- 7 say, take over responsibility and you acted as
- 8 a point of contact between the Post Office and
- Cartwright King and I'm asking what level of 9
- 10 supervision and oversight of Cartwright King's
- 11 work did you undertake?
- 12 A. I didn't. I don't -- I think you're right,
- 13 probably was more of a -- I can't remember, to
- 14 be honest. It was -- it just -- I don't know,
- 15 I mean, is the answer to that. I certainly --
- it was more like I described to you, it's 16
- 17 a relationship where they basically knew
- I worked very well, and I think they came on 18
- board on the subpostmasters' cases early 2011. 19
- 20 Q. That's what I was going to ask you. When did
- 21 Cartwright King take over full responsibility
- 22 for the lifetime of a criminal case?
- 23 A. I think more or less March, year 2011, something
- 24 like that. Because we didn't have the capacity
- 25 in-house and I think, more or less, some of the

1 cases where I did one or two initial advices, 2 that is the year -- March 2011 and I think 3 I went up to Rob Wilson and said, "Look, how are 4 we going to manage this?"

> And I think he then -- I think, soon after the decision was made to pass all the subpostmaster cases to Cartwright King. And I think they formalised the position even more after 1 April 2012. But they'd been dealing with our cases, or the subpostmaster cases -prosecution of subpostmaster cases the year

12 before, March '11.

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13 Q. So between March 2011 and April 2012, who in the 14 Post Office was responsible for the supervision 15 of the conduct of prosecutions undertaken by 16 Cartwright King?

17 Α. Presumably the Head of Criminal Law Team.

Did any of the criminal lawyers take part in 18 19 search supervision of prosecutions conducted by 20 Cartwright King?

21 A. I don't know to that, I mean, I -- I --

22 honestly, I don't know. I certainly -- I think

23 one of the problem was -- the reasons being,

24 I think the principal lawyer -- I think she had

25 some medical problem. I think she had to take 153

1 as you know, "Jarnail, can you help with it, can 2 you help with that?" Because there's a lot 3 going on, you've got a Second Sight law, you've 4 got the mediation, you've got all sorts of 5 people reviewing it, shifting through the cases. 6 The Chief Executive period --

7 Q. When you say "shift", do you mean sifting 8 through the cases?

9 A. Sifting, sorry -- shit, sorry about that. Yes.

> So it was very exhausting, it was very extending but it was enjoyable in the sense of something new and the beauty -- the good thing was that I had experts, Cartwright King, the barristers, in Bell Yard, assisting and helping, so, from a development point of view, it was quite good, but from --

Q. I'm less interested in your professional 17 18 development and how fulfilled you felt --

A. I'm filling in, purely because, you know, there 19 20

were other things to do with in-house but

21 I can't list all of them because it was Susan,

22 Hugh, other team members. You've got the civil

23 litigation lawyers, again, dealing with the

24 mediation side of it.

25 So would this be right, between March 2011 and Q. 155

1 six months or ten months off, and I said "Well,

2 look, Rob, I can't deal with this. There's just

3 too much". I don't know what number of cases

4 were we're involved with now but that's when the

5 decision is made to -- the subpostmaster cases

6 just went to Cartwright King, from then on.

7 Q. So you can't help us as to who within the Post

8 Office was responsible for the supervision of

9 the conduct of prosecutions by Cartwright King

10 between March 2011 and April 2012?

It would be Rob Wilson, I would assume. 11 A.

Just Rob Wilson? 12

13 Yeah, I would have thought.

Q. Okay. 14

15 A. It certainly wasn't me because -- it wouldn't

16 have been on my sort of, you know, grade or

17 whatever it is they call it, yeah.

18 Q. Okay. If all of the prosecutions were being

19 undertaken and they undertook full

20 responsibility for the lifetime of criminal

21 cases, Cartwright King --

22 A.

23 Q. -- between March 2011 and April 2012, what were

you doing? 24

25 **A**. Well, I -- almost everything in-house. I mean,

1 April 2012, you were engaged in work that

2 concerned the fallout from the discovery of some

3 problems or potential problems with Horizon and

4 liaison with parts of the business the Second

5 Sight review, the setting up of the Mediation

6 Scheme, and other things like that, rather than

7 the conduct of prosecutions?

I mean, with mediation and the setting up other 8 A.

9 aspects, they're just on the periphery of it or

10 the outside. I wasn't heavily involved in any

11 of that because I wasn't part of that. But any

12 criminal aspect, getting data together, I think

13 they -- the board wanted some sort of sheet as

14 to, you know, how many cases are being

15 prosecuted, how many cases are not. The

16 progress side of things.

18 of Hugh -- I think he used to email me "Jarnail,

And I think -- I don't know what the remit

19 can you give me this? What does that mean?",

20 you know, from a criminal aspect. You know,

21 generally that.

17

22 Q. After then, after April 2012, post-separation,

23 where you were the only criminal lawyer within

24 Post Office Limited --

25 A. Yes, I was the only criminal lawyer there, yes.

- Q. -- who was responsible in the Post Office for
 supervising the conduct of prosecutions that
- 3 were run by Cartwright King?
- 4 A. Well, I suppose it would be Hugh. Hugh had
- 5 quite an input into it. He always wanted to
- 6 know what was going on, and I think --
- 7 Q. What was Hugh's job then?
- 8 A. He was Head of Legal.
- 9 Q. Civil?
- 10 A. No, overall.
- 11 Q. So you, as the only criminal lawyer didn't, have
- 12 any role in the supervision of the conduct of
- 13 criminal prosecutions run by Cartwright King?
- 14 A. I think they kept me informed as to what was
- going on. I did ask a lot of the time, "Look,
- 16 Hugh wants to know that", "Susan wants to know
- 17 that", "Business wants to know that", and they
- 18 were very helpful, and they used to -- and also
- 19 I think I had quite a good relationship with
- 20 their lawyers, four or five of them, and they
- 21 all said, "Jarnail" -- they used to flag things
- 22 up for me, so I can, in turn, keep myself up to
- 23 date and communicate that to, you know, Hugh and
- 24 Susan.

8

- 25 **Q.** Was there a system for reviewing how Cartwright
- 1 out of the loop, were you?
- 2 A. Well, I think, as you can probably see from the
- 3 emails, that yes, most of the time, I was a bit
- 4 sort of -- as and when there was advice to be
- 5 sought, or some input, they included me in. But
- 6 I think a lot of it is things that have been --
- 7 they've been there -- civil litigation has been
 - part of the Post Office Limited or some of the
- 9 people been there longer than have, I don't --
- 10 before even their separation, and it was
- 11 business as usual.
- The criminal lawyer side was something that was new to them and we had Cartwright King in place, we had the Bell Yard lawyers --
- 15 barristers in place.
- 16 Q. What were the Bell Yard barristers doing?
- 17 A. Well, they were prosecuting.
- 18 Q. Talking in April 2012 onwards?
- 19 A. I think there was ongoing cases which they
- 20 brought forward which they were already part of,
- 21 and I think then, subsequently, Cartwright King
- 22 either decided to keep in-house or to use them
- 23 as and when there was London cases but I can't
- 24 help you with that.
- 25 **Q.** Can you just help us, I'll ask one last time: as 159

- 1 King or indeed any other external solicitors
- 2 were conducting their prosecutions?
- 3 A. I don't know whether there was official policy
 - but I wasn't aware of it. But that would have
- 5 been -- I wasn't copied into anything like that.
- 6 I've not seen any policy as to how they've been
- 7 reviewed but I think they were sort of more or
- 8 less -- because Second Sight came in on board
- 9 more or less June/July '12, I think it was, and
 10 I think, after that, I was -- from a different
- 11 position to where I wanted to be.
- 12 And I think then that, again, is something
- 13 that Hugh and Susan would have monitored or had
- something in place to chat to them and work out,
- 15 do their appraisal and --
- 16 Q. So it's Hugh and Susan's job, not yours?
- 17 **A.** No, no
- 18 Q. Was there any system in place to your knowledge
- 19 to ensure that Cartwright King would be aware of
- 20 any potential Horizon system issues or user
- 21 issues relating to Horizon?
- 22 A. I would assume so but I can't say "yes" or "no"
- 23 because I wasn't part of it. I wasn't told one
- 24 way or the other.
- 25 **Q.** So as the only criminal lawyer, you were kept
- 1 the person with the 15-year history of
- 2 prosecuting cases, as the person who was the
- 3 criminal lawyer, why after April 2012 did you
- 4 have such a limited role, even though you were
- 5 the only criminal lawyer in the Legal team?
- 6 A. Well, yeah, that was what was required, it just
- 7 fitted in with whatever the business wanted.
- 8 I mean the -- a lot of the -- you know, well all
- 9 of the prosecutions dealt with by outside,
- 10 that's the -- their model or that's the way they
- 11 wanted to go forward, and that's what the other
- 12 areas of the law were. Same with the civil
- 13 litigation, there was only Rodric, I think,
- there and the same as the company commercial,
- there was only one lawyer overseeing that, and
- that's the model. Maybe they misunderstood how
- it was going to work but that's how it worked
- and then subsequently other things took over.
- 19 Q. Can I turn to prosecution policies and charging
- 20 decisions. In your witness statement,
- 21 paragraphs 19 and 20, you say, during the period
- 22 when the Post Office was still part of the Royal
- 23 Mail Group, so this is up to April 2012, files
- 24 would be prepared by Investigators and sent to
- 25 the Criminal Law Team for advice as to

			st Office Horizon IT	uiry	30 Novembe	
1		prosecution and appropriate charges, correct?	1		I have in front of me, and at the time	e of each
2	A.	Where are we?	2		subpostmaster case I followed the r	
3	Q.	19 and 20.	3		codes, policies and procedures and	
4	A.	Okay. Do you know want to put it on the screen	4		thought I was doing the right thing."	
5		or can't we put it on the screen, or there's no	5		Is that right?	
6		need?	6	A.	Yes, yes.	
7	Q.	Yes, we can put it on the screen if you want.	7	Q.	In paragraphs 12 to 15 of your witne	ess ess
8		Witness statement page 8., foot of the page. Do	8		statement, you refer to policies gove	
9		you want to read those to yourself?	9		prosecution and charging decisions	and the
10	A.	Where are we, number 20 or 19?	10		conduct of prosecutions, and you te	
11	Q.	Both.	11		you were not involved in contributing	
12	A.	19, okay.	12		developing any of the policies that y	_
13	Q.	So my summary of that was: in paragraphs 19 and	13		correct?	
14		20 of your witness statement, you describe that,	14	Α.	That's CLT, isn't it? Are we looking	at
15		during the period when the Post Office was still	15		Criminal Law Team now?	
16		part of the Royal Mail Group, ie up to April	16	Q.	Yes, we've always been looking at t	he Criminal
17		2012, files would be prepared by Investigators	17		Law Team in this set of questions.	
18		and sent to the Criminal Law Team for advice as	18	A.	Yes, yes.	
19		to prosecution and charges; is that correct?	19	Q.	I'm talking about before April 2012?	
20	A.	Yes.	20	A.	Yes. Yes.	
21	Q.	Right. Good. That can come down, then.	21	Q.	So you were not involved in the dev	elopment of
22		In paragraph 3 of your witness statement you	22		any of the policies that you list in	
23		say:	23		paragraph 14	
24		"As a criminal prosecutor, I will always do	24	A.	No, not	
25		my best with the knowledge and evidence that 161	25	Q.	sorry, in paragraph 12. 162	
1	Α.	Well, the Criminal Law Team, no.	1		a little bit so I can help you?	
2	Q.	You were not involved in any of the development	2	Q.	There are a series of policies	
3		of those policies nor contributing to them?	3	A.	Yes.	
4	A.	Not that I'm aware of, no.	4	Q.	that say when you're conducting	
5	Q.	You tell us in paragraph 15 that, although	5		investigations and prosecutions you	ı should do
6		you're described as the owner of a policy, that	6		these things?	
7		simply means that you adopted the policy on	7	A.	Yes.	
8		behalf of the Post Office	8	Q.	How was compliance with those thir	ngs assessed or
9	A.	Yes.	9		monitored?	
10	Q.	on its separation from Royal Mail Group; is	10	A.	When I advised I think it was all to	o do with
11		that right?	11		the prosecutor's code, basically. I'v	'e
12	A.	That's right, yes.	12		obviously read them, when I joined	the Criminal
13	Q.	So, if we saw policies with you listed as the	13		Law Team and subsequently, but, a	
14		owner, that does not mean that you contributed	14		monitoring side of it is concerned, the	
15		to the content nor approved of the content; is	15		part of my remit. I didn't get involve	ed in it.
16		that right?	16		Certainly, I made the results known	
17	A.	Apart from 1 April, year 2012, I would have	17		my cases as to how they were put to	ogether. Who

A. Apart from 1 April, year 2012, I would have --17 18 no, I'd be very surprised if there is one. Q. You tell us in paragraph 16 that the aim and

19 20 rationale behind subpostmaster prosecutions was 21 both to hold the offender to account and to 22 deter potential offenders, yes?

23 A. Yes.

24 **Q.** How was compliance with the policies monitored?

A. How do you mean? Can you sort of elaborate 25 163

22 A. If I was -- it would be appraisals. I think we 23

18

19

20

21

had appraisals every three months or every two

24 months and I think, certainly, the -- when I was

put them together, it wasn't part of my

Q. What about you not as the monitor but as

employment or part of my role.

somebody who was monitored?

25 away, people might have looked at my files, the

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my cases as to how they were put together. Who

- 1 advices I gave, and I think some people who went
- 2 to court on a certain case said it was on their
- 3 case and my case was, you know, for a hearing on
- 4 the same day or same time, they would review it.
- 5 That type of thing is the only monitoring I can
- 6 think of. I can't think of any --
- 7 Q. By that, do you mean monitoring your advocacy?
- 8 A. No, they would physically have my file in front
- 9 of them and, certainly -- Rob certainly looked
- 10 at it because, I think, appraisal times, or
- at it boodace, I tilling, appraisal tillice, or
- 11 subsequently, as and when he looked at it, he
- would advise on it, "You should have done this,
- 13 you should have done that, be careful on that",
- 14 you know, and I think once or twice he might
- 15 have even said, "Look, this is the way you
- should have done it, why didn't you consider
- 17 that?"
- So that was the sort of way it was
- 19 monitored. There was no set, you know,
- 20 procedure or --
- 21 Q. So it was chats, essentially?
- 22 A. I don't know. I don't know what he did with it.
- 23 I don't know whether he in subsequently reported
- further down to his line managers, I don't know.
- 25 But certainly --

- 1 by defence lawyers?
- 2 A. No, that's one of the things I mentioned and
- 3 several others. You know, you learn from it
- 4 don't you, as and when somebody is, you know,
- 5 reacting to it? But, certainly, it would be
- 6 appraisals. I think every three months, every
- 7 six months, I don't know now and, certainly, you
- 8 know, we had conferences with the barristers,
- 9 and they did the advocacy, they would do the
- 10 opinions.

11

- But I don't know what my line manager did or
- what he did with the others, or whatever, but
- 13 certainly it would have been the line managers
- 14 who would deal with it, or the team leaders --
- 15 the Head of Criminal Law.
- 16 Q. What about from April 2012 onwards, when you
- 17 were the sole criminal lawyer within Post Office
- 18 Limited? Did you take on responsibility for the
- 19 ongoing review of all Post Office policies
- 20 relating to prosecutions and criminal law?
- 21 A. That -- I think that was Hugh or Susan, I think
- they were more hands on that.
- 23 Q. Hugh and Susan again?
- 24 A. Susan Crichton and Hugh. They, in turn, dealt
- with all that. I didn't get involved in that.
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- 1 Q. I'm talking about between August 1995 and April
- 2 2012. So there's a 17-year period as --
- 3 A. Yeah, there's --
- 4 Q. I'm asking you as a lawyer how you felt, that
- 5 your adherence to policy was monitored and
- 6 assessed?
- 7 A. Well, certainly when the matter is before the
- 8 courts, then you -- we briefed council because
- 9 they had the right of audience, we didn't. They
- 10 certainly came back, you know, with their own
- 11 advice and opinions and then you had a lot of
- 12 the time, maybe a lot even of the defence
- 13 lawyers come up with all sorts of -- I don't
- 14 know, in their defence statements --
- 15 Q. Are you saying that your performance was
- 16 monitored by defence lawyers?
- 17 A. Well, not monitored but then you could see, from
- the way they're responding to it, you're
- 19 engaging with them in that way. But, certainly,
- 20 internally, it would be appraisals by the Head
- 21 of Criminal Law Team.
- 22 Q. Can I just get this right, Mr Singh. In answer
- 23 to my question how, over a 17-year period as
- 24 a prosecution lawyer, was your compliance with
- 25 Post Office policy monitored, you've answered:

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- 1 Q. Why not as the criminal lawyer?
- 2 A. I don't know. I can't honestly answer that.
- 3 I can tell you that I wasn't involved in it.
- 4 Q. Was it because people didn't view you as having
 - expertise?

5

8

- 6 A. I can't tell what the other people thought.
- 7 Q. Surely, as the only criminal lawyer in the
 - business, there's a suite of criminal law
- 9 policies here, wouldn't you put your hand up and
- say, "Hold on, that's my job"?
- 11 A. I didn't. Well, maybe I should have done, in
- 12 hindsight.
- 13 Q. You're not involved in any prosecutions, you've
- 14 told us; that's Cartwright King.
- 15 A. Yeah
- 16 Q. You're not involved in supervision of any
- 17 prosecutions; that's Susan and Hugh.
- 18 **A.** Mm.
- 19 Q. You're not involved in maintenance or review of
- the policies; that's Susan and Hugh. What were
- 21 you doing?
- 22 A. Well, as you say, the -- what I did do was the
- obviously picked up on various aspects of it,
- the training of the Investigation Officer, which
- 25 I did with the Cartwright King. I was involved

1		in getting Simon Clarke to look at the	1		investigation and enforcement policies, agreed?
2		prosecution policy. I was also involved in	2	A.	Yes, yes.
3		getting advices on Auditors being you know,	3	Q.	This is seemingly for a prosecutions policy
4		how the Auditors ought to function, how they	4		meeting on 4 February, looking at the title; can
5		ought to deal with their role, within the	5		you see that?
6		criminal law.	6	A.	Yes.
7		There was so much there, you would not	7	Q.	If you had no involvement, as you've told us, in
8		believe. I didn't have I mean, ideally,	8		investigation and prosecution policy formation
9		I would have that's what I would have done.	9		or development, why were you sending on
10		I would have basically taken over and made it my	10		prosecution and investigation policies and
11		own, but it didn't sort of quite work out that	11		enforcement policies for a meeting that you were
12		way.	12		going to attend?
13	Q.	Can we look, please, at POL00122123, please. If	13	A.	Well, I that I've collected everything
14		we scroll down, please. Sorry, keep scrolling,	14		together, sent it on to them, to we will
15		thank you.	15		discuss it. I think they wanted that to be
16		An email of yours of 31 January 2013. So	16		because on separation, they wanted the board
17		the period that I'm referring to, ie post-April	17		to approve it. I mean, there was some sort of
18		2012. You say:	18		process or procedure they were going through and
19		"Hugh, Susan, John and Alwen	19		they asked me for those, so the as I said to
20		"Please find copies of the following papers	20		you, the Post Office Prosecution Policy was more
21		for the above meeting.	21		or less adopted from the Royal Mail and the same
22		"Current POL prosecution policy.	22		as the other aspect of it, the Internal Protocol
23		"Proposed enforcement", et cetera,	23		for Criminal Investigative Enforcement. That
24		et cetera.	24		was adopted by the Investigation Team and all
25		So a series of criminal prosecution and	25		the people who had interested party in it, Susan
		169			170
1		or Hugh wanted it wanted them to be copied in	1		prosecution policy document.
2		to it, so all I did was collected all of them	2		"He does have some questions."
3		,	-		
-		and sent it on to the relevant people to get	3		Then just looking at an example:
4		and sent it on to the relevant people to get	3		Then just looking at an example: "What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution
4 5		have a meeting on 4 February and then,	4		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution
5		have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree	4 5		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will
5 6	0	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not	4 5 6		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising
5 6 7		have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really?	4 5 6 7		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General
5 6 7 8	A.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah.	4 5 6 7 8		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split"
5 6 7 8 9		have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and	4 5 6 7 8 9		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back:
5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox?	4 5 6 7 8 9 10		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well,	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically,	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree.	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox?	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision."
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply:
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if that's you say that, maybe yes.	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply: "Please see in blue below Chris and my reply
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if that's you say that, maybe yes. Can we look, please, at POL00125197. If we can	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply: "Please see in blue below Chris and my reply to [Brian Altman QC's] two questions on the POL
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if that's you say that, maybe yes. Can we look, please, at POL00125197. If we can go to the last email in the chain, please. If	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply: "Please see in blue below Chris and my reply to [Brian Altman QC's] two questions on the POL prosecution policy."
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if that's you say that, maybe yes. Can we look, please, at POL00125197. If we can go to the last email in the chain, please. If we scroll up from there, email from Bond	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply: "Please see in blue below Chris and my reply to [Brian Altman QC's] two questions on the POL prosecution policy." That does show you, does it not, Mr Singh,
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if that's you say that, maybe yes. Can we look, please, at POL00125197. If we can go to the last email in the chain, please. If we scroll up from there, email from Bond Dickinson, and if we scroll up, from Gavin	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply: "Please see in blue below Chris and my reply to [Brian Altman QC's] two questions on the POL prosecution policy." That does show you, does it not, Mr Singh, involved in the formation of policies in at
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q.	have a meeting on 4 February and then, subsequently, you know, go through it and agree it, or not You were just a postbox, really? Yeah, yeah. A collector together of pieces of paper and a postbox? Yeah, I mean postbox in that respect but there was other aspects I was involved in, as well, but yeah, I suppose in in realistically, maybe you're right. I agree. Just a postbox? Well, I wouldn't say "just a postbox" but if that's you say that, maybe yes. Can we look, please, at POL00125197. If we can go to the last email in the chain, please. If we scroll up from there, email from Bond Dickinson, and if we scroll up, from Gavin Matthews at Bond Dickinson, to Chris Aujard and	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	"What were the hierarchy of POL prosecution decision making be in the future? Ie who will be making the final decision on authorising prosecution Jarnail or Chris (as General Counsel) or will the role be split" Then the answer comes back: "Jarnail will be the decision maker for Post Office Limited prosecutions. We recommend the procedure be put in place to enable the Investigation Officer to appeal to Chris (as General Counsel) in the event that he/she disagrees with Jarnail's decision." Then if we scroll up, please. Your reply: "Please see in blue below Chris and my reply to [Brian Altman QC's] two questions on the POL prosecution policy." That does show you, does it not, Mr Singh, involved in the formation of policies in at least 2014?

1		formulated some draft. I think he sent it to me
2		to have a word with Chris, who was the interim
3		General Counsel for the Post Office and I think
4		I sent it to him. He wanted some sort of input
5		from me and I advised, and that never came into
3		fruition. It never came into being at all. For
7		some reason or another, I don't know where it
3		landed, but, when I left, I have never made any
9		decision on any prosecutions.
_	_	

- 10 Q. I'm not asking about the substance at the moment whether you, in the event, became the decision 11 maker --
- 12 13 A. No.
- Q. -- on prosecutions? 14
- 15 A. No, no.

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- Q. I'm just asking you the question, in the light 17 of the evidence you have had given in your 18 witness statements and today orally, that you
- 19 had no role in the formulation or the
- 20 development of policy, why we see in this email
- 21 Brian Altman QC asking a question and you
- 22 replying "Please see Chris and my reply", which
- 23 tends to suggest you had some role in the
- 24 development of prosecution policy, doesn't it?
- 25 Α. No, no. That -- Brian Altman was asked to draft 173
- 1 Q. Was it not your reply then?
- 2 A. Well, it's -- I'm working for an organisation,
- 3 it's a joint sort of -- I mean, he's the General
- 4 Counsel, he asked me to come and explain certain
- 5 aspects of it, and I did. And I -- and then he
- 6 said "Well, Jarnail, I agree, I disagree.
- 7 Jarnail, I don't understand point -- one or two
- 8 of these questions, or can you pose those two
- 9 questions for Brian to clarify?" That's my
- 10 involvement in it.

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- It wasn't something that I put forward or didn't put forward. I mean, it was not -- you know, nothing sinister in that, maybe -- that's it, as far as I can help you with. I can't help you any more than that.
- Q. Well, you've been very helpful. Can we move on 16 17 please to POL00104747. This is a Casework 18 Management Policy and, if we look at the foot of 19 the page, please -- sorry, that's it. That's unfortunate, it doesn't include the date. If we 20 21 can just go to the end of the document, please, 22 and scroll up. Thank you.

You can see that this is effective from March 2000, with a review date of January 2001, okay?

1 it by Bond Dickinson, and they -- I don't know,

2 I wasn't part of that briefing. It was sent to

3 me as the only criminal lawyer. I passed it to

Chris. Chris wanted to discuss it or go through

5 it and various aspects of it.

6 I, in turn, advised him I think or we 7 discussed it, and there was couple of 8 points/questions he wanted to clarify or put forward to Brian. I passed it on to Gavin 9

10 Matthews of Bond Dickinson and he passed it

11 back. And I think then Brian came to have

a meeting, and I think that's where it was left. 12

13 Nothing went forwards or backwards --

14 Q. Mr Singh, this does not say, "Please see below

15 Chris's reply to Brian Altman's questions". It

16 says, "Please see below Chris and my reply";

17 it's your reply, isn't it?

18 Well, it's my email, I suppose, but --

19 No, it's not just your email because I wouldn't

20 be asking you questions if this email just said,

"Please see below Chris' reply". 21

- 22 A. Well, obviously --
- 23 Q. I'm asking you the questions because it says,
- 24 "Chris and my reply".
- 25 **A**. Well, because we discussed it. I mean, I --174

1 A. Okay.

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2 If we go back to page 1, please. We can see the aim of the policy, its "Purpose" is described to 3 4

> "... to ensure that adequate controls are in place to maintain standards throughout investigation processes."

Would this have been a document with which you were familiar back in March 2000 onwards?

A. It's just too long ago. I mean, I -- I probably 10 11 read it at some stage but I can't tell you one 12 way or the other where it landed or what we did 13 or didn't do with it.

14 Q. Can we go forward to page 4, please. Scroll 15 down, please. I'm so sorry, if we scroll up, 16 please. I'm looking for paragraph 3.2, please. 17 Thank you.

18 "Prosecution Casework", this would have been 19 a policy, whether you remember it now or not, that applied to you as a prosecutor from March 20 21 2000 onwards, agreed?

22 A. I don't know whether this is a prosecution

23 policy because I think all I relied on, most of 24 the time, was the prosecutors code.

25 Q. By that, do you mean the Code for Crown

1		Prosecutors?	1		issued to all Investigators.
2	A.	Yes.	2		"To maintain standards and ensure
3	Q.	The CPS document?	3		consistency, official form should always be used
4	A.	Yes.	4		in preference to locally produced forms"
5	Q.	What about any internal Post Office policies?	5		Then scroll down, looking at the fourth
6	A.	Well, I think in prominence was the you know,	6		bullet point:
7		was the prosecutors code. I don't know the	7		"Enclosure envelope should be used to
8		other side of it, to be honest. I mean it's	8		enclose the following supporting documents:
9		such a long time ago as to I padded out or I had	9		"Appendix A
10		any influence or input into it but that was the	10		"Appendices B, C"
11		one we concentrated on.	11		You can say the list of documents that
12	Q.	Sorry, you're dropping your voice there,	12		should be enclosed, I think, when a file was
13		I couldn't hear you?	13		sent to Legal Services. Does that list of
14	A.	It had dried up.	14		documents remind you of the type of documents
15	Q.	If you just take a drink, thank you.	15		that you got when a file was sent to Legal
16		So this isn't something that you now	16		Services?
17		remember as something you worked to when you	17	A.	At that time, maybe there's more or less, but
18		were conducting prosecutions from March 2000	18		I that seemed the standard, isn't it?
19		onwards?	19		Everything is there, the search, the friend
20	Α.	I don't remember it now, just	20		form, disclosure forms, confidential report,
21	Q.	Let's have a look at it anyway to see whether	21		copy of a tape-recorded interview, that type of
22		any of it jogs your memory. It says:	22		thing, yes?
23		"Details of evidential requirements and	23	Q.	The reason for asking, can I make it plain,
24		casework preparation and submission timescales	24		Mr Singh, is the Inquiry is interested in the
25		are set out in the Prosecution Guidelines,	25		nature and extent of the material that a lawyer 178
1		got to see at the point on deciding evidential	1		they did?
2		sufficiency and public interest. I am asking	2	A.	Yeah, well, I yes.
3		you: is that a list of the things that a lawyer	3	Q.	So you would be able, when you're advising on
4		would see when they made an evidential	4		evidential sufficiency and public interest, to
5		sufficiency decision and a public interest	5		see what unused material there was, at least by
6		decision?	6		list?
7	Α.	I would have thought that would be the basic,	7	A.	There should I think if you look at the
8		maybe later more would be added on to it.	8		yeah, I I didn't do the training but
9		I don't know but, certainly, that seems, you	9		I thought must it's a must, isn't it? Yes.
10		know, more or less what every investigation file	10	Q.	But never mind whether you did the training.
11		would have or should have.	11		You were receiving these things for 17 years?
12	Q.	So it included at least this, but maybe more?	12	A.	I yes, I I suppose, yes, but I don't
13	A.	I would have thought assumed so, yes. I mean	13		recall it now, as to each and every single file
14		to be honest, I've been out of practice on the	14		had it. I don't know to that. But that looks
15		Post Office side of it for such a long time,	15		like it should be in the file, yes.
16		I and especially the date of the document,	16	Q.	Which documents did you have regard to when
17		I don't know whether they modified it, there's	17		making a decision on evidential sufficiency?
18		more to it. I don't know.	18	A.	Well, I all of them. Well, I mean,
19	Q.	When you got files, importantly, did they	19		disclosure forms, confidential report,
20		include Schedules of Unused Material?	20		interview, tape recorded interview,
21	A.	Yes. I would have yes, they should do.	21		investigators report. I mean they're all
22		I would hope so, yes.	22		relevant, aren't they? The search records,
23	Q.	Hope is	23		friend forms, they should all be there,
24	A.	Well, there should be.	24		shouldn't they, because, if they're not, then
25	Q.	is a great thing. I'm asking you whether 179	25		how can you advise without them? 180

- 1 Q. So you wouldn't just read the investigation
- 2 reports, you would read the underlying material;
- 3 is that right?
- 4 A. I think so. Well, yes. Yeah.
- 5 Q. Never mind the documents that you should
- 6 receive, thinking about the approach that you
- 7 should take or the test that you applied, you've
- 8 told us, I think, that you had regard to the
- 9 Code for Crown Prosecutors?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Was there any Post Office Limited document that
- 12 helped you on how to apply that test in the
- 13 context of a private prosecution?
- 14 A. I don't know. I don't know, unless it was
- the -- with the Inquiry papers, I can't --
- 16 I don't know.
- 17 Q. Because the Code for Crown Prosecutors is
- 18 written for Crown Prosecutors and it's written
- 19 at a level and aimed at an audience that is
- 20 broad and diverse, because it involves
- 21 shoplifting in Newcastle and murder in Bodmin.
- 22 A. Yes
- 23 Q. Was there anything that applied that to private
- 24 prosecutors in the context of the Post Office,
- 25 carrying it into effect, in your business?
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- 1 Q. Sorry, just taking them in turn. There was the
- 2 figure of some 5,000 somewhere?
- 3 A. I think it was 5,000. I think -- from the back
- 4 of my mind, if there's less than 5,000 or around
- 5 about 5,000, was the figure, it's not in the
- 6 public interest of the Post Office --
- 7 Q. When did that criterion apply?
- 8 A. I think -- I can't say whether it's always been
- 9 there but I can't tell you the precise date.
- 10 Certainly, the health --
- 11 Q. Hold on, so, on that one, the alleged loss was
- 12 £5,000 or less?
- 13 A. I think the -- yeah, it's about that -- I think
- it was about 5,000, around about that time.
- 15 I can't tell you as and when but that figure,
- 16 for some reason, comes to mind.
- 17 Q. Okay, and so health: that's the health of the
- 18 defendant?
- 19 A. The health of the defendant, his family, the
- 20 circumstances, the period of offending, was it
- 21 a one-off offence? Whether they -- I think part
- 22 of it was the -- whether they repaid the money
- 23 back and, also, I think the cost of prosecution
- 24 in light of the overall -- you know, the overall
- 25 case.

- 1 A. Well, that's the way I was trained, that's the
- 2 way the other lawyers I worked with, and we
- 3 adopted the same. I mean, the evidential test,
 - the public interest test and the disclosure.
- 5 And an alternative way of dealing with it,
- 6 in view of the, you know, the public interest
- 7 test. That's what we applied. I don't know
- 8 what more you are asking me about. I don't know
- 9 any more than that.
- 10 Q. Can you recall any case in which you concluded
- 11 that there was sufficient evidence to prosecute,
- 12 to provide a realistic prospect of conviction,
- ie meeting limb 1 of the full code test but,
- 14 nonetheless, you decided that prosecution wasn't
- in the public interest under the second limb?
- 16 A. I think so. I think a few, I think, in -- well,
- 17 quite -- probably a few. I mean, I -- I can't
- 18 give you the names, but I think I --
- 19 **Q.** Can you remember -- sorry, this document can
- 20 come down so the Chairman can see you.
- 21 What was the context, even if you can't
- remember the names, full code limb 1 met, but
- 23 it's not in the public interest to prosecute?
- 24 A. Well, there was the -- I think there's a figure
- 25 of 5,000 somewhere, health --

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- 1 Q. Thank you.
- 2 A. There's about five or six of them, I think --
- 3 Q. In your time --
- 4 **A.** Yeah.
- 5 Q. -- in the 17 years before separation?
- 6 A. Yeah, I think what I did have a template, I had
- 7 a habit of actually, on the side of it, the
- 8 public interest test about six or seven
- 9 different bits I used to look at, and sometimes
- 10 even go round chatting to people and saying,
- 11 "Look, this is what I've got, it's sort of
- 12 marginal, what do you think? What else should
- 13 I need to do to, you know, either prosecute or
- 14 not?" That sort of thing, yeah.
- 15 There was various aspects. I mean, I'm sure
- 16 there was number of cases -- but, certainly,
- there has been where we'd not prosecuted because
- 18 of the public interest test.
- 19 MR BEER: Thank you.
- 20 Sir, I don't know whether that is
- 21 a convenient moment for you. It is in terms of
- 22 the topics I'm addressing. Might we break for
 - 23 15 minutes until 3.35?
 - 24 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine.
 - 25 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.

evidence 1 (3.20pm)1 2 (A short break) 2 Q. Or no sufficient evidence? 3 3 (3.35 pm) Yeah, there's no sufficient evidence, there's no 4 MR BEER: Sir, good afternoon, can you see and hear 4 realistic prospect of conviction, so what 5 decision is there made? There is no decisions 5 6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. 6 to be made is there? 7 MR BEER: Thank you. 7 Q. So an individual within the business, 8 Mr Singh, if, as a Criminal Law Team lawyer a non-lawyer, could not form the view that there 8 9 9 was sufficient evidence, if the Criminal Law reviewing a file, you took the view that the 10 Full Code Test was not met, would you, 10 Team member had advised that there was not? nonetheless, refer the case to a nominated A. Well, I -- I would have assumed -- well, I --11 11 12 decision maker within the business for 12 well, I -- yeah, that would have been my view. 13 a charging decision or would your advice that 13 I would have just probably taken it to the Head 14 the Full Code Test was not met have been 14 of Criminal Law Team and say, "Look, this is 15 decisive without the need for the case to then 15 where it is, we're closing the file, what do you 16 be referred to a decision maker within the 16 want to do with it?" But I don't know how it 17 business? 17 padded out but, certainly, there's no evidence, A. No, it'd be closed. I wouldn't take it further. 18 18 there's no case, is there? 19 It's closed, there's no evidence. Why would it 19 If you, as the Criminal Law Team lawyer 20 go to a decision maker? There's no decision to 20 reviewing the file, decided that it was not in be made, is there? Well, that's my view. I 21 21 the public interest for there to be 22 mean, I would say no. 22 a prosecution, would your advice be 23 Q. So, in that case, the lawyer was the decision 23 determinative or would the case then need to be 24 24 referred to a nominated decision maker within maker? 25 Α. Well, the decision in the sense there is no 25 the business to actually decide the issue? 1 A. Again, the test has not been met, so there would 1 Code Test and the public interest element of the 2 be -- well, I don't know physically where it 2 Full Code Test? 3 lands but, certainly, as far as the prosecution 3 **A.** Those two elements have got to be in existence, 4 team is or Criminal Law Team is concerned, it 4 hasn't it, for there to be a prosecution case? 5 finishes where, I would have thought, yes. 5 Q. Was that formalised in any way, ie periodic 6 Q. In your statement, you tell us that cases were 6 review? 7 kept continuously under review in accordance 7 I don't know. I mean, I can't say one way or 8 with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, by the 8 the other. I don't know whether there was --9 lawyer with the conduct of the case and by 9 I would have thought the only person, certainly counsel instructed in the case; is that right? 10 within the Criminal Law Team, would be the Head 10 of Criminal Law. I don't know whether -- what A. Yes, where are we, have we got --11 11 12 Q. I'm not taking you back every time. 12 sort of -- what he did with it or whether he had 13 Α. Oh, sorry, yes. 13 a file or paper trail or something, but 14 Q. If you can just trust me, for the moment, to 14 certainly he did review the cases, I know for 15 summarise what you're saying. It's paragraph 21 15 sure, because he did amend one or two of my 16 of your witness statement. 16 advices and, also, it would be taken up at the 17 17 A. Sure sure appraisals. Q. Does that mean that, even after a decision was I'm talking about you as the criminal lawyer 18 18 made to charge someone with an offence, the case 19 with conduct of the prosecution. Did you 19 20 was kept under review to ensure that the Full 20 periodically review whether both elements of the 21 Code Test remained met? 21 code test were met, ie a set period of time, 22 A. Yes, continuous. It's an obligation, I think, 22 we're three months in, we're six months in, 23 and a duty, yes. 23 we're nine months into the investigation or the 24 Q. Would such continued duty be discharged into 24 prosecution, let's conduct a review; let's have

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both the evidential sufficiency part of the Full

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a stocktake, let's stand back and see where we

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- 1 are. It sounds not ...
- 2 A. No, it's -- it's the way we were structured.
- 3 Certainly, when the case was continuous, I --
- 4 there was letters -- there was physical letters
- 5 coming in at that time, Rob will look at it,
- 6 he'll pass it to me. If it was already in the
- 7 Crown Court, the file would be with the legal
- 8 executives and I would pick it up and there was
- 9 times when I would go through it really
- 10 thoroughly.
- 11 There was a period -- I can't say every
- 12 three months, every six months, I don't know --
- 13 but there was a period when I would look at
- 14 every single file, you know, as to -- I can't
- say, you know, every three months, every March,
- 16 every June or every September, I can't say for
- 17 sure -- but there was a period when I would look
- 18 through quite a few of the prosecution files.
- 19 Q. Was there any record kept of that, ie the
- 20 continuous review at periodic stages in the life
- 21 of a prosecution?
- 22 A. I didn't keep any records. I -- to be honest,
- 23 I didn't. As to whether Rob did, as Head of
- 24 Criminal Law Team, I don't know.
- 25 **Q.** I think it's right you conducted some of the
- 1 Q. To what extent were local agents or the
 - barristers from Bell Yard told that they should
- 3 conduct a review of the continuing merits in
- 4 evidential terms of a prosecution?
- 5 A. I think when they were briefed. Once the matter
- 6 was committed for -- committed to the Crown
- 7 Court for trial or plea -- you know, when the
 - pleas have been entered, we had a committal
- 9 bundle, where we sent everything to them and
 - they were asked to advise on evidence and settle
- 11 the indictment.

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- Then I think, you know, at that stage, they
 - would -- I would assume they would read all the
- 14 papers and they would advise whether those two
- 15 tests are met or not.
- 16 Q. Did you understand the advice on evidence to be:
- 17 (a) an Advice on evidential sufficiency,
- 18 pursuant to the Full Code Test of sustaining
- 19 an allegation or allegations under the criminal
- 20 law; or (b) an Advice on what evidence should be
- 21 obtained?
- 22 $\,$ **A.** I think they would have contained both. I mean
- 23 sometimes -- well, it would be evidential,
- importantly only and, secondly, they would
- 25 advise whether further evidence is required.

- 1 advocacy, is that right, in the Magistrates
- 2 Court?
- 3 A. In the Magistrates Court, yes.
- 4 Q. Was that just for your own cases or did you
- 5 conduct the advocacy on the behalf of the Post
- 6 Office for other case holders?
- 7 A. I think at the beginning, when I first started,
- 8 the first two years, or maybe longer, I did
- 9 advocacy and the KCs, and the conferences, Crown
- 10 Court cases for the free case holders, and also
- 11 mine, and depending on if there was my case
- 12 listed or somebody else's case listed at the
- 13 same time, and it would be one of the guys -- me
- 14 or somebody else would deal with somebody else's
- 15 case as well.
- 16 Q. So when did you stop doing advocacy?
- 17 A. I think towards the end because we didn't have
- the bodies. We didn't have the lawyers to do
- 19 it
- 20 Q. So towards the end, you mean by reference to
- 21 April 2012; how close to that?
- 22 A. I don't know, probably when I think -- Debbie
- 23 Stapel started working from home, then we had
- 24 our local agents or the barrister from Bell Yard
- would do the advocacy. They would deal with it.
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 - Q. So when you were sending instructions to counsel
- 2 to advise on evidence, you expected them to
- 3 advise on evidential sufficiency in maintaining
- 4 the proposed allegations?
- 5 A. I -- yes.

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- 6 Q. Did you expect them to advise in writing?
- 7 A. I think most of the time they would do, but
- 8 there was the odd occasion where they'd just
- 9 phone up because they're dealing with the case
- or long trial, two or three -- but most of the
- 11 time it would be an email or, I think when they
- 12 settled the indictment, assume they'd read the
- papers, and they thought there was sufficient
- 14 evidence for the case to be, you know, put
- 15 forward to the -- in the Crown Court, to
- 16 progress in the Crown Court.
- 17 **Q.** That was my second question.
- 18 A. Sorry, yes.
- 19 Q. We're going to come on to what settling the
- 20 indictment meant to you. Can we just stick with
- 21 what the advice on evidence meant to you?
- 22 A. Yes, yes.
- 23 Q. You took your instructions to counsel to settle
- an advice on evidence to be, "Please advise us
- 25 whether the evidence meets the Full Code

1		Test"	1		"I've looked at the papers, I've analysed them.
2	A.	Yes.	2		In my view, there is a realistic prospect of
3	Q.	"in respect of the proposed allegations"?	3		a conviction", or "In my view there is
4	A.	Yeah, I would enclose the draft indictment or	4		a realistic prospect of a conviction because",
5		the copy summons, yeah.	5		A, B and C?
6	Q.	Did you receive back advices on evidence saying,	6	A.	I can't recall, to be honest, if it was like
7		"Charge 1, I've read the witness statement of	7		that. But certainly yes, I can't recall.
8		Mr A, the witness statement of Mrs B, and it	8		But there probably was occasion, such you
9		seems to me that, if you take those two	9		know, it's a while ago.
10		together, plus some exhibits, there's a case	10	Q.	What about settling the indictment. You send
11		disclosed that meets the Full Code Test"?	11		instructions to a barrister to settle the
12	A.	Sorry, say that again, sorry?	12		indictment. You get back by email a hard copy,
13	Q.		13		an indictment, did you infer or take from the
14		barristers which said, "I've looked at the	14		sending back of an indictment anything as to
15		papers, I've read them, and this is the evidence	15		evidential sufficiency?
16		that discloses that the Full Code Test is met"?	16	A.	Two ways they could have done, they done the
17	A.	We had opinions, we had advice. I mean, I can't	17		opinion plus they settled the indictment, saying
18		tell you exactly what that you know, that's	18		"We agree with it but you need to do A, B, C or
19		what it said. Sometimes, you just had the	19		D", or they say, "We're happy with the
20		indictment back. But there was occasions where	20		paperwork, lodge the indictment, here is
21		they advised that, you know, further evidence is	21		a copy". So I'd assume from that that
22		required for this	22		everything was in order. We got the we
23	Q.	That's a slightly different issue, that further	23		complied with the witness statements and
24		evidence is required. I'm asking you what	24		whatever the barristers were, they were happy
25		advice you got back from barristers that said,	25		with it. Yeah, yeah. I think that, you know
		193			194
1	Q.	So you would infer from the act of sending back	1		working in order, how did it operate? That was
2		an indictment	2		the initial and then, I think subsequently, if
3	A.	Yes.	3		there was, in the interview, they mentioned the
4	Q.	that counsel believed that there was	4		fact that, you know, the there was a in
5		a realistic prospect of maintaining each of the	5		the interview, the subpostmaster mentioned the
6		counts in the indictment?	6		fact that, you know pointed to say the you
7	A.	Yes, because you yes. That's yes, and the	7		know, "It was the Horizon, it wasn't me", then
8		other thing is sometimes I would well, most	8		certainly I would ask the Investigation Officers
9		of the time I would draft the indictment for	9		to, you know, actually find out what the problem
10		them and say "Counsel, here's a draft	10		is.
11		indictment", and they would say "Jarnail, your	11	Q.	So in the first of those instances where
12		draft is fine, lodge it". So there would be	12		somebody had not raised an issue in interview,
13		just one line in an email or they would even	13		or otherwise in a defence case statement or the
14		attach a copy or put a copy in the post	14		like, you nonetheless believed it was important
15		depending on, you know, what period we're	15		or necessary to be able to prove that the data
16		talking about.	16		produced by Horizon was accurate and reliable?
17	Q.	, , ,	17	A.	Yes, absolutely, yes.
18		prosecution decisions and evidential	18	Q.	Why was that?
19		sufficiency, when you were assessing whether to	19	A.	Because it's it's it's a machine, isn't
20		recommend a prosecution or not, did you give any	20		it? It's a machine. So there was a standard
21		consideration to the accuracy of Horizon data?	21		line I certainly put in when I worked with the
22	A.	I think the way it was worked out was that we	22		other people when I did the advocacy, or the

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had a witness statement or I always asked for

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a witness statement to say that the Horizon

system had been properly installed, it was

barristers in conference used that line always

that it's properly working, it was properly --

and they always had someone come back to say

1		you know, how it operated and it was working.
2		I think there was two or three things I always
3		used to put in, because it's a machine. It can
4		go wrong. So we need somebody to say, "Look"
5		how it operated, whether it worked or it didn't.
6	Q.	So it was your view that it was a necessary
7		element
8	A.	I absolutely.
9	Q.	of the prosecution case right from the
10		beginning, irrespective of whether a prospective
11		defendant had raised a Horizon integrity issue?
12	A.	Well, it was a standard one that everybody
13		agreed with and I used. I didn't look behind
14		it, or maybe I should have done. That's what we
15		did. And then we had somebody, I don't know
16		who actually had a witness statement to that

- agreed with and I used. I didn't look behind
 it, or maybe I should have done. That's what we
 did. And then we had somebody, I don't know
 who, actually had a witness statement to that
 effect. And then, you know, subsequently, if it
 was raised, like the Mrs Misra case, it would
 have been investigated and further enquiries
 made and further documents obtained. But that's
- the way, you know, the -- our advice was structured.
- Q. How did you satisfy yourself that there wasan actual loss in each case?
- 25 **A.** Well, it would be the interview, then you had

1 know, that's when it was triggered off. But
2 the -- initially, that's -- those are the way
3 the, you know, the case actually progresses from
4 the outset.

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And then, as and when the case progressed further, further evidence -- the Horizon Issues, if they came about, that's when the data transaction logs were requested but they weren't requested by -- I requested from the Investigation Officer and the Investigation Officer obtained it from whoever, and now we know there they -- where they should have got it and maybe they should have got it from the outset, I don't know. But we didn't at that

stage, at that time.
Q. Was it your view that it was a matter for the
defence to raise an issue with the working of
the Horizon system for the defence to ask for
ARQ data?

A. I don't know whether -- it was not my view.
I think that's the way we operated. If it was
raised in interview, it certainly would have -the officer should have done that from the
outset. But, looking back on it now, I'm

outset. But, looking back on it now, I'm surprised that nobody picked it up that that

the -2 **Q**. Sorry the interview

Q. Sorry, the interview?
A. Not -- well, they -- interview in the sense
that, you know, what's the subpostmaster's
explanation, what he's saying. Then you firstly
have the Auditors. The Auditors would go in and
they would sort of audit the, you know, the
branch and they find a shortage. Then there was

the interview. Then it was the operation of the
system itself. Then you had witness statements.
The access, who actually, you know, put the

12 figures on the system itself.

13 You know, that type of -- that's the sort of 14 evidential side of it, I would have looked at, 15 initially. Then as the matter progressed, you

got more and more evidence that adds to it.

17 Q. Was audit data or were transaction logs sought
18 as part of the initial investigation or only if
19 the subpostmaster raised the Horizon integrity
20 issue?

A. Well, looking back on it now I think that was
essentially done -- that should have been done
right from the outset, but it wasn't. That was
if the subpostmaster raised the issue or

25 subsequently Section 8 application, or -- you 198

should have been obtained, you know, initially from every single case.

Q. Can we look at a passage in your witnessstatement, please?

5 A. Where are we.

6 Q. It's page 34, paragraph 99 and 100.

7 A. Sorry, say it again?

8 Q. It will come up on the screen, Mr Singh.9 Page 34, paragraphs 99 and 100.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 A. 99, yeah.

13 Q. And 100. You're here dealing with Mr Blakey's14 case and it's just something you say. You say:

15 "From my recollection and from reviewing the
16 documents, the workings of the Horizon system
17 were never raised as an issue and ARQ data was
18 never requested by the defence. I cannot
19 comment on any investigation as this would have
20 been carried out by the Investigation and
21 Security Team, prior to me receiving the file.

"Mr Blakey was represented by solicitors and Counsel who were entitled to request any evidence that they needed to support his defence. In addition, the Defence are able to

make a Section 8 application for disclosure should his legal representatives have thought that evidence was being withheld from him.

Mr Blakey pleaded guilty and no such request was made."

The ratio, the essence of the Court of Appeal's decision in *Hamilton* is that obtaining the evidence that the Post Office relied on to prove that it had sustained a loss was not something to be subcontracted to the defence to raise.

12 **A.** Yes.

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- 13 Q. It was a necessary step for the prosecution to
 14 prove the case. I think you understand that now
 15 having read --
- 16 A. Yes, of course, yes.
- 17 Q. -- the Court of Appeal's decision. Aren't you
 18 here in these paragraphs throwing the obligation
 19 back on the defence? Isn't that what you're
 20 doing by these paragraphs?
- A. Well, obviously I'm wrong. I mean, it should
 have been done from the outset. I mean, yeah,
 I agree. It should have been done from the
 outset. That's what we did. It was wrong and,
- 25 I think, certainly counsel's opinion/advice 201
- 1 I accept that wholeheartedly, and I --
- Q. It's just that you were still saying it in your
 witness statement here, which is 6 October 2023.
- 4 A. I'm saying it because that's what we did.
- 5 I mean, if I put it like that, how could
- 6 I actually say that? I can't say that, can I?
- 7 This is how we worked. This is how we did
- 8 things in the year -- you know, from the year
- 9 2000 to 2012. I mean, if I put -- you know, all
- that sort of stuff, you'd be taking me to the
- 14
- 11 contrary view. You didn't do it, why didn't you 12 do it? Mr Blakey, why didn't --
 - You know, maybe I'm saying too much but I do feel it very strongly, I do feel really hurt that we didn't, that we let 12 years go by and nobody picked that up and said "Where are the ARQ, how the hell are we proving this?" You
- 18 know, but that's the way we did and that's why 19 we are here today, and we shouldn't be here.
- 20 Q. That can come down, thank you. I think it's
- 21 right, therefore, as you tell us -- I'm not
- going to ask for these to be put up, but it's
- 23 paragraphs 89, 109, 123 and 146 -- that audit
- 24 data was not requested in a number of criminal
- 25 proceedings which ended up in a conviction?
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- 1 didn't come -- said that we should. Maybe one
- of us should have done, and, you know, sort of
- 3 said, "No, we're not having it, we need that",
- 4 and that is a sad reflection of where we are
- 5 today, and we shouldn't be.
- 6 Q. Is what you express here in these paragraphs, in
- 7 99 and 100, essentially the view that was
- 8 operative throughout your time in the Post
- 9 Office when you prosecuted, that the obligation
- 10 was on the defence to raise Horizon integrity
- and proof of loss, ie essentially reversing the
- 12 burden of proof?
- 13 A. Well, otherwise, I wouldn't have put it in,
- would I? I mean, that's my witness statement,
- 15 to the best of my -- you know that's the
- 16 statement I made. That's what we did. But as
- 17 to the -- your second bit, I'm not sure I would
- go as far as that. I mean, I don't -- I think
- 19 we're sort of -- I mean certainly from my point
- 20 of view, I'm a normal person, if I thought there
- 21 was something wrong, we needed to obtain it,
- I would have done it. But, obviously, I didn't
- 23 and I was wrong.

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- Looking back on it, you know, it's in black and white why the Court of Appeal have -- and 202
- A. Please explain to me, it's late in the day, I'm
- 2 not as young as I used to be. Say that again,
- 3 slowly, please?
- 4 Q. You tell us passages in your witness statement
- 5 when you're referring to case studies that we're
- 6 looking at, and it's paragraphs 89, 109, 123 and
- 7 146, so four cases --
- 8 **A.** Yes.
- 9 Q. -- that audit data was not requested in criminalproceedings?
- 11 **A.** Is that what I say? Where do I say that, audit12 data?
- 13 Q. Let's have a look, if you want to look at it --
- 14 A. Are you talking about whatever it is, AQ,
- 15 whatever it is?
- 16 Q. ARQ data. Paragraph 89.
- 17 A. Sorry, yeah, hang on.
- 18 **Q.** On page 30.
- 19 A. 89. (The witness read to himself).
- 20 Yeah.
- 21 Q. There is no data --
- 22 **A.** Yeah.
- 23 $\,$ Q. So what I've done is I've looked at each of the
- 24 passages in your statement, over four different
- cases, where you say, "We didn't seek ARQ data

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correct?

obtained in this case or requested in this case,

		The Pos
1		in those cases".
2	A.	We didn't, no. Whether the officers did at the
3		outset, but we didn't get copies and, as I say,
4		if I'm making this statement I wouldn't be
5		saying that, would I? Certainly in the Blakey
6		case, you had Jayne Kaye explaining the system,
7		the workings of the Horizon system and the
8		operation of it, but as to the logs, they
9		weren't there.
10	Q.	If we look forward to page 37, paragraph 100,
11		that's Suzanne Palmer's case, yeah? No Horizon
12		data was requested in this case, yes?
13	Α.	Did you say page 37?
14		WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I think Mr Beer means
15		paragraph 109
16	MR	BEER: Oh, I'm so sorry.
17	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: on page 37.
18		BEER: Thank you.
19	Α.	Yeah, yeah sorry, yeah, yeah, well, that's what
20		it says. I mean, I looked at the paperwork you
21		supplied, and it wasn't there, so if it wasn't
22		there, we didn't request it or the officers
23		didn't request it.
24	Q.	Page 41, please, paragraph 123. This is dealing
25		with Susan Rudkin's case, no Horizon data was
		205
1		and maybe it's something I don't know the ins
2		and outs of it.
3	Q.	So in these cases, and there are many, many
4	α.	more
5	A.	Yes.
6	Q.	the Post Office did not obtain audit data,
7	α.	correct?
8	Α.	Yes, correct.
9	Q.	Thank you. That can come down.
10	α.	Why did the Post Office not routinely obtain
11		audit data to inform investigative and
12		prosecutorial decisions.
13	Α.	I don't know. I mean, I am not the part of the
14	۸.	team to make that decision and, like I explained
15		to you, the initial advice was formulated the
16		way I explained to you.
		,pianioa to you.

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24 25 Q. At the time, why did you think it was

that there was proof of an actual loss? 22 A. Well, I -- in the whole business, including the

We didn't, no. Whether the officers did at the	2		correct?
outset, but we didn't get copies and, as I say,	3	A.	Yeah.
if I'm making this statement I wouldn't be	4	Q.	Paragraph 146, on page 46, at the foot of the
saying that, would I? Certainly in the Blakey	5		page on page 46.
case, you had Jayne Kaye explaining the system,	6	A.	Yeah, well
the workings of the Horizon system and the	7	Q.	Just scroll down, thank you:
operation of it, but as to the logs, they	8		"No Horizon data was requested from Fujitsu
weren't there.	9		in this case. However in my advice note [it
If we look forward to page 37, paragraph 100,	10		says] I have requested further witness
that's Suzanne Palmer's case, yeah? No Horizon	11		statements, including a statement addressing the
data was requested in this case, yes?	12		IT system?
Did you say page 37?	13	A.	That's the Julian Wilson case, isn't it?
R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I think Mr Beer means	14	Q.	It is?
paragraph 109	15	A.	Yeah, I think that's I think he mentioned
R BEER: Oh, I'm so sorry.	16		that there's a problem with the Horizon.
R WYN WILLIAMS: on page 37.	17		I think I did, in my advice, ask for it but
R BEER: Thank you.	18		subsequently counsel confirmed it. I did sort
Yeah, yeah sorry, yeah, yeah, well, that's what	19		of send counsel's advice and requested it but
it says. I mean, I looked at the paperwork you	20		it's subsequently Mr Wilson/counsel, they
supplied, and it wasn't there, so if it wasn't	21		pleaded guilty for the data was in hand. But
there, we didn't request it or the officers	22		I that case was I think there was advised,
didn't request it.	23		or whatever it is, subsequently, by Rob Wilson
Page 41, please, paragraph 123. This is dealing	24		and I think he also amended the charges and
with Susan Rudkin's case, no Horizon data was 205	25		I think also the basis of plea was agreed by him 206
and maybe it's something I don't know the ins	1		training and I think even the trainer said it
and outs of it.	2		was a foolproof system. Firstly, I think when
So in these cases, and there are many, many	3		the system was first put in place, I went to
more	4		training and then I think when I moved to Old
Yes.	5		Street on 1 April, I took a lot of our
the Post Office did not obtain audit data,	6		barristers from the southwest, I think it was,
correct?	7		and the Midlands, for the training, and he
Yes, correct.	8		explained it in such a way that he said "Well,
Thank you. That can come down.	9		it's foolproof. You put in what you get out",
Why did the Post Office not routinely obtain	10		type of thing.
audit data to inform investigative and	11	Q.	Sorry, who told you the system was foolproof?
prosecutorial decisions.	12	A.	The trainer. The trainers from who trained
I don't know. I mean, I am not the part of the	13		everybody on the Horizon system, including the
team to make that decision and, like I explained	14		Legal team. And I because I had been through
to you, the initial advice was formulated the	15		the Misra case, I was conscious of the fact that
way I explained to you.	16		every person who dealt with the with any of
At the time, why did you think it was	17		the subpostmasters should go on that training.
appropriate for the Post Office to launch	18		I went on it, I took some of the barristers
criminal proceedings against branch staff	19		chambers, prosecutors, and we wouldn't nobody
without first confirming, through audit data,	20		would prosecute unless they'd been on that
that there was proof of an actual loss?	21		training. So we were obviously misled, or
Well, I in the whole business, including the	22		whatever you like to call it, that the system
lawyers now, of course, we were wrong, should	23		worked very well.
have been requested we didn't. We were led	24	Q.	Was it the Post Office's strategy to put the
to believe that the system was perfect. We had 207	25		onus on subpostmasters to request audit data in 208

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1 prosecutions, rather than the Post Office 2 obtaining it and disclosing it as a matter of 3 practice? 4 A. Not that I'm aware of but, certainly, what 5 I explained to you, the way the initial advice 6 was formulated to the Investigation Team, it 7 should have done. They should have -- I mean, 8 it wouldn't have taken very long to put in 9 a paragraph instead of saying "Get in somebody 10 to do a witness statement", to actually say "No, get this data". But nobody picked it up, and 11 12 certainly people above me, who had more 13 experience and knowledge of it didn't, and 14 I don't know whether I was in a position to do 15 it or not to do it, but certainly we didn't. 16 Q. Can we look at the way you approach things by 17 using Ms Misra's case as an example, and look at 18 POL00053746. We see this is a letter dated 19 11 January 2010 to Coomber Rich --20 A. 21 Q. -- foot of the page, written by you. 22 A. Yeah, that's me. 23 **Q.** Then if we scroll up, thank you. You say: 24 "I have now reviewed the papers in the above 25 case, particularly your request for disclosure, 209 1 our disclosure obligations by the absence of 2

3 and seek material that may undermine the 4 prosecution case and support your client's 5 defence. We understand in general terms that 6 you are seeking to challenge the integrity of 7 the Horizon system. We feel obliged to point 8 out, however, that you have not as yet served 9 a defence statement which raises any issue 10 whatsoever with the Horizon system. If any 11 apparent errors were occurring in the indictment 12 period, your client should have a good knowledge 13 of what they might be, simply because she would 14 have regularly been checking the stock against 15 the Horizon records. We take the view that 16 a detailed defence statement is required in this 17 case which fully particularises any problem with 18 Horizon upon which your client would seek to 19 rely at trial. The defence statement should 20 obviously make clear what the issues in the case 21 are. At the moment, we do not know whether your 22 client still claims she was hiding thefts by 23 members of staff and to what extent those 24 alleged thefts contributed to the deficiency at 25 the office. We are handicapped in fulfilling 210

and comment as follows.

"We will respond to all reasonable requests

an adequate defence statement. The credibility of your client may be also damaged at trial if no adequate defence statement is served."

But was it the Post Office's general strategy, looking at this document, to require subpostmasters to fully particularise the problems with the Horizon system in their defence?

9 10 A. I can't give you an answer that but, certainly, 11 in this particular case, it's the view we took,

12 yeah -- I mean, the view I took, and I think

13 I took it on the advice of the -- I think it's

14 gone to the Crown Court, hasn't it? Where are 15

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By this time it had. It was in the Crown Court.

17 Α. In March, and what's the date of this email, is

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Q. It's a letter and I think, if we scroll to the 19 20 top, we'll see it's January 2010?

A. That's early -- earlier in the year. I think --21 22 hmm. I don't know the details of it, from what 23 my recollection is, that it would help us to

24 assist all parties if we knew where the starting

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point was, and I think the whole idea of 25

1 a defence statement is exactly that: what is the 2 issues? What is your client saying there about 3 the Horizon system or the operation of the 4 apparatus?

5 Q. But you were placing a burden here on the 6 subpostmaster of particularising flaws in the 7 Horizon system, weren't you?

A. No, I don't think so. I think the -- my approach, in any case I dealt with, is always 10 incorporation, working together, and here, 11 I think -- I don't know who -- was it Issy Hogg? 12 I used to have a long conversation with her, you 13 know, and -- you know, well, not longest 14 conversations, but one or two long enough, and

15 say "Look, you know, we need to -- can you help 16 with this? Can you help with that?" And

17 I think, in turn, returned a lot of favours and

18 said to her: "Look, I can do this, I can do that 19 and then we can actually agree on certain

20 aspects of it, so that I can start sort of

21 moving or progressing this case forward". 22 So I -- the way this pads out was the

defence statement was, if they particularised -is it not the -- I mean I don't know -- I mean, I -- going back now, I mean, trying to think on

1		it, is it not that the idea of the defence	1		said, "Look, from the moment she started work,
2		statement is exactly that? What is your	2		or even the year before, here's the data and
3		client's defence? What are the issues? What	3		even the year after", but the thing is it wasn't
4		are the what are you saying that we did wrong	4		as simple as that, and that's probably my
5		or what's you know, that's the way	5		mistake in this case was that I thought it was
6		I understood it, and that's where we were with	6		straightforward.
7		it. I mean, it wasn't	7		You know, the Post Office would want to
8	Q.	At this time, the Post Office hadn't disclosed	8		provide it but, then they had all sorts of
9		any audit data or call logs to Mrs Misra,	9		contract and agreement with the third party.
10		correct?	10		That's where the problem laid. But that here,
11	A.	I don't know. I mean, I	11		it wasn't what you're suggesting. I mean
12	Q.	Take it from me, the Post Office had not	12		certainly not when I read that email. It was
13		disclosed any call logs or audit data to	13		really a starting point with a view to
14		Mrs Misra by 11 January 2010?	14		progressing it and trying to assist the defence
15	A.	Yeah	15		any which way I could.
16	Q.	How was Mrs Misra to fully particularise the	16		Sorry, it's a long answer, I shouldn't
17		Horizon Issues experienced at West Byfleet	17		really no, that's not what this is about.
18		without at least access to that information?	18	Q.	You tell us in your witness statement at
19	Α.	It's a while ago. I mean, I I can only go by	19		paragraph 256 that you played a role in
20	,	what I've read and what the paperwork you sent	20		obtaining the audit data in the criminal
21		me I think there was no ulterior motive in	21		proceedings against Mrs Misra because it was
22		that. I think that the only way would be is	22		required by the Investigation and Security Team;
23		to try to assist and agree, you know, the	23		okay?
24		starting point more than anything else. I mean,	24	Α.	To 156?
25		if it was up to me, I would have more or less 213	25	Q.	Again, I'm sure your solicitor will say 214
1 2	Δ	something if I missummarise? No no sorry I take it Sorry about that	1 2		we have, since July last year, been requesting
2	Α.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that.	2		that our expert has access to data records,
2		No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course.	2		that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on
2 3 4		No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go	2 3 4		that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved."
2 3 4 5	Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and	2 3 4 5		that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide
2 3 4	Q. A.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course.	2 3 4 5		that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. A.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it	2 3 4 5 6 7	•	that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could,
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A. Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect. You tell us that you played a role in obtaining the audit data in the proceedings against	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A.	that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could, but then there was that contractual commercial relationship that the Post Office had with
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect. You tell us that you played a role in obtaining the audit data in the proceedings against Mrs Misra because it was required by the Investigation and Security Team, okay?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Α.	that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could, but then there was that contractual commercial relationship that the Post Office had with Fujitsu, but it wasn't something that I didn't want, or obstructing. I mean, obviously I'm the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect. You tell us that you played a role in obtaining the audit data in the proceedings against Mrs Misra because it was required by the Investigation and Security Team, okay? Yes. Can we look, please, at UKGI00014895, please.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could, but then there was that contractual commercial relationship that the Post Office had with Fujitsu, but it wasn't something that I didn't want, or obstructing. I mean, obviously I'm the lawyer in the case. I did all I could to progress it, help it along, but it was
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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. A. Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect. You tell us that you played a role in obtaining the audit data in the proceedings against Mrs Misra because it was required by the Investigation and Security Team, okay? Yes. Can we look, please, at UKGI00014895, please. It's an email from the defence solicitor, Issy Hogg, to you, saying: "We refer to Judge Critchlow's order" There's a problem with their office system. "We enclose a request for disclosure." Third paragraph:	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could, but then there was that contractual commercial relationship that the Post Office had with Fujitsu, but it wasn't something that I didn't want, or obstructing. I mean, obviously I'm the lawyer in the case. I did all I could to progress it, help it along, but it was You knew that the only way to test whether a problem had arisen at a particular office was for a detailed analysis to be undertaken of the relevant transaction logs, the audit data, at a particular branch, didn't you? Yes. No, I accept that but, I mean, it was not
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.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect. You tell us that you played a role in obtaining the audit data in the proceedings against Mrs Misra because it was required by the Investigation and Security Team, okay? Yes. Can we look, please, at UKGI00014895, please. It's an email from the defence solicitor, Issy Hogg, to you, saying: "We refer to Judge Critchlow's order" There's a problem with their office system. "We enclose a request for disclosure." Third paragraph: "We note that your response makes	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could, but then there was that contractual commercial relationship that the Post Office had with Fujitsu, but it wasn't something that I didn't want, or obstructing. I mean, obviously I'm the lawyer in the case. I did all I could to progress it, help it along, but it was You knew that the only way to test whether a problem had arisen at a particular office was for a detailed analysis to be undertaken of the relevant transaction logs, the audit data, at a particular branch, didn't you? Yes. No, I accept that but, I mean, it was not lack of trying and not obtaining it. I wanted
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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	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	No, no, sorry, I take it. Sorry, about that. Of course. It slows it down if every time we have to go back and No, no, no, sorry, of course. I'm just summarising, so we don't have to get it up on the screen. No, perfect. You tell us that you played a role in obtaining the audit data in the proceedings against Mrs Misra because it was required by the Investigation and Security Team, okay? Yes. Can we look, please, at UKGI00014895, please. It's an email from the defence solicitor, Issy Hogg, to you, saying: "We refer to Judge Critchlow's order" There's a problem with their office system. "We enclose a request for disclosure." Third paragraph: "We note that your response makes a suggestion that our expert meets with your	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	that our expert has access to data records, a request that has been repeatedly rebuffed on the grounds of cost and the work involved." Why was the Post Office refusing to provide Mrs Misra's defence expert with access to audit data? I don't know now but I certainly, it was out of my hands. I think I did as much as I could, but then there was that contractual commercial relationship that the Post Office had with Fujitsu, but it wasn't something that I didn't want, or obstructing. I mean, obviously I'm the lawyer in the case. I did all I could to progress it, help it along, but it was You knew that the only way to test whether a problem had arisen at a particular office was for a detailed analysis to be undertaken of the relevant transaction logs, the audit data, at a particular branch, didn't you? Yes. No, I accept that but, I mean, it was not lack of trying and not obtaining it. I wanted to obtain it. I mean, I think if you go back

1		copy copied in the investigation and said,	1		a detailed analysis of the transaction logs,
2		"Look, this is what the defence want disclosed.	2		didn't you?
3		This is their enquiries. Please deal with it".	3	A.	Yes. Well, I said so in black and white.
4		Then I think subsequently matters transpired	4	Q.	So if that was the only way to test whether
5		that it did.	5		there were Horizon Issues at a branch, why
6	Q.	If we fast forward a couple of years, three	6		wasn't that obtained in each investigation and
7		years or so, to POL00060974, and look at page 3,	7		in each prosecution case?
8		please. Sorry, it's the bottom of page 2. If	8	A.	Well, I you know, as you as previous,
9		we scroll down, please, four lines up from the	9		we that's the way the Post Office operated.
10		bottom, you say:	10		That's the way they dealt with it, like
11		"The only way to test whether a problem has	11		I previously advised as I previously told
12		arisen at a particular office is for a detailed	12		you.
13		analysis of the relevant transaction logs to be	13	Q.	Do you accept that expense and time is not
14		undertaken as happened in the <i>Misra</i> case."	14		a sufficient reason to obtain the audit data if
15		Then over the page:	15		it was the only way to determine whether there
16		"I imagine that the independent inquiry will	16		were problems at a branch?
17		be examining some, perhaps all, of the cases on	17	A.	That, the expense and the time consuming bit,
18		Second Sight's requested schedule. In none of	18		didn't affect me at all. I wanted it but it
19		these cases were the transaction logs ever	19		was
20		examined? This is time consuming and expensive	20	Q.	That's an answer to a different question. Do
21		though it may be the only way to investigate the	21		you accept that time and expense is not
22		concerns raised by these former	22		a reason
23		[subpostmasters]."	23	Α.	No, it's not a reason.
24		So you knew that the only way to test	24		to not obtain the data?
25		whether a problem had arisen at a branch was for 217	25	A.	Not when somebody's liberty is at stake and the 218
1		other things that I read from the impact statements, no.	1 2		there will be a need for a POL internal 'expert' who can work with Gareth to deal with these
3	0	Okay, we'll go back to the story, then, back in	3		areas."
4	ų.	February 2010. FUJ00122713. We've looked at	4		Then this:
5		the defence requests already for disclosure,	5		"One concern is that the [Post Office
6		from Issy Hogg, of audit data. Can we look now,	6		Limited] have not apparently requested
7		,	7		
		please, at an email to you from David Jones, if			transaction data for West Byfleet for the period and transactions in question. This would
8 9		we just scroll down a little bit further. Thank you. You can see he's the Head of	8		normally be provided in previous cases and would
		•	10		
10		Legal in Fujitsu.	11		include Fujitsu extracting log files from the
11	Α.	Yeah, yeah.	12		system to enable us to provide details of transactions. Surprisingly, this has not been
12	Q.	If we scroll up we can see the date of this,			,
13		February 2010.	13		requested in this case. Perhaps you would
14		"Jarnail,	14 15		consider the need for this."
15		"Thanks for your email	16		So it wasn't just the defence that were
16		"I met this morning with Gareth Jenkins who			saying to you that you need to obtain the audit
17		came back into the office briefly to meet with	17		data; it was the people who developed, operated
18		me. Gareth will help with this matter."	18		and ran the system were telling you it too,
19		Next paragraph:	19		weren't they?
20		"Attached is a first draft of a statement	20	Α.	Yes, yes. There's no dispute about that. Yes,
21		from Gareth	21		of course. You need them. It's essential.
22		"You will see that there are some areas	22	^	It's a must.
23		where Fujitsu cannot deal with the Defendant's	23	ų.	Was audit data ever requested before a person
24		expert's criticisms as they are about POL's	24		was suspended or dismissed?
25		procedures or requirements and it seems evident	25	A.	I don't know. That's a question for the

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1		Investigation Team. I didn't get involved in	1		This is the same day. Mr Jones, Head of Legal
2		that.	2		at Fujitsu, forwarding you an email from
3	Q.	Did you ever see a case in which audit data was	3		Mr Jenkins, saying:
4		obtained before a person was suspended or	4		"Please see attached and Gareth's comments
5		dismissed?	5		on the need for an examination of the underlying
6	Α.	As I said to you, the Legal team saw the	6		log files and timing of this."
7		investigation file. We what happened prior	7		If we scroll down, please.
8		to it, it didn't I can't say.	8		Mr Jenkins said:
9	Q.		9		"The simple answer is that without
10		submitted to you for advice?	10		retrieving the logs everybody is speculating and
11	A.	I don't know.	11		as discussed this morning nobody has bothered to
12	Q.	Did you ever see an advice file that contained	12		ask us for any logs. At this stage it is not at
13		audit data where you were asked to advise on	13		all clear what transactions are thought to be
14		evidential sufficiency, ie before the lawyer was	14		missing at what time or even in what time
15		asked to advise?	15		period. Analysing logs over a long period is
16	A.	Not any of my files, no.	16		very, very time consuming. This is not going to
17	Q.	Is the answer to the question, I was about to	17		happen by Monday."
18		ask why, the same as before: "It's just because	18		So again, the defence solicitor was asking,
19		we didn't do it that way"?	19		the Head of Legal for the firm that developed
20	A.	Yeah. Are you asking specifically about	20		and operated the system was asking, and
21		Mrs Misra here or are you asking generally?	21		Mr Jenkins, the proposed witness, was asking for
22	Q.	Generally.	22		the logs the ARQ data to be obtained. Why
23	A.	Yeah. Well, you've read the papers. That's	23		hadn't it happened by now?
24		what it is.	24	A.	Well, I think you've got the emails.
25	Q.	Can we move forwards, please, to FUJ00122735.	25		I certainly requested it. It's really
		221			222
1		an internal matter for the other departments.	1		been looking at email exchanges of 5 February,
2		I think if you from the emails you've	2		so we're three days later now. Over the page,
3		provided me with, there's a lot of emails which	3		please, you say, fourth paragraph:
4		I'm not copied into, whereby the Head of Fujitsu	4		"We are keen that the defence are given
5		Legal, David Jones, is having conversations	5		suggestions as to how they can efficiently test
6		about that with the Commercial and Contract	6		their theories against the Horizon data. We
7		Teams of the Post Office. And I think, at the	7		don't want them to say they will not have time
8		same time, the Investigation Officer says all he	8		before the trial. We anticipate that it would
9		can to get authority. And I think when we do	9		not be very difficult to test their theories
10		obtain authority, we got Penny Thomas, who was	10		against a short but"
11		the Prosecution Support Team, who Fujitsu	11		I think that's supposed to be
12		work with the Post Office, asking it's got to be	12		"representative"; is that right?
13		done in a certain way by a certain person within	13	A.	Yeah, represented, yeah.
14		the Post Office.	14	Q.	" but [representative] span of data [for]
15		So that's where the answer is. It's not	15		example from the months when Mrs Misra has
16		because I don't want it or didn't request it;	16		admitted false accounting, (15 November to
17		it's the way the whole system operated.	17		14 December 2006, 16 May to 16 June 2007,
18	Q.	Can we see what you did when you were confronted	18		14 November 2007 to 15 December 2007 and
19		with this three-pronged request: defence	19		9 January 2008). It would be helpful if
20		solicitor, Fujitsu and Mr Jenkins.	20		Mr Jenkins could consider practical and
21		FUJ00152957, look at page 2, please.	21		efficient ways in which the defence might be
22		I should just look at page 1, so you can see the	22		able to test their theories."
23		date of this, and scroll down. That's it.	23		So you said that the Post Office essentially
24		Yes, your email, your secretary, on behalf	24		was keen for a short but representative span of
25		of your to Dovid James O Fahmamy Walve just	25		data Mhana did wax nat thana dataa fuana

of you, to David Jones, 8 February. We've just

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data. Where did you get these dates from?

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1	A.	Well, I'm now working with the barrister in the	1	a formulated, constructive advice before I move
2		case. I'm conscious of the fact of the	2	forward. And I was given those dates, "This
3		complexity of the case. So what I'm doing is	3	would be helpful, and suggest that". Then
4		two things: firstly saying, "Look, this is where	4	l did.
5		we are. What do we do?" and I think his advice	5	Q. So do you think you got those from Mr Tatford?
6		has been, "Well, let them start with this", and	6	A. Yes, I would have, yes.
7		that's more or less what I have asked.	7	MR BEER: Thank you, sir.
8	Q.	These dates seemed to be dates for the months in	8	Sir, that's a convenient moment to break for
9		respect of which Mrs Misra admitted to false	9	the day.
10		accounting.	10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you very much.
11	A.	I think	11	I don't suppose you will want to talk about
12	Q.	What was the relevance of those months?	12	this case overnight, Mr Singh, but if you do,
13	A.	I don't know. I mean, looking the problem	13	please don't. All right?
14		I have today is that or generally has been,	14	THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
15		is because I can't go back in time. I mean,	15	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: We'll resume again at 10.00
16		at that time, obviously I had more detail, a lot	16	tomorrow morning.
17		more information as to where we are. Today	17	MR BEER: Thank you, sir.
18		I can't give an explanation as to where I got	18	(4.27 pm)
19		the dates.	19	(The hearing adjourned until 10.00
20		But, certainly, you know, it would have been	20	the following day)
21		from advice and discussions with the trial, you	21	
22		know, the barrister who had been briefed or	22	
23		instructed on that, because that's the way	23	
24		I worked. I have always before I'm making	24	
25		these sort of decisions, I would always get	25	
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		JARNAIL SINGH (sworn)	3	

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