1		Wednesday, 6 December 2023	1		something of which you were particularly aware
2	(10.00 am)		2		at the time?
3		DAVID POSNETT (continued)	3	A.	That's correct.
4		Questioned by MR BEER (continued)	4	Q.	Okay. You weren't aware of the process that the
5	MR	BEER: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear	5		document said needed to be undertaken, the
6		us?	6		change control procedure, if it was a request
7	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you, yes.	7		for expert evidence?
8	MR	BEER: Good morning, Mr Posnett.	8	A.	Yes, I don't recall that.
9	THE	E WITNESS: Good morning.	9	Q.	Can we look, please, at FUJ00002264. This is
10	Q.	Yesterday we were looking at FUJ00152212.	10		a similar policy document concerning security
11		I wonder whether that can be displayed on the	11		management or the Security Management Service.
12		screen, please. It's page 8, please. If we	12		You'll see that the distribution includes Sue
13		scroll down, please, and look at paragraph 7.2,	13		Lowther at the Post Office?
14		you remember this was the Fujitsu policy	14	A.	Yes.
15		document, essentially	15	Q.	Can we turn, please, to page 14, and look at the
16	A.	Yes.	16		foot of the page, please, under "Litigation
17	Q.	concerning expert evidence as part of policy	17		Support":
18		on the provision to the Post Office of	18		"Where Post Office submits an ARQ in
19		litigation support?	19		connection with litigation support, at the Post
20	A.	Yes.	20		Office's request Fujitsu shall, in addition to
21	Q.	You remember we established that it drew	21		conducting that query"
22		a distinction between evidence of fact and	22		Then look at B:
23		expert evidence?	23		"subject to the limits [above, which I'm not
24	A.	Yes.	24		going to read] analyse:
25	Q.	I think you said yesterday that that wasn't	25		"I. the appropriate Service Desk records for
		1			2
1		the date range in question"	1		says that, "in addition to conducting the query"
2		Yes?	2		at B1, analyse the appropriate records for the
3	A.	Yes.	3		date range in question.
4	Q.	"II. in order to check the integrity of records	4	A.	Yes.
5		of transactions extracted by that query;	5	Q.	When you were making ARQ requests, did you know
6		"III. request and allow the relevant	6		that Fujitsu regarded itself as under
7		employees of Fujitsu Services to prepare witness	7		an obligation, subject to the limits set out to
8		statements of fact in relation to that query, to	8		analyse Service Desk records?
9		the extent that such statements are reasonably	9	A.	I don't remember.
10		required for the purpose of verifying the	10	Q.	You were the person responsible for obtaining
11		integrity of records provided by ARQ and are	11		material from Fujitsu by way of ARQ requests?
12		based upon the analysis and documentation	12	A.	Yes.
13		referred to in [another part of the document].	13	Q.	Can you try and help us as to what you
14		"IV. request and allow the relevant	14		understood Fujitsu's obligations were in terms
15		employees to attend court to give evidence in	15		of when you were making an ARQ request, whether
16		respect of the witness statements referred to in	16		it was necessary for them to analyse Service
17		that paragraph III", that I've just read.	17		Desk records?
18	A.	Yes.	18	A.	The only thing I can recall is that
19	Q.	Did you know about this policy?	19		Investigators would request Horizon data and
20	A.	I don't recall this policy. On this particular	20		myself or one of the Casework Team would submit
21		one, as you say, on the circulation was Sue	21		that request via an ARQ to Fujitsu. I don't
22		Lowther. I may have received it, I may not, but	22		recall all these specific details on this
23		don't recall it.	23		document.
24	Q.	You see the way that this treats requests for	24	Q.	Do you remember receiving analysis of Service
25		ARQ data. If we just scroll up a little bit, it	25		Desk records, as opposed to sorry, analysis
		3			4

- 1 on the one hand versus a summary of, on the
- 2 other, or the provision of the Service Desk
- 3 records still further?
- 4 A. I don't recall that. The only thing I do recall
- 5 is receiving disks with transaction and --
- 6 transaction logs and event logs.
- 7 Q. Yes, they're from the system.
- 8 **A.** Yes.
- 9 Q. Here we're talking about when an ARQ request is
- 10 made, the facility or obligation, it doesn't
- 11 express what triggers it, to analyse Service
- 12 Desk records. That's something else. You
- 13 remember the helpdesks?
- 14 A. The helpdesks, yes.
- 15 Q. So this is saying, when you ask for ARQ data,
- there was an add-on, essentially, of an analysis
- 17 of Service Desk records?
- 18 A. Yeah, I don't recall that.
- 19 Q. If we scroll down a little bit further, please,
- 20 under III it reads "request and allow the
- 21 relevant employees of Fujitsu to prepare witness
- 22 statements of fact in relation to that query",
- 23 which seems to refer to transaction queries,
- 24 rather than the helpdesk stuff.
- 25 A. Yeah.

5

- 1 A. I would have expected that but I don't recall
- 2 reading many of the witness statements anyway.
- 3 I think they might have come in and just been
- 4 transferred on to the Investigator.
- 5 Q. So you were postboxing them essentially?
- 6 A. Yes, and when I was the Casework Manager this
- 7 process had been around since, well, 2000,
- 8 I think, since Horizon came in. So it was, as
- 9 far as I was aware, bedded in and business as
- 10 usual. I didn't go reinvent the wheel because
- 11 I thought that's what the process was.
- 12 Q. You'll see the sentence continues there:
 - "to the extent that such statements are reasonably required for the purpose of verifying the integrity of records provided by ARQs ..."
- So it seems to suggest that the statement needed to, in some cases, speak to the integrity
- of the records produced as a result of the ARQ.
- 19 **A.** Yes.

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- 20 Q. What analysis did you understand had been done,
- 21 if any, on the request to produce an ARQ or
- 22 produce ARQ material by Fujitsu?
- 23 A. I don't recall what analysis was done and
- 24 I probably wouldn't have understood it anyway.
- 25 Q. Did you expect some analysis to have been done?

- 1 Q. Can you recall any discussion or debate over
 - a change in approach between witness statements
- 3 that spoke to ARQ data being expert evidence, as
- 4 against witness statements that spoke to ARQ
- 5 data that were witness statements of fact?
- 6 A. No, I don't recall.
- 7 Q. What did you expect the witness statements that
- 8 Fujitsu supplied, which spoke to the ARQ data,
- 9 to contain?
- 10 A. Exhibit the actual data that they'd provided,
- 11 ie the disks with transaction and event logs,
- and I think there was a standard statement that
- they used that it was tailored to the relevant
- 14 office and time frame, and commentary on whether
- 15 the system at a particular branch at
- 16 a particular time was working properly.
- 17 Q. Did you expect the witness statements to contain
- 18 sufficient analysis to support a case that
- 19 Horizon was functioning correctly and with
- 20 integrity?
- 21 A. Sorry, can you repeat that?
- 22 Q. Yes. Did you expect the witness statements to
- 23 contain sufficient analysis or material to
- 24 support a case that Horizon was functioning
- 25 correctly or with integrity?

6

- 1 A. I would expect some analysis to be done, if
- 2 they're commenting that the system was working
- 3 fine at the time at a particular branch, and so
- 4 on.
- 5 Q. So if I'm an Investigator and you've got a book,
- 6 and I say to you "Mr Posnett, please produce the
- 7 book", you can write a witness statement, which
- 8 says, "I, David Posnett, produce the book as my
- 9 exhibit DP1", yes? Or I can say to you
- 10 "Mr Posnett, can you please produce the book and
- 11 provide some analysis of what's in it, the
- 12 accuracy of what's said and the truthfulness of
- 13 it"?
- 14 A. Yes.

19

- 15 Q. That would be a very different witness
- 16 statement, wouldn't it?
- 17 A. It would, yes.
- 18 Q. What variety of witness statement, when you were
 - essentially the ARQ manager, were you expecting
- from Fujitsu? The former type, just producing
- the data, or the latter type containing some
- 22 analysis of it?
- 23 A. Again, from recollection, I thought it was both,
- 24 ie the production of the ARQ data and commentary
- on whether the system was working.

1	Q.	I think you told us yesterday that you yourself	1		went back to May 2007. Then if we just scroll
2		wouldn't have been able to identify whether in	2		up, please, on the same day, 7 January, at
3		the data provided there was sufficient	3		10.54, we can see that Penny Thomas sent you
4		information to understand whether a transaction	4		that email, yes?
5		had or had not been completed by the system or	5	A.	Yes.
6		by the subpostmaster themselves	6	Q.	"Please find attached note sent by my senior
7	A.	Yes.	7		management this morning. We need to discuss
8	Q.	and I think you said yesterday that you	8		urgently.
9		yourself thought that not many Investigators	9		"I attach a proposed witness statement."
10		would be able to understand that distinction,	10		I don't think we've actually got that note
11		and interrogate the data for themselves to see	11		but it doesn't matter for present purposes.
12		whether it applied?	12		Then if you look at the handwritten notes,
13	A.	That's my personal opinion, yes.	13		that's not your writing, is it?
14	Q.	Thank you. That can come down, thank you. Now,	14	A.	It's not, no.
15	Ψ.	where we stopped yesterday that was just	15		We assume that it's Penny Thomas'. It records,
16		going back over some material that I'd thought	16	α.	I think, two conversations with you
17		it necessary to ask some additional questions.	17	A.	Yes.
18		Where we stopped yesterday was FUJ00155399,	18	Q.	and you say in your witness statement you
19		and if you scroll down, please, we looked at the	19	Œ.	don't recall the conversations?
20		bottom half of this page yesterday, which was	20	Α.	I don't remember the incident at all.
21		an email from Wendy Warham to Sue Lowther and	21		No. At the first of them, on the same day,
22		David X Gray about the security incident; do you	22	Q.	"Spoke to DP", which we assume is you, and
23		remember?	23		I think this reads:
	Α.	Yes.	23		
24			24 25		"He will liaise with his legal team and
25	Q.	The December 2007 report of an occurrence that 9	25		advise requirements and comments for WS", which
1		might be witness statement.	1		abnormalities, then their brief, which I assume
2	Α.		2		means I think that says "their brief", their
3	Q.		3		something will need to contact counsel if
4	Q.	"Spoke to DP [at 2.30 on the same day]. He	4		there are abnormalities; and then the draft
5		had liaised with Legal they said [or they	5		witness statement will be reviewed and talked
		want] the checks for the 400,000 ARQs to be made			
6		and results returned. Their brief will need to	6	٨	about at a later date. Yes?
7			7	Α.	Yes.
8		contact counsel in the event that we find any	8	Q.	Then if we go to later in the day, what
9		abnormalities.	9		happened, FUJ00155400, and look at page 3,
10		"Discussed [witness statement] will	10		please. Just if we look at the bottom of
11		review and talk again at a later date."	11		page 2, thank you. So this is at 3.54 on the
12		Yes?	12		7 January, same day, re the security incident.
13	Α.	I think yeah, I think that's what it says.	13		You contact Rob Wilson about the issue; yes?
14	Q.	You've got no memory of this?	14	Α.	Yes.
15	Α.	I've got no memory of that, no.	15	Q.	We looked at some of this yesterday, underneath
16	Q.	Okay, but what it appears has happened is that	16		paragraph 2, you cut in, starting with the words
17		Penny Thomas has drawn your attention to this	17		"In December 2007", that which was in the
18		and I think you agreed yesterday security	18		Fujitsu email that we've just looked at, yes?
19		incident that was serious. You've had	19		You say at paragraph 2:
20		a conversation saying, "I need to get back to my	20		"The following additional paragraphs have

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22 A. Yes.

Legal team within Post Office" --

needed to be checked; if there are

Q. -- and you call back or she calls back later in

the day with three things: the 400,000 ARQs

11

nich was in the looked at, yes? The following additional paragraphs have 20 21 been inserted (page 7). I personally do not see 22 the need for these if there are no problems 23 identified with the data relating to the case in 24 question. Why inform anyone about a problem 25 we've had within the network, but possibly only

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		т
1		at one branch, if it bears no relation or
2		relevance."
3		You essentially sought Mr Wilson's advice;
4		is that right?
5	A.	Yes, so the last paragraph on there, "I'd be
6		grateful if you could consider the above",
7		ie should they include the above in statements
8		from now on.
9	Q.	So should this additional language be included
10		in the standard form witness statements
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	afterwards to alert people to this bug that
13		has been found?
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	If we go to page 2, please, and then scroll
16		down, Mr Wilson replies a few minutes later:
17		"Dave,
18		"Thanks for both of your emails. So far as
19		the addition is concerned my view is that if we
20		are sure that there are no incidents then there
21		is nothing undermining that will need to be
22		flagged up by the defence. The incident will
23		have no relevance to our cases and as such could
24		only lead to fishing expeditions if we added
25		anything into the standard statement." 13
		State on a constitution of the ASS of wide the
1 2		if there are no problems identified with the data."
3	Α.	If there are no problems identified with the
4	Α.	data.
5	0	Do you say to Fujitsu "Please carry on trying to
6	Q.	identify problems with the data"?
7	Α.	I thought somewhere within those documents they
8	Α.	were going to look into the issue that they've
9		outlined.
10	Q.	What would you mean, if there are no problems
11	٠.	identified with the data? What do you mean by
12		that; what did you mean by that?
13	Α.	Well, I can only go by the documents I'm looking
14		at now. I can't remember. But once they'd done
15		their examination or assessment, if it became
16		evident that there were no discrepancies or

impact on people's balances, et cetera, then it

That's probably what I would have thought at the

Why did you not consider that this revelation of

15

I see. I understand. So it's whether it has

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19 Q.

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21 Α.

22 Q.

23 Α.

24

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Q.

wasn't an issue.

-- that's important?

an impact on a balance --

Then if we scroll up, please. You forward 1 that chain on to Penny Thomas, and you say: "To note the emails below. "I would say Business As Usual re witness statements ie don't include the two additional paragraphs on the last page. "If any issues materialise in due course, we can address then -- suggest the ARQs for these 4 cases are assessed first." Then page 1, please. Scroll down, please. Ms Thomas distributes that chain within Fujitsu, "[The Post Office] clearly do not want the specific details of this incident included in the witness statement." Yes? Yes. That's a fair reflection of the exchange between you and Mr Wilson, isn't it? Yes, but I would say, subject to their looking into the problem and what came out of that. Q. Do you actually say that? If we just go back to the chain, please, and look at page 3 first. You say: "I personally do not see the need for these a bug in the Horizon estate may be relevant to individual prosecutions simply because it revealed that a bug could exist within Horizon that went undetected by Fujitsu. A. Because, as I mentioned yesterday, I think all systems have issues. That was my view at the time. I don't remember it, and it seems as though Rob Wilson's concurred with my view. Q. But the information that had been reported to you showed, firstly, that there had been an unseen problem that meant that part of

a balancing transaction had not been recorded in the local message store, agreed? A. Yes. Q. It meant, secondly, that the system had not picked that up, that the system for finding faults and identifying faults had not picked

that up --

Yeah.

-- and there had been some considerable delay?

The issue had occurred from May 2007 onwards,

I think. It was said to have been fixed in

24 November 2008 and was not being addressed until

25 this email exchange of January 2009?

- 1 **A.** Mm.
- 2 Q. Did that not suggest to you that there were
- 3 problems with Horizon or may be problems with
- 4 Horizon, which were not being adequately or
- 5 promptly communicated to you?
- 6 A. When I read this now, yes. I mean, in a strange
- 7 way I'm reassured that Fujitsu actually
- 8 identified this and flagged it up. But I can't
- 9 remember it. I can only go by what I'm reading
- 10 and it may well have been "We need to look at
- 11 all of these ARQs that could have been impacted
- 12 by this issue and then take it from there".
- 13 Q. Was the existence of a bug, which could
- 14 undermine the integrity of data, not in itself
- 15 significant, more generally, to the integrity of
- 16 data being produced by Horizon?
- 17 A. I would say, at the time, no would have been my
- 18 thought, given the email I've written but I've
- 19 forwarded it on for concurrence or a review by
- 20 Rob Wilson.
- 21 **Q**. If we scroll back up to page 2, please, you say:
- 22 "If any issues materialise in due course" --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- "we can address then."
- 25 What did you expect to be done, going
 - 17
- 1 Q. -- "then we might need to do something"?
- 2 A. I don't remember it but I agree with that
- 3 summary.
- 4 Q. Did the Post Office conduct any, to your
- 5 knowledge, independent analysis of the fix that
- 6 Fujitsu said they had applied back in November
- 7 2008, to see whether it had worked?
- 8 A. I don't remember but, again, the first email in
- 9 this chain was from Wendy Warham to Sue Lowther,
- 10 the Head of the Information Security at the Post
- 11 Office and, underneath the paragraph that says,
- 12 "Further action", it's mentioned "Education to
- 13 ensure that this type of incident is raised as
- 14 a major incident".
- 15 I mean, I don't know what that process was.
- 16 Q. That's a slightly different thing, I think,
- 17 Mr Posnett. That's an internal Fujitsu point
- 18 that people need to be educated not to sit on
- 19 a problem and instead need to escalate it into
- 20 a major incident, so there isn't a delay between
- 21 2007 and 2009.
- 22 **A.** Yeah, but my view is the email went from Wendy
- 23 to Sue Lowther, so I wasn't even part of that
- 24 initial email. I don't know but I'm assuming
- 25 that, because it went to Sue Lowther, she's got

- 1 forwards, to see whether any issues materialise
- 2 in due course.
- 3 A. What did I do, sorry?
- 4 Q. What did you expect to be done --
- 5 A. Well -
- 6 Q. -- to see whether any issues materialised in due
- 7 course?
- 8 A. Okay, so on the first page of this document,
- 9 with Penny Thomas' handwritten notes, Wendy
- 10 Warham, who is writing to Sue Lowther, we need
- 11 to -- it states, and I quote:
- 12 "We need to work with POL to recheck the
- 13 ARQs and reconfirm the data integrity during the
- period of May '07 to November '08. Penny will
- 15 do this.
- 16 So that's what I thought Fujitsu were going
- 17 to be doing, rechecking the ARQs during that
- 18 time period.
- 19 Q. So "if any issues materialised in due course"
- 20 does not mean "if any further problems with this
- 21 bug come out in the future", it means "the
- 22 checks that Fujitsu have already said they are
- going to undertake, if issues arise from those
- 24 checks" --
- 25 A. That's what --

18

- 1 her on processes to follow or to escalate things
- 2 or notify people of this incident but I don't
- 3 know.
- 4 Q. But your view was we needn't disclose this in
- 5 a witness statement, that this has happened in
- 6 our witness statements?
- 7 A. I don't think that was my view at the time.
- 8 Q. Well, you say, "I would say Business As Usual re
- 9 witness statements, ie don't include the two
- 10 additional paragraphs".
- 11 A. So don't include.
- 12 Q. Yeah, "we don't need to mention this in our
- 13 witness statements"?
- 14 A. Subject to what comes out of Fujitsu's
- 15 enquiries.
- 16 Q. Did you agree with Mr Wilson that, if you did
- 17 include this, if we scroll down to see his
- 18 actual language, it could only lead to fishing
- 19 expeditions?
- 20 A. I would turn that around and say Rob Wilson
- 21 seems to have agreed with my comments
- 22 beforehand.
- 23 Q. How did you know at this time that the incident
- 24 has no relevance to your cases?
- 25 A. We didn't know at this time.

			The Post Office Horizon IT	quiry	6 Decemb	
1	Q.	So prosecutions were continuing?	1		"1. Only the specific Riposte	e timeout
2	Α.	Yes.	2		event.	, amoout
3	Q.	The standard witness statement was going out	3		"2. Events between 1 May '0	07 and
4		without the additional paragraphs alerting	4		30 November '08.	
5		people?	5		"3. Events logged between	7.00 and 7.10.
6	A.	Well, I think on here it said that there were	6		"4. Events logged by Counte	
7		four outstanding. I think they were paused,	7		Then if we scroll up, please,	
8		from what I'm reading, until they'd looked into	8		further. Thank you.	
9		this.	9		Again, internally to Fujitsu co	onversation
10	Q.	The prosecutions were paused?	10		between Steve Denham and Pen	
11	Α.	Not prosecutions; the submission of the witness	11		email:	,
12		statement.	12		"To update you Dave Posr	nett rang me
13	Q.	Oh, I see, so the prosecutions continued but the	13		yesterday to ask the status of this	•
14		witness statement was not signed off?	14		(which he was including in hits in	
15	A.	That's my understanding, from this.	15		reporting). I told him it was still [v	
16	Q.	Can we go on, please. FUJ00155409. If we	16		process] and that we were hoping	
17		scroll down, please, this is five days later,	17		later this week/early next week",	-
18		12 January 2009. This looks like an internal	18		Were you aware that the che	
19		Fujitsu chain, and I don't think you're ever	19		were carrying out were limited on	•
20		copied in to it but I just want to ask you some	20		specific incident and to a particul	-
21		questions on what you knew about it. This the	21		range.	
22		checking process that I think you envisaged, and	1 22	A.	That was my assumption, yes.	
23		Alan Holmes says to Penny Thomas:	23	Q.		ne email we
24		"I have compared your ARQs with the event	24		just looked at, constrained to the	
25		data constrained as follows:	25		timeout event and limited to a ter	
1		window?	1		that period and come back to me	
2	A.	Yes.	2		results that would hopefully be re	layed in
3	Q.	Where did you get that information from, that	3		layman's terms.	
4		that was the nature of the checking that was	4	Q.	You were part of a Casework Tea	am at this time?
5		being undertaken?	5	A.	I'm not sure I was because, if you	ı look at my
6	A.	From the previous emails.	6		email, the title on my email is "Da	ave Posnett,
7	Q.	Which email?	7		Fraud Risk Manager". So, at this	s stage, I'd
8	A.	So the first email in those documents.	8		moved	
9	Q.	FUJ00155399?	9	Q.	You'd moved on?	
10	A.	Yes. So the email	10	A.	from Casework Manager into fi	raud risk but
11	Q.	If that can just be brought up, please.	11	Q.	Why were you dealing with it?	
12	A.	So underneath the paragraph headed "Impact",	12	A.	Well, that's a good question. I th	ink, because
13		again:	13		I'd been in Post Office for so long	յ, I was quite
14		"We need to work with POL to recheck the	14		often asked to carry on with this	or get
15		ARQs and reconfirm the data integrity during the	15		involved with that, "Dave, do you	know people

15 ARQs and reconfirm the data integrity during the 16 period of May '07 to November '08 -- Penny will too this." 17

18 **Q**. I was concentrating on the ten-minute time window between 7.00 and 7.10 that we just read 19

20 about. 21 A. Again, I can't remember this. I don't

22 understand what Riposte is or ringers that have 23 been mentioned, that's for Fujitsu. I looked at

24 it quite simply: there was an issue identified 25 and they were going to recheck the ARQs during 24 25 A. Yeah.

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who can assist so and so?" Yeah, I wouldn't say

I was used and abused but I was given extra

Q. Who took over from you as Casework Manager in

the Assistant Casework Managers. I think he

24

duties above my day job at that stage.

A. So I think it was Jason Collins, he was one of

the Casework Team?

became --

Q. Got promoted?

- 1 **Q.** Okay.
- 2 A. Until it moved up to Salford in Manchester and
- 3 it was a different team.
- 4 Q. But you'd moved department at this time?
- 5 A. I'd moved to be Fraud Risk Manager, yeah, and
- 6 I think what has happened is I've still
- 7 maintained an element of the relationship with
- 8 Fujitsu.
- 9 Q. What technical expertise did you bring to bear
- 10 to be able to apply a critical eye to what
- 11 Fujitsu were telling you?
- 12 A. None.
- 13 Q. This says, "We need to work with POL to recheck
- 14 the ARQs".
- 15 A. Yes.

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- 16 Q. What did POL do to work with Fujitsu?
- 17 A. Again, I don't remember it but I think it was
- 18 purely Fujitsu looking at the ARQs and then
- 19 relaying the results to the Post Office.
- 20 Q. In this kind of thing, was there a facility to
- 21 bring in technical expertise within the Post
- Office to say, "Look, we've got a supplier who
- 23 has identified this problem: Fujitsu. They may
- 24 have been slow in telling us about it. It
- 25 affects prosecutions, this is serious -- or it

25

"We are pleased to advise that our analysis of the data covering 1 May to 30 November has been completed.

"The event logs have been checked for all data provided to Post Office as a result of the 195 ARQs which fall within the time frame. 27 instances of concern were identified. All instances have been fully analysed and we can confirm that the locking was caused by contention between the end of day process and a Riposte checkpoint being written. No transactions or balancing activities carried out at the branches were affected.

"The standard witness statement has been reviewed and is attached. No reference has been made to the locking issue but minor revisions have been made."

18 Yes?

- 19 **A.** Yes.
- 20 Q. Was it your understanding from this that Fujitsu
- 21 had effectively checked all potentially affected
- 22 cases and confirmed that this issue had not
- 23 caused a transaction error in any case or
- 24 an error in balancing in any case?
- 25 A. Yes, on reading these documents that, I think

1 potentially affects prosecutions, this is

- 2 serious. We need to apply a critical eye to
- 3 what they've done to solve the problem and to
- 4 check the extent to which the data is afflicted
- 5 by this problem in terms of financial
- 6 reliability".

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Was there that kind of help available within the Post Office?

- A. I don't know, but I would say, yes, there
 - probably were people who could have assisted in
- 11 that respect. But there's two key things you've
- 12 mentioned there: one is somebody who is expert
- 13 at IT that could look at this. Well, as I say,
- the initial emails went to Sue Lowther, who was
- 15 the Head of Information Security. So either she
- 16 would deal with it or know people who could look
- 17 at it and the other element of that, you've
- 18 mentioned prosecutions, I've relayed this to
- 19 from, the Head of Criminal Law, so, in some
- 20 ways, both of those areas are covered off.
- 21 Q. You thought that was covered off?
- 22 A. I -- yeah, not from recollection, but from what
- 23 I'm seeing, yes.
- 24 Q. Can we look at FUJ00155421 and look at the big
- email in the middle, Penny Thomas emails you:

26

- 1 would have been my understanding.
- 2 Q. They say that no reference has been made to the
- 3 locking issue in the witness statement, yes?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. So that's Fujitsu deciding for themselves
- 6 whether a bug in the system needed to be
- 7 included by way of disclosure in a witness
- 8 statement, correct?
- 9 **A.** That's what it looks like, unless they're
- 10 looking back at myself and my --
- 11 Q. The exchange --
- 12 **A**. Year
- 13 Q. -- between you and the lawyer, saying, "We agree
- me don't think this needs to be included"?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. But all three of you -- you, Mr Wilson and
- 17 Fujitsu -- appear, would you agree, to have
- 18 approached the issue on the basis of does it
- approached the issue on the basis of does it affect branches, rather than issues of whether
- 20 it said something about the existence of a bug
- 21 in the system and the ability of the system to
- 22 identify the bug?
- 23 A. I would agree with that, yes.
- 24 $\,$ Q. Not by reference to the time taken for
- 25 disclosure of the issue to the Post Office by

Fujitsu? 1 1 computer systems, have their glitches, issues, 2 2 A. Yes. et cetera. That I thought was a localised 3 Q. Thank you. That can come down. 3 one-off that had come to me, there's been email 4 When you're considering this disclosure 4 exchanges, Fujitsu have looked at it. 5 issue, what test do you apply in deciding 5 I notice on -- well, I think we've just gone 6 whether this needs to be disclosed to 6 through there, that I've chased them for 7 a defendant or not? 7 a response so I knew that, potentially, it could 8 Well, it's not for me to decide whether that 8 be serious. I've -- I would imagine, at the 9 should have been disclosed or not. That's why 9 time, my major worry would be if they came back 10 I referred it to Rob Wilson. 10 and said, "Oh, 30 or 40 of these ARQs are You expressed a pretty clear view --11 branches, it has caused a discrepancy in their 11 Q. 12 balancing". And alarm bells would have been 12 A. It was a --13 -- "business as usual, let's get on with 13 ringing and we'd have had to look at those things"? 14 in-depth, you know, to see whether people had 14 15 15 A. Well, it wasn't business as usual because -been prosecuted, et cetera. 16 well, I don't actually remember it but that, to 16 As it was, they came back with there were no 17 me, is a specific problem that's been flagged 17 financial discrepancies, which was probably my 18 up. That was my view. 18 focus at the time, but I understand now, given 19 Q. What --19 what we all know, that, in hindsight, yes, 20 A. If it happened today and you asked me my view, 20 perhaps that should have been flagged up and 21 21 I'd say, well, we need to declare that or raised as another bug. 22 disclose it. 22 Q. To take it away from the issue of a computer 23 Q. Why would your view be different? 23 system, imagine a case involving, I don't know, 24 Because, at the time, without remembering it, 24 ID evidence. If you're relying on an eyewitness A. and I mentioned yesterday, that all systems, 25 25 in a criminal prosecution who says that the 1 suspected offender was wearing a red bobble 1 a history of getting it wrong, then yes, its 2 hat -- yes -- and you were in possession of 2 relevant to the case. 3 material which suggested that the eyewitness on 3 Q. Even though it's got nothing directly to do with 4 a previous occasion said that the offender was 4 the identification of the suspect on this 5 wearing a blue bobble hat, would you have to 5 occasion? 6 disclose that? 6 A. Rightly or wrongly, I used disclose every little 7 A. 7 bit of paper, post note, et cetera, so no one 8 Q. That's pretty obvious, isn't it, because it's 8 could come to me and say, "You haven't retained 9 directly about the issue concerned, yes? 9 this", or whatever. 10 A. 10 Q. That's because it goes to the liable of the Q. What about if, in those proceedings, unrelated 11 piece of evidence that you're relying on, in 11 12 to the witness' identification of the suspect, 12 that case, the eyewitness? 13 he had misidentified somebody else on a previous 13 Yes, I would retain and reveal any -- anything 14 occasion, had said that the suspect was wearing 14 I had in relation to a case. As I said, the 15 a green skirt on one occasion and then on 15 lawyer who contacted me said you only need to 16 a different occasion said she was wearing 16 disclose relevant things. I wasn't talking 17 an orange skirt? It had nothing to do with the 17 about thousands of sheets of paper but that was 18 identification of the bobble hat wearing 18 the way I worked. 19 offender. 19 Q. Thinking back, do you think you applied that 20 A. Yes. 20 approach to evidence used by computers, Would you have to disclose that? 21 ie something not directly relevant to the 21 22 A. Personally, I would. As I mentioned yesterday, 22 allegation that you're making, but something 23 the only criticism I ever received was 23 which tends to suggest that the evidence that 24 disclosing too much information. I would say 24 you might be relying on is less than reliable? 25 that, if that particular person has got 25 **A**. I don't know -- I can't remember any instance

31

(8) Pages 29 - 32

- like that where I was responsible for
 disclosure.
- 3 Q. Can we move on, please, to another aspect of
- 4 requests for ARQ data. POL00107817, please.
- 5 Can we start by looking at page 3, please. This
- 6 is in the context of the Seema Misra case. We
- 7 can see an email from Mr Longman, the
- 8 Investigator, to the Fraud Team, of 14 July
- 9 saying:
- "Can you please assist with the followingthree points ..."
- 12 Can you help with the generic Fraud Team
- 13 email address. What was that?
- 14 A. So the Casework Team, myself, two assistant
- managers and admin staff, we had a team email
- 16 address, namely the Fraud Team.
- 17 Q. Okay, so this refers to the part of the Casework
- 18 Management Team?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. Then 1:
- 21 "Andy Dunks of Fujitsu is requiring as
- 22 a witness in this trial ...
- 23 "2. The defence will be calling their own
- 24 expert to analyse the Horizon data as the
- 25 defendant is now claiming that some of the loss
- 1 period 13 June '05 to 14 January '08, together
- 2 with a covering witness statement.
- 3 Q. What cover should the witness statement provide?
- 4 A. I don't understand that bit but it's a witness
- 5 statement that includes the production of the
- 6 transaction log data during that time frame.
- 7 **Q.** Should it just produce them, a bit like earlier,
- 8 if you remember my book example. It says
- 9 "herewith book, my exhibit DB1"?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Or should it analyse them?
- 12 **A.** Yes.
- 13 Q. Which of those two?
- 14 A. Both. They should produce the logs and, if
- 15 they're verifying in the witness statement that
- 16 the system was working correctly, that would
- 17 have involved, I would imagine, some sort of
- 18 analysis.
- 19 Q. Okay let's see what happened to it, if we go to
- 20 the top of the page, we can see that this is
- 21 forwarded to you --
- 22 **A.** Yes.
- 23 Q. -- by Tony Jeffery; was he one of your
- 24 caseworkers?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 in this case is caused by errors with Horizon.
- 2 Therefore, I will need transaction log that
- 3 covering the period 30 June 2005 to 14 January
- 4 2008, together with a covering witness
- 5 statement."
- 6 A. So this is an example of when an Investigator
- 7 requests a witness statement, not the Casework
- 8 Team
- 9 Q. Yes, and the investigator is requesting the
- 10 Casework Team to get a witness statement?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Yes? Does that reflect the fact that
- 13 Investigator shouldn't be liaising directly with
- 14 Fujitsu; it had to be routed through you?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Your team?
- 17 A. The team, yeah.
- 18 Q. The request there for a covering witness
- 19 statement, in relation to data for that
- 20 two-and-a-half-year period, what, reading this,
- 21 would you expect if you were to pass that on to
- 22 Fujitsu, the witness statement to contain? It's
- 23 rest to by the Investigator as a covering
- 24 witness statement.
- 25 A. So it should cover transaction log data covering

- 1 Q. "Please see paragraph 2."
 - That's the one we've been concentrating on,
- 3 the request for ARQ data?
- 4 A. Yes.

2

- 5 Q. If we look at page 2, please, and scroll down.
- 6 You reply directly to the Investigator and you
- 7 say:
- 8 "Due to the size of the ARQ request I cannot
- 9 authorise Fujitsu to proceed at this stage.
- 10 This equates to approximately 31 ARQs. We have
- 11 an annual allowance of 670 ARQs, so the defence
- 12 request represents quite a chunk of our quota."
- 13 Just stopping there, had the defence
- 14 actually requested anything?
- 15 A. Can we --
- 16 Q. Go back to page 3?
- 17 A. Yes, please.
- 18 Q. Scroll down paragraph 2.
- 19 **A.** So --
- 20 Q. Isn't it the Investigator saying, "I will need
- 21 the data"?
- 22 A. Well, yes, the defence will be calling their own
- 23 expert to --
- ${\bf 24}~{\bf Q}.~{\bf But~they're~not~asking~for~anything~though,~are}$
- they, according to this?

12

- No, but it's part of his paragraph "The defence 1 Α. 2 will call in their own expert, as the defendant
- 3 is now claiming that some of the loss in this
- 4 case is caused by errors in Horizon, therefore,
- 5 I will need" --
- 6 **Q.** So it's the Investigator, the prosecution needs 7 the data?
- 8 A.
- 9 Q. Why did you turn it into a defence request in 10 your email? Go back to page 2.
- A. I think because the defence will be getting 11
- an expert and it looks as though it's now citing 12
- 13 Horizon. So perhaps, at the time, I've assumed
- it was a defence request. 14
- "... so the defence request represents quite 15 Q.
- 16 a chunk of our data. Also, we can only request
- 17 60 ARQs per month, so this Defence request could
- 18 be detrimental to other Prosecution requests.
- 19 "We have a contract with Fujitsu to acquire
- 20 ARQs for our prosecution cases, and we pay for 21 these. We do assist where we can and where
- 22 requests are reasonable in terms of our quota,
- 23 eg police, other parts of the business, small
- 24 defence requests, etc.
- 25 "For 'lumpy' defence requests, we can obtain
- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You say in the second paragraph that you do
- 3 assist with "small defence requests". Small
- 4 defence requests are okay. Where did that come
- 5 from?
- 6 A. I don't think it was a policy or anything.
- 7 I think it's --
- 8 Q. What's a "small defence request"?
- 9 A. Something that is unlikely to impact on
- Investigation Managers making requests. 10
- Q. You then say in the third paragraph that it's 11
- 12 essentially the defence's job to pay for this
- 13 data or get the court to order the Post Office
- 14 to undertake the work. Agreed?
- A. That's what it says in that paragraph. 15
- Q. Was that your view generally? 16
- A. Um --17
- Q. If ARQ data is required and it doesn't fit 18
- within our contractual arrangements with 19
- Fujitsu, the defence have got to pay for it? 20
- 21 A. I would say not, because of the very first line
- 22 and the very last line of that email. "I cannot
- 23 authorise Fujitsu to proceed at this stage", is
- 24 the first line, and the bottom line is "Can you
- 25 consider and seek views/input from our criminal

- 1 a quote from Fujitsu for the work, which will
- 2 then sit outside our quota. Defence can then 1)
- 3 pay up, 2) seek legal aid and pay up, 3) cancel
 - the request, or 4) seek authority from the court
- 5 to insist that the request is carried out.
- 6 "Aside from the costs and our quota, another
- 7 reason for this approach is because many cases
- plead guilty at the 11th hour and/or nothing is 8
- found by 'experts' to challenge the Fujitsu 9
- 10 data -- the usual attempts to muddying the
- waters. 11
 - "Can you consider and seek views/input from
- 13 our criminal lawyer in the case. Happy to
- 14 discuss if need be."
- 15 Yes?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 You told us yesterday that you determined the
- parameters of ARQ requests by reference to what 18
- 19 the Investigator wanted, didn't you?
- 20 A.
- 21 Q. This shows that you didn't determine the
- 22 parameters of ARQ requests by reference to what
- 23 the Investigator wanted, doesn't it?
- A. 24 So has he not requested logs for a date range?
- 25 Q. And you said no.

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- 1 lawyer in the case."
- 2 So whatever my thoughts or views are, the
- 3 lawyer in the case would overwrite me, as it
- 4 were.
- 5 Q. Would that be Mr Singh?
- 6 A. I think it was Mr Singh on this case.
- 7 How did you find him as a lawyer?
- 8 Yeah, okay, as far as I'm aware.
- 9 Q. Competent and hard working?
- A. Well, I didn't sit with him, so I don't know how 10
- 11 hard working he was but I had no issues.
- 12 So he was the decision maker, was he, on the
- extent of an ARQ request that went back to 13
- 14 Fujitsu?
- A. If he was the lawyer in the case, then yes. 15
- Q. Did you not understand yourself that it was for 16
- 17 the Investigator and the prosecutor in law to
- undertake all reasonable lines of inquiry and, 18
- if it was necessary, obtain data and information 19
- 20 from a third party?
- 21 Yes. What I would say to that is, again,
- 22 although I don't remember this, it's -- I'm not
- 23 aware of the full details of the case. I'm
- 24 looking after the Casework Team and it's up to
- 25 the lawyer to say, "Tough, we need these" for

1		whatever reason, and then we'd do our best to	1		investigator saying, "Defence should pay up"?
2		get it. I mean	2	A.	Well, I don't know why because I don't remember
3	Q.	You're not doing your best to get it, are you?	3		this incident but
4		You're being obstructive to the getting of it,	4	Q.	Why should the defence pay up for data that had
5		aren't you?	5		led to the creation of the very records that the
6	A.	No, no, I said if the lawyer insists we need it,	6		prosecution was relying on to prove its case?
7		then we'd do our best to get it. On this	7	A.	
8		particular incident, I don't know whether	8	Q.	Well, can you try and help us? Was this the
9		I've asked a Senior Manager, you know, and	9		state of mind of you and your Casework
10		they've said get a quote, or, I don't know	10		Management Team, that if we've got to get data
11		whether I've spoken to the Casework Team to find	11		to prove the accuracy of the very records that
12		out how many cases have been raised in the last	12		we rely on to prove our case, ie the Horizon
13		week or so there was also a Credence issue.	13		records, it's for the defence to pay up?
14		So that was my view at that time, given	14	A.	I don't think that was the mindset. I mean, the
15		a set of circumstances but it's not my decision,	15		previous paragraph says we do assist where we
16		ultimately, to say, yes, or no or to say no to	16		can and where requests are reasonable, in terms
17		the production of logs.	17		of our quota, et cetera. So it's not a case
18	Q.	If it's not your decision	18		that the barriers have gone straight up. But
19	Α.	Ultimately.	19		it, you know, may well have been at that time
20	Q.	ultimately, why are you saying all of this?	20		that three years' worth of data just seemed
21	Q.	Why not just forward the email and say,	21		excessive, hence, can you seek the views or
22		"Jarnail, over to you"?	22		input from the criminal lawyer?
23	Δ	Because the Investigator has e-mailed me, I've	23	Q.	
24	Α.	responded to the Investigator	24	Α.	Because if we're only allowed 31 ARQs a month
25	Q.	And I'm asking you why you've responded to the	25	Λ.	sorry, 60 ARQs a month, and 31 of those are
					-
1		going to be used up in this case, it means that	1		Yes?
2		an Investigator who might want ARQs might have	2	A.	Yes.
3		to wait until the next month to request. So	3	Q.	So that's midday on the 4th?
4	Q.	Does that reflect your mindset at the time, that	4	A.	Yes, so I've responded to Jon, to liaise with
5		the starting point is the contract we've agreed	5		the lawyer, and Jon has responded to the lawyer
6		with Fujitsu, rather than the starting point is	6		asking him to get the view of counsel.
7		the indictment that we have preferred against	7	Q.	Yes. Can we go, please, to FUJ00154846, thank
8		Mrs Misra and the date range in that?	8		you, and page 3, please. We were previously
9	A.	I think the ARQ, from the conception of Horizon,	9		looking at midday on the 4th, we're now at 11.00
10		was more geared to the Investigators. As time	10		in the morning on the 5th. You email Penny
11		went on, yes, it became important for defence,	11		Thomas, saying:
12		as well. But I being honest, I think it was	12		"Request for information [in the Misra
13		primarily for Investigation Team at the	13		case].
14		beginning.	14		"As discussed, please note the email below."
15	Q.	If we just scroll up, please, and again, please.	15		If we scroll to page 3, please, and a bit
16		We see that at 12.02 Mr Longman duly forwards	16		further, we can see the original email from
17		that chain to Jarnail Singh.	17		Mr Longman to you with paragraph 2 saying:
18	A.	Yes.	18		" I need transaction data for that
19	Q.	At the end of the first paragraph:	19		two-and-a-half-year period."
20		"I have tried to order the data for the time	20		Yes?
21		Mrs Misra was subpostmaster (3 years) but as you	21	A.	Yes.

23

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Q. Back up to page 2, please -- sorry, back up to

below. In respect of paragraph 2, I have not

"As discussed [Penny], please see the note

44

page 3, my mistake.

"Please could you advise counsel and inform

can see from the email from Dave Posnett there

are a number of issues.

what action to take."

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- 1 authorised an ARQ -- suggest the defence pay for 2 this, either independently or via legal aid or 3 they can challenge at court. As such, and as 4 per our RFI process, could I ask for a quote 5 from Fujitsu as to how much this would cost if 6 it sat outside the ARQ contract. I would be 7 grateful for a speedy response as I need to 8 relay back to our Investigator and our criminal 9 lawyer."
- 10 So you hadn't authorised the ARQ request, 11
- A. Um --12
- 13 **Q.** Line 1.
- A. Yes -- no -- well, you're correct. 14
- Q. So it was your decision, to not authorise or to 15 16 authorise.
- 17 A. At this time, on this occasion, yes. Again, the 18 bottom line of that paragraph "be grateful for 19 a speedy response as I need to relay back to our 20 investigator and our criminal lawyer".
- 21 Q. So is the summary that you'd said no without 22 knowing how much it would cost?
- 23 A. I would say yes, yeah.
- 24 You're saying that you would suggest that the 25 dense pay for this, either from their own money
- 1 case, and an awful lot of ARQs have been 2 requested.
- 3 Q. So you'd be suspicious. Well, they haven't 4 requested any. The defence at this moment 5 haven't requested any on the information you've 6 got. Your Investigator has asked for it?
- 7 The investigator has asked for it, it would 8 seem, based on what has happened in the case.
- 9 Yes, but he's not saying "the defence have requested", he's saying, "I'm requesting"? 10
- A. Yeah, I mean, I don't know whether I had 11 12 conversations with him at the time, and his --
- 13 Q. What, that said that this is, in fact, a defence 14 request, despite the terms of my email?
- Well, the email implies to me that because 15 Α. 16 defence experts are getting involved and it's 17 switched from staff thefts, that's why Jon is 18 making the request.
- Q. Would that be something that operated on your 19 mind, that this is a defendant just messing 20 21 around, switching defences and, therefore, if 22 they want to mess around and switch defences,
- 23 they can pay for the privilege? 24 That -- again, that possibly would have been on 25 my mind. I don't know. But the key thing for

6 other parts of the business had paid because it 7 was the Security Team's budget. I don't know.

A. I don't know, other than, perhaps at the time,

there were occasions where defence had paid or

or via legal aid, or it can be challenged in

court. Where did that come from, that the

Q. Do you understand that the data you were seeking

was data that was necessary to prove the 10 accuracy of the records relied on in the

defence had to pay?

11 prosecution?

A. I know that now. 12

13 Q. What did you think this was at the time?

A. I can't remember, I don't remember the incident, 14

so I don't know what I thought at the time. 15

16 I wouldn't have known the ins and outs of the

17 case. It may have been reading through

18 documents that it's -- you know, it's suddenly

19 switched of staff members that stole the money

20 and then it's shifted to Horizon could be the

21 problem.

22 Q. What's the relevance of that?

23 A. Well, if it's changed so quickly from staff

24 thefts to Horizon, it just seems a very quick

25 change, without knowing the ins and outs of the

1 me there is liaise with the lawyer and, if the 2 lawyer had come back and said, "Tough, we need

3 this", then we would have done our best to get

4 it.

5 Q. Can we look, please, at page 2 to the reply, 6 a letter on the same day from Penny Thomas, if

7 we just scroll down a little bit further. Yeah, 8 Penny Thomas to you:

"In response to your request [costs will be] 9 10 £5.800."

Yes? 11

12 Α.

13 Yes, so was that, in your view, a prohibitive 14 cost?

A. Prohibitive? 15

To proceeding with the request? 16

17 A. I don't know what I thought at the time.

18 I would imagine that would be relayed to the lawyer to factor in to his decision making. 19

20 Q. Let's have a look. FUJ00154851. Look at

21 page 3, please, letter of 14 August 2009 to

22 Mr Longman:

23 "Here is a letter which I have written to 24 the defence and copied to counsel for your 25 information."

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solicitors, 14 August:

"I understand from Prosecuting Counsel on the last occasion Defence Counsel asked for Horizon data for the period during which your client was subpostmistress at West Byfleet sub post office. As you may be aware the Horizon system is a product of Fujitsu Limited and the Post Office has purchased this system from Fujitsu, in the same way as any other company would purchase goods or services for its

If we go to page 4, please, to the

"The request has been put to Fujitsu and a reply has been received by a person who liaises with this company."

business. Other than that, Fujitsu is not in

any way an associated company of the Post

I think that's a reference to you.

"The data will take some 6-8 weeks to produce. Additionally your client made 107 calls to the Horizon Helpdesk during her period of tenure which equates roughly to 2-3 calls per month."

Then the next paragraph:

"The retrieval of data by Fujitsu is not

- arrange three years worth of data, the legal
 executive has gone back via this letter, asking
 them to explain exactly, you know, what and why
- 4 it's needed or why it's been requested.
- Did you like the stuff about the waste of timeand money for the late quilty pleas?
- 7 A. I wouldn't say I liked it but I think there was8 an element of my recollection.
- 9 **Q.** In fact, you'd already got a quote, £5,800?
- 10 A. Right. That was before the letter went.
- 11 **Q.** Yeah.

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Office.

- 12 **A.** Right.
- 13 Q. You're pulling a face --
- 14 A. Well, I --
- 15 Q. -- which the transcript doesn't pick up.
- 16 A. Sorry. I don't remember the incident.
- 17 **Q.** No.
- 18 A. So I haven't got my head round dates --
- 19 $\,$ Q. But do you see what's happened here? Initially,
- 20 the Investigator has said, "I need this data".
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 $\,$ Q. You have said the criminal lawyer needs to
- 23 advise but there are these obstacles to giving
- 24 it or getting the data.
- 25 **A.** Yeah.

a free service. It is very expensive and

depends upon the amount of data which has been

3 retrieved, which is why you are requested to be

4 very precise. At that stage a firm quotation

5 could be obtained and Counsel will be asked to

6 give further advice as to disclosure and payment

7 for the service. The Post Office will not

8 underwrite the cost if counsel considers the

data irrelevant. You will of course be aware

10 that the same system operates throughout the

11 country, and was not particular to your client's

12 sub post office.

"I have set out the matter above quite clearly because in the past many thousands of pounds have been spent on obtaining this type of data subsequent to which a late plea of guilty is entered tendered which means that the exercise has been a waste of time and money."

Then if we go to page 1, please. You say to Mr I ongman:

21 "Good letter -- I like it."

22 Yes?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What did you like about the letter?

25 $\,$ **A.** I think that, rather than saying, yes, we'll

5

- 1 Q. At the same time you've gone off to Fujitsu and
- 2 said, "What's the cost?" They've provided you

3 with the cost, and then a letter has gone back

4 putting the burden on the defence to justify the

5 time period.

6 A. Mm-hm.

- 7 **Q.** Why not just say, "We've obtained a quotation,
- the data is available. It would cost £5,800"?
- 9 A. I don't know. Perhaps I didn't forward that
- 10 quotation to Phil Taylor who wrote the letter.
- 11 I don't know.
- 12 Q. Would you agree that the documents that we've
- 13 just looked at make it difficult for this
- 14 subpostmaster to seek to challenge Horizon data?
- 15 They make their task harder?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. I think you've said that part of your reasoning
- 18 would be because this defendant might plead
- 19 guilty at the 11th hour?
- 20 A. Did I put this defendant.
- 21 **Q.** No.
- 22 A. No. Right. I think at the time there were
- 23 instances where people, not just audit cases but
- 24 many other types of cases, entered guilty pleas
- 25 at the 11th hour.

1	MR BEER: Thank you, sir. It's 11.15 now. That	1		looking at in Ms Misra's case, POL00141142, and
2	might be an appropriate moment to break until	2		look at page 2, please, and scroll down. We can
3	11.30.	3		see an email there from you to David X Smith of
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yeah, of course. Can I just	4		5 October 2009, "Horizon Integrity
5	clarify, by the time of the exchange of this	5		Prosecution Case Studies". You say:
6	email, these emails, am I right in thinking that	6		"Dave,
7	Mrs Misra had, in fact, pleaded guilty to false	7		"As requested.
8	accounting?	8		"In order address the concerns about the
9	MR BEER: Yes.	9		integrity of Horizon, I have prepared two case
10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So it was clear that the issue	10		studies."
11	was a contest about theft? It was in that	11		What do you recall as to the reasons why you
12	context that this debate was going on?	12		were corresponding with Mr Smith in October 2009
13	MR BEER: Correct.	13		over concerns about the integrity of Horizon?
14	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yeah. All right, thank you.	14	A.	I don't recall this at all.
15	11.30, yes.	15	Q.	You were, we see from the sign-off block here,
16	MR BEER: 11.30, yes. Thank you.	16		a Fraud Risk Manager at the time. Why would you
17	(11.16 am)	17		have been liaising with Mr Smith over Horizon
18	(A short break)	18		integrity issues?
19	(11.32 am)	19	A.	I would imagine someone's tasked me with
20	MR BEER: Sir, good morning, can you see and hear	20		undertaking these two case studies.
21	us?	21	Q.	You say:
22	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. Thanks.	22		"It should be noted that these cases were
23	MR BEER: Mr Posnett, can we turn to look, please,	23		prosecuted whereby the burden of proof is
24	at a document that was prepared at about the	24		measured beyond the reasonable. This differs to
25	same time as the exchanges that we were just	25		suspension and termination of contracts, where
	53			54
1	the burden of proof is measured as a balance of	1		Then Case Study 2, if we scroll down:
2	probability."	2		"Again, this suggests [at the foot of the
3	Then, moving on:	3		page] an attempt to muddy the waters or hope
4	"Prosecutions [at the foot of the page] are	4		that the case is dropped. There is no real
5	then subject [over the page] to strict rules and	5		concern about the Horizon system, as
6	regulations within the legal system so the	6		demonstrated by the defendant pleading guilty."
7	entire process is both thorough and fair."	7		Then the conclusion of your email under
8	Then you deal with Case Study 1, the theft	8		"General":
9	of £200,000 at Orford Road sub post office, and	9		"Where Horizon data is used as evidence in
10	you conclude at "Summary/Points of Interest", if	10		a prosecution case, Fujitsu are contracted to
11	we scroll down, you say:	11		provide a witness statement and give live
12	"In my opinion, some Post Office	12		evidence if requested. A significant amount of
13	prosecutions where Horizon analysis is	13		data is provided by Fujitsu, with only a few
14	requested, are merely an attempt to muddy the	14		witness statements (not necessary when
15	waters or hope that the case is dropped. This	15		defendants plead guilty) and rare attendance at
16	particular case involved £7,100 of taxpayers'	16		court to give evidence. Defendants have a right
17	money being spent on analysis, yet the results	17		to question the integrity and data of the

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Horizon system, yet this avenue is not really

pursued -- one would think that if someone is

innocent, then they would pull out all the stops

to disprove the allegations against them. Post

Office prosecutions have a high success rate

as watertight as they can be."

(approximately 95%), suggesting that cases are

So can you help us here, why were you

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the Horizon kit wasn't removed -- it was used by

the incoming subpostmaster with no problems

of that analysis were not disputed (or possibly

even referred to) at the trial. There was also

no attempt to call Fujitsu individuals as

witnesses and give live evidence. The

Investigator in the case also recollects that

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reported."

- 1 writing this memo?
- 2 A. I don't know, other than someone has tasked me
- 3 with providing two case studies.
- 4 Q. You told us yesterday that it was management,
- 5 the top of the organisation, telling you, lower
- 6 down, that everything was fine with Horizon.
- 7 This is the other way round, isn't it? This is
- 8 you telling management that everything is fine
- 9 with Horizon and it was a reliable basis for
- 10 successful prosecutions, wasn't it?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. The message was coming up here from you to them,
- 13 not down?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Why would the provision of ARQ data in
- 16 prosecutions muddy the waters?
- 17 A. As mentioned before, I believe there were cases
- 18 where ARQ data was obtained and experts couldn't
- 19 disprove or counter that there were things with
- 20 Horizon and --
- 21 Q. Can you remember the cases in which experts were
- 22 instructed?
- 23 A. I can't, no. Then people pleaded guilty. You
- 24 know, obviously we know --
- 25 Q. Pleaded guilty to what?

- 1 was, I think, the same.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. That may have been a different issue, I'm not
- 4 going to go into that with you. Were you aware
- 5 that, within the Post Office, it was known that
- 6 some people pleaded guilty at the last minute to
- 7 false accounting, in circumstances where the
- 8 Post Office would offer no evidence, not proceed
- 9 with the allegation of theft?
- 10 A. Yes, I think that was the case.
- 11 Q. Was there a view that those people were doing so
- in order to seek to secure a more lenient
- 13 sentence?
- 14 A. Possibly, yes.
- 15 Q. You say that, if you were innocent, you would
- 16 pull out all of the stops to disprove the
- 17 allegations --
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and that people requesting ARQ data, or some
- of them, were doing so to muddy the waters?
- 21 A. Yes
- 22 Q. Did that colour your view of the extent to which

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- 23 the Post Office should cooperate in the
- 24 provision of ARQ data?
- 25 A. Yes, if it was an excessive amount.

- 1 A. To whatever charges they were charged with.
- 2 Q. Did you understand the difference between
- 3 a theft allegation and a false accounting
- 4 allegation?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did you understand that some people pleaded
- 7 guilty, often at the door of the court, to false
- 8 accounting?
- 9 A. Some people pleaded guilty to false
- 10 accounting --
- 11 Q. Yes, often at the door of the court?
- 12 A. I didn't catch that last bit?
- 13 Q. Often at the door of the court?
- 14 A. So what does that mean?
- 15 Q. At the last minute. On the day of the trial,
- 16 yes?
- 17 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 18 Q. Did you understand which was the more serious,
- 19 did you have a view as to which was the more
- 20 serious allegation: theft or false accounting?
- 21 A. I think people viewed theft as more serious but,
- 22 from recollection, and I may be wrong, I think
- 23 the sentencing for false accounting was similar
- 24 to theft. And when I was --
- 25 Q. The maximum permissible sentence of imprisonment

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- 1 Q. Who was the judge of whether it was excessive or
- 2 not?
- 3 A. Ultimately, it would have been the lawyers.
- 4 Q. You mean the criminal lawyer --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- for the prosecution?
- 7 **A.** Yes
- 8 Q. Thank you. That can come down. We'll come back
- 9 to that later.
- 10 I think it's right that you assisted in the
- 11 obtaining of witness statements from Fujitsu in
- 12 proceedings against subpostmasters.
- 13 A. When you say "assisted" --
- 14 **Q**. Yes.
- 15 A. -- I don't think I assisted.
- 16 Q. Did you participate in any way in the obtaining
- 17 of witness statements from Fujitsu?
- 18 A. No, I don't think so, other than requesting
- 19 witness statements.
- 20 Q. Okay, so you requested them?
- 21 **A.** Yes
- 22 Q. A number of emails from Fujitsu employees that
- the Inquiry has got, including from Penny Thomas
- 24 and Andy Dunks, show that they sent the witness
- 25 statements to you.

1	A.	Yes, in the Seema Misra case Andy Dunks has sent	1		statements?
2		me a witness statement "Can you read this and	2	A.	No, because, as I say, when I was Casework
3		tell me what you think?" And I think I've said,	3		Manager, the process had been in place for seven
4		"It seems okay to me but I'll pass it on to the	4		or eight years. So, as far as I was concerned,
5		Investigator", because he was the officer in the	5		that was the process, it had been long bedded
6		case.	6		in.
7	Q.	I'm not going to go through all of them now; I'm	7	Q.	Can we look, please, at POL00052222 and can we
8		just going to list them for anyone looking at	8		look, please, at page 4 at the bottom. Can we
9		this in the future. Cases in which Ms Thomas	9		see an email of 22 June from Andy Dunks to you,
10		and Mr Dunks shared draft witness statements	10		with the subject "Witness statement for West
11		with you can be found at FUJ00122454,	11		Byfleet, Horizon Helpdesk calls", and he says:
12		FUJ00122457, FUJ00122470, FUJ00122474,	12		"Hi Dave,
13		FUJ00122476, FUJ00122478, FUJ00122487,	13		"Please have a look at the attached [witness
14		FUJ00122489, FUJ00122513, FUJ00122563 and	14		statement] for West Byfleet [Horizon Helpdesk]
15		FUJ00122540. Was it part of your role to	15		calls logged. Can you let me know if this is
16		comment on the substance of the witness	16		okay and I will print and post it to you."
17		statements provided by Fujitsu?	17		Yes?
18	A.	I don't think so. I mean, I don't recall	18	A.	Yes.
19		getting involved in that way, although we've	19	Q.	What was the purpose of Mr Dunks seeking
20		obviously looked at that security incident and	20		approval from you on whether his witness
21		the witness statement. But I don't think I got	21		statement from Fujitsu, relating to the Helpdesk
22		involved in their witness statements.	22		calls in the <i>Misra</i> case, was okay?
23	Q.	Did you see it as your role to guide or advise	23	A.	I don't know.
24		Fujitsu employees in relation to what should be	24		But what role were you performing here?
25		included or excluded from their witness 61	25		Well, my role should have been he'd send the 62
1		statement to me and then I would send it on to	1		"Jon,
2		Jon Longman as the Investigator. He's put	2		"Can you give Andy the green light and/or
3		"Dave, please have a look at the attached, can	3		comment on my thoughts above."
4		you let me know if it's okay". I don't	4		Then page 3, please, foot of the page:
5		recollect this or being asked about any witness	5		"Andy,
6		statements, but I think, in my response above,	6		"The statement is fine but the mention of
7		I'm I've given a view but it's ultimately up	7		107 calls will no doubt interest the defence
8		to the Investigator to comment on the witness	8		barrister. If possible could you include in the
9		statement.	9		statement a breakdown of the calls to cover
10	Q.	Let's look at how this developed, if we scroll	10		time/date/nature of call. If we don't include
11		up, please. You reply to Andy Dunks at Fujitsu,	11		it now the defence will only request this
12		now copying the Investigator, Mr Longman, in.	12		later."
13	A.	Yes.	13		Reply:
14	Q.	"Andy,	14		"107 calls may seem a lot but it only
15		"Statement looks fine to me, though I've	15		equates to approximately 3-4 calls a month over
16		copied Jon Longman for his info. My only query	16		the time frame. To add the information you want
17		would be that the log of 107 calls"	17		is going to take 1 to 2 days of uninterrupted
18		That's a reference to Mrs Misra calling the	18		work to complete. So to get it completed by the
19		Helpdesk 107 times:	19		26 June is not impossible it would be cutting it
20		" may need to be produced as evidence or	20		fine
21		be disclosed as unused material. If produced as	21		"If you need the extra detail I will enquire
22		evidence then it could be incorporated in your	22		about when we can get this."
23		statement now or produced in a 'further to'	23		Then scroll up:
24		statement later. I'll let Jon comment on this	24		"Let's run with the statement as it is [says

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to, as the court may be happy as it is?

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Mr Longman]. If the defence do want details of

the 107 calls then a further statement will be
needed at a later stage. Maybe you could add in
your statement that the total calls only work
out at 3-4 a month over the time period and that
this is not a high amount for a post office."

Then scroll up.

7 "Okay ...

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8

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"Will add this to the statement and get it posted to Dave ASAP."

10 Was this usual for the prosecutor and the
11 Investigator to influence the content of the
12 Fujitsu statements?

13 **A.** I don't recall but, in that string of emails

14 you've just read out, can you -- is there

15 an example specifically that you can cite?

16 **Q.** Well, the suggestion, firstly, that to add in

the detail of the 107 calls and then thesuggestion "Well, if it's going to take too

19 long, let's not".

20 A. Okay, so the 107 calls that I think was

21 mentioned by Andy Dunks, I think Mr Longman has

22 asked him to include that in the witness

23 statement.

Q. Then he's come back and said, "That's going totake a while", and he's said, "Well, all right,

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- I'm surprised I've been copied into all of these
 details between the Investigator and Andy Dunks.
- 3 Q. Why are you surprised?
- 4 A. Because I wasn't the Investigator, albeit

5 I did --

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- 6 Q. Didn't you say earlier that it was necessary
- 7 that you were the point of contact for things to
 - be routed through you?
- 9 A. Albeit I mentioned earlier exactly what you've
- 10 just said. So I was the liaison point, but Jon
- 11 was the officer in the case. I mean, from my
- 12 perspective, he's saying it there "Let's run
- 13 with it as it is but, if the defence do want
- 14 details of the calls", so they would be
- 15 informed, in one way, shape or form, that there
- 16 are 107 calls, "then a further statement will be
- 17 needed at a later stage". Yeah.
- 18 **Q.** Would you expect this kind of material to go on
- 19 a schedule of unused?
- 20 A. Yes, if it hasn't been disclosed in another way.
- 21 Q. What other way might it have been disclosed?
- 22 A. Full details within the witness statement --
- Q. No, what I meant was correspondence with thewitness.
- 25 A. Well, personally, I would say yes.

1 well, don't then"?

2 A. Can we go to that paragraph?

3 Q. Sure, if we scroll down, there:

"Andy,

5 "Let's run with the statement as it is. If

7 ..."

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8 A. Right. So --

9 Q. So Mr Dunks has prepared a statement that

10 mentions 107 calls, the emails have come through

the defence do want details of the 107 calls

11 you and Mr Longman, and the suggestion has been

"We need to set out what those 107 calls relate

to, what they're about".

14 A. Yeah

15 Q. Mr Dunks has come back and said, "Well, that's

16 going to take a while".

17 A. Yes

18 Q. Then Mr Longman has said, "Well, let's just go

19 with the mention of them. If the defence want

20 more, they can ask for it".

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So my question is: was it usual to influence the

23 content of prosecution witness statements like

24 this?

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25 A. I don't think it was usual but I can't remember.

6

1 Q. Thank you, that can come down.

What were the processes within the Post

3 Office to ensure that the fundamental disclosure

4 principle of retain, record and reveal were

5 applied to information held by the Post Office.

6 A. Could you repeat the first part of that?

7 Q. Yes. There's a principle in the law of

8 disclosure called retain, record and reveal.

9 **A**. Yes

10 Q. Were you aware of that?

11 A. It rings a bell, yes.

12 Q. What processes existed within the Post Office to

13 ensure that that principle was carried into

14 effect in Post Office prosecutions?

15 A. I'm not aware of any process.

16 Q. Was there any process that you were aware of

17 that existed in the Security Team to ensure that

18 there was correlation of information held by the

19 Post Office that went to the operation of

20 Horizon, that was relevant to the operation of

21 Horizon --

22 A. Not that I recall, no.

23 Q. -- ie when a defendant challenged the figures

24 produced by Horizon, rather than going to

25 Fujitsu, the enquiry started at home and said,

- 1 "What do we, the prosecutor, the organisation,
- 2 already hold about Horizon integrity issues"?
- 3 A. Not that I recall, no.
- 4 Q. Was there a central repository, that you are
- 5 aware of, of information from whatever source
- 6 concerning the integrity of Horizon or the lack
- 7 of it?
- 8 A. The only thing I can think of was in the last
- 9 year or two of when I was in the Security Team
- 10 there were Horizon integrity meetings with
- 11 various people around the business, sat around
- 12 the table every week.
- 13 Q. This is the weekly Wednesday hub meeting?
- 14 A. Yes
- 15 Q. I'm talking about for the period between 2000
- and, say, up to July 2013.
- 17 A. Right. I'm not aware of a central repository or
- 18 I don't recall a central repository.
- 19 Q. So, so far as you were aware, there wasn't
- a data room or a file, or somewhere on a server,
- or even in hard copy, a central repository in
- which Post Office's knowledge of errors, bugs
- 23 and defects within Horizon could be stored --
- 24 A. Not that I recall, no.
- 25 $\,$ **Q.** -- and that could be disclosed in any
 - 69
- 1 Q. On what basis do you make the assessment that
- 2 training was adequate?
- 3 A. At the time, the training, I believe
- 4 I understood it, which is a good start, and
- 5 I thought it covered what we needed to know at
- 6 the time.
- 7 Q. Did it include training on the importance or how
- 8 fundamental disclosure was to the fairness of
- 9 criminal investigations and criminal
- 10 prosecutions?
- 11 A. I've got a vague memory that the Criminal Law
- 12 Team did a training session on disclosure but
- 13 I can't remember the details of that training.
- 14 Q. Can you remember whether it included training on
- the nature of the statutory and common law
- 16 duties owed by an Investigator and a prosecutor?
- 17 A. I don't recall.
- 18 Q. Can you remember whether it included any
- 19 training on the extent to which the duties could
- 20 not be delegated to a third party, that the
- 21 prosecutor owed the duties rather, than a third
- 22 party like Fujitsu?
- 23 A. I don't recollect that, but that would make
- 24 absolute sense to me. It's the prosecutor's

25 duty.

- 1 prosecution?
- 2 A. Not that I recall.
- ${f 3}$ ${f Q}$. Was there any system for informing Investigators
- 4 about any problems with Horizon?
- 5 A. I don't think there was a system in place that
- 6 I can recall.
- 7 Q. Overall, would you agree that there was not
- 8 a formal coherent approach across prosecutions
- 9 as to the investigative approach that should be
- 10 taken where a subpostmaster sought to rely on
- 11 errors in Horizon as explaining the losses
- 12 alleged against them?
- 13 A. I would agree.
- 14 Q. Can we turn to your understanding of the Post
- 15 Office's disclosure obligations. You tell us in
- 16 paragraph 53 of your statement that the training
- 17 provided to Investigators on issues including
- 18 disclosure was adequate, yes?
- 19 A. Sorry, 53?
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 **Q**. Yes?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Is that a fair summary of it?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Was the training theoretical, in the sense of
- 2 telling you about the CPIA and the common law,
- 3 and things like that?
- 4 A. I think it was, yes.
- 5 Q. Was it ever translated into how the principles
- 6 of law and the legal obligations translated into
- 7 information held by the Post Office across its
- 8 own estate --
- 9 A. I don't recall that.
- 10 Q. -- ie how the obligation was to be discharged in
- 11 fact by the Post Office across all aspects of
- 12 its business?
- 13 A. I don't recall.
- 14 Q. Did the training include training on the
- 15 obligation placed upon an Investigator to pursue
- 16 all reasonable lines of inquiry, whether they
- pointed towards or away from the suspect?
- 18 **A.** I believe that was part of the training, yes.
- 19 **Q.** Again, was that translated or applied to20 prosecutions of subpostmasters for theft or
- 20 prosecutions of suppostmasters for their or
- false accounting, ie how do we translate that obligation on the ground in a shortfall case?
- 23 A. Yeah. I don't recollect the training. I mean,
- 24 for example, in the Seema Misra case, the only
- 25 thing I remember about that was doing Mr Longman

- 1 a favour by knocking at addresses because there 2 was an allegation that staff members had stole. 3 So he was pursuing a line of inquiry that the 4 subpostmistress had raised. That sort of ties
- 6 Q. Well, I was thinking more in a case where 7 a subpostmaster said "It's Horizon that's 8 causing the discrepancy", how the principle of 9 the pursuit of reasonable lines of inquiry was 10 going to be translated on the ground into some 11
- 12 I don't remember that being part of the A. 13 training.

in with what you were saying?

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- Q. What about outside of training, something more 14 general in a discussion amongst the team, 15 16 one-to-ones, group meetings, "Look we've got 17 some subpostmasters", as they did, "saying 'I'm 18 not to blame, I think it's the system'. What do 19 we do? Let's approach a standard approach 20 across the piece".
- 21 A. I don't recollect meetings of that nature. 22 I also think I was probably too low down the 23 pecking order to come up with those sort of 24 ideas.
- 25 Q. Did you see the fruits of any such ideas,
- 1 we really allowed to use that as a limitation on 2 the disclosure that we seek from them?" 3 A. I would say no.
- 4 Q. I think if we turn to page 68 of your witness 5 statement, which is on page 20, that will just 6 come up on the screen for you, at the foot of 7 the page:

"The request [that's the Rule 9 Request we sent you] also asked me about the role played by Gareth Jenkins in criminal prosecutions. I recall Gareth Jenkins provided witness statements to Investigators, including exhibits containing Horizon data that Fujitsu had supplied in response to ARQs. My understanding of the role of Gareth Jenkins was that he provided his knowledge and experience concerning Horizon. I recall I viewed him as an expert witness, since he was known to have expertise

..." 20 Then this:

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21 "... but I did not know the rules governing independent expert evidence." 22

23 Yes?

24 A. 25 Q. That can come down, thank you.

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1 something like a side of A4, or maybe even 2 stretching to two sides of A4, saying, "Look, 3 subpostmasters are starting to blame Horizon 4 here. This is what we need to do when they do

6 A. I mean, I can remember "Subpostmasters are 7 starting to raise Horizon", I don't remember 8 "This is what we should do".

9 Q. Can you remember whether the training in 10 included any guidance on what the law required 11 and whether the law's requirements could be 12 abrogated or watered down on cost grounds --

13 I don't recall, no. A.

Q. -- or the extent to which the contract that the 14 prosecutor had already made with a third party 15 16 could be used as a relevant consideration in 17 deciding whether to seek information or not?

I don't recall that either. 18

19 Did you think that the contract could be used in 20 that way: "We've already made a contract with 21 this person, this organisation, which limits the 22 amount of material we can get from them a month 23 and a year", there was of course a facility to 24 get material outside of that, but "we want to 25 try to stay within the contractual limits, are

1 Does it follow from what you said in that 2 last line there, in paragraph 68, that you had 3 not been trained and you had no knowledge or 4 understanding of the law on the responsibilities 5 of a prosecutor when they instructed an expert?

6 A. I had no training on that. That is correct.

7 What about knowledge or understanding?

Well, my knowledge and understanding in that scenario is that Gareth Jenkins was -- how can 10 I say this -- expert with a small "e" because he 11 knew about Horizon, he had the knowledge and 12 experience to do his witness statements. It was 13 pointed out to me that an "expert witness", 14 perhaps with a capital "E" is somebody who 15 should be independent in coming up with 16 a statement, whether it falls to the benefit of 17 the Post Office or the defence, or it does or it 18

19 Who pointed that out to you? Q.

20 My solicitor.

8

9

You mean in the context of these proceedings? 21

22 A. No, as a general. But because I didn't know, 23 that's why I put that in my witness statement.

24 Q. I see. When you say your solicitor told you, 25 you mean your Inquiry solicitor?

- A. 1 Yes.
- 2 Q. Right. I don't want to know anything more about
- 3
- 4 ▲ That's fine
- 5 Q. At the time, did you understand the distinction
- 6 that you just made?
- 7 Α. At the time?
- 8 Q. Yes, back in 2009/10?
- 9 A. As I say, I thought Gareth Jenkins was an expert
- 10 because of his knowledge and experience of
- Horizon. 11
- Q. I think it follows from the answers that you 12
- 13 gave that you didn't know that instructing
- 14 an expert gave rise to some specific disclosure
- 15 obligations on an Investigator and a prosecutor;
- 16 is that right?
- 17 A. Sorry, engaging an expert?
- Q. Yes, instructing an expert gave rise to some 18
- 19 quite specific disclosure obligations on
- 20 a prosecutor?
- 21 A. Yes, I guess.
- 22 Q. Did you know that?
- 23 A. Well, I didn't know that, no.
- 24 Q. Okay. So, for example, the prosecutor was
- required to bring to the attention of the 25
- 1 A. Well, I can only go back to when I was
- 2 an Investigator and I would disclose everything
- 3 I had --
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. -- which would have included something like
- 6 that, if that was the case for me.
- 7 Q. You told us in paragraph 53 of your witness
- 8 statement that you considered that training on
- 9 issues including taking witness statements and
- 10 evidence gathering was adequate and you told us
- 11 in paragraph 68 that you didn't know the rules
- governing the obtaining of expert evidence? 12
- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 Q. Those two things don't seem to sit very well
- with each other. 15
- A. Well, I think my comment on adequacy was based 16
- 17 on the training at the time. Back then, yeah,
- 18 I thought it was adequate. Now, sitting here,
- perhaps it wasn't so adequate. 19
- 20 Q. I see. Can I turn to the prosecution's approach
- 21 to disclosure in Mrs Misra's case and start by
- 22 looking at FUJ00122794. Start by looking at
- 23 page 2, please. Scroll down, please, thank you.

- 24 This is correspondence that you're not
- 25 copied into at this moment, between Jarnail

- 1 defence and to the court any material which it
- 2 was in possession of that was reasonably capable
- 3 of undermining the expert's opinion?
- 4 A. Yes.
- Q. You didn't know that at the time? 5
- 6 A. I can remember that phrase, anything that
- 7 undermines the prosecution or assists the
- 8 defence, yes.
- 9 Q. Specifically, that was a general understanding
- 10 vou had --
- 11 Yes. A.
- -- for disclosure obligations --12 Q.
- 13 Α. Yes.

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- Q. -- rather than being in the context of the 14
 - instruction of an expert?
- 16 Yes, correct. Α.
- 17 Q. What about the existence of a duty, did you know
- this, that communications between the 18
- 19 investigator/prosecutor and the expert, for the
- 20 purposes of preparing the report of the expert,
- 21 fell to be considered for disclosure?
- 22 A. No, I don't recollect that.
- 23 Q. Did you understand that there would be a duty to
- record the existence of such communications on 24
- 25 a Schedule of Unused Material?

- Singh, who you know, and David Jones, who was
- 2 Head of Legal in Fujitsu. Do you remember that
- 3 name, David Jones?
- 4 A. I don't but that -- David Jones has cropped up
 - on another document.
- 6 Q. Yes, it has. If we look, this is 5 February
- 7 2010 and the email from Mr Singh to Fujitsu --
- 8 Gareth Jenkins and Penny Thomas are also copied
- in -- at paragraph 3, where it says in the 9
- 10 introduction:
- 11 "On first glance, points 2-4 have not been
- 12 answered which I reproduce below."
- 13 Then 3:
- 14 "When Gareth completes his statement could
- 15 he also mention whether there are any known
- 16 problems with the Horizon system that Fujitsu
- 17 are aware of. If none could this be clarified
- 18 in the statement."
- 19 So to put this in context what had been
- 20 requested was a witness statement from Gareth
- 21 Jenkins that included "mention of whether there
- 22 were any known problems with the Horizon system
- 23 that Fujitsu are aware of", and that that hadn't
- 24 been addressed --
- 25 A. Yes.

			•
	_		
1	Q.	in the draft statement.	
2		Then if we scroll up, please, the reply from	
3		Mr Jenkins, in relation to 3 the introduction	
4		is "Brief response [is below] but not sure	
5		I should put them in a Witness Statement" to 3, this is "Are there any known problems with	
6 7		Horizon" was:	
8		"This is where I'm reluctant to make a clear	
9		statement."	
10		Just stopping there, would you think that	
11		met the test for disclosure on an unused	
12		material schedule?	
13	Α.	What, this particular email?	
14	Q.	Yes, this exchange.	
15	Α.	Yes	
16	Q.	Why would you think it would meet the test for	
17	٦.	disclosure?	
18	Α.	Well, again, if I was an Investigator, I would	
19		disclose everything and anything. I mean, if I	
20		look at the specifics, bearing in mind I don't	
21		think I've seen this string of emails, it's	
22	Q.	When you say that you've seen them now for	
23		these purposes you mean at the time?	
24	A.	Yeah. To me, especially here and now, it's	
25		relevant to the case and many other cases.	
		81	
1		check for any such events. In the case of West	
2		Byfleet we have not provided any transaction	
3		logs and so have not made these checks."	
4		Again, would you say that that part of the	
5		exchange met the test of for disclosure that	
6		Fujitsu knew of a known problem of lost	
7		transactions?	
8	A.	Yes.	
9	Q.	Again, in other prosecutions too?	
10	A.	Yes.	
11	Q.	Can you recall ever being shown this exchange?	
12	A.	I don't recall it, no.	
13	Q.	If we scroll up, please, and again, we can see	
14		that the exchange went within the Post Office to	
15		Mr Singh alone; can you see that?	
16	A.	Yes.	
17	Q.	You don't recall Mr Singh passing this back on	
18		to you?	
19	A.	I don't recall it, no.	

Q. Thank you. Can we move on to a similar topic in

Hogg, who is Mrs Misra's defence solicitor, and

83

Can you see this is an exchange between Issy

Mrs Misra's case. POL00055059.

Mr Singh in July 2010, and she says:

20

21 22

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24

1	Q.	le that the distinguished engineer at Fujitsu,
2		in some senses a person regarded as possessing
3		the greatest expertise to speak to the operation
4		of the Horizon system, was reluctant to make
5		a clear statement that there are any known
6		problems with the Horizon system.
7	A.	Yes, so
8	Q.	That's pretty significant, isn't it?
9	A.	Yes, so well, keeping it simple, the lawyer
10		has asked simple were there any issues, and
11		Mr Jenkins has responded he's reluctant to get
12		into that, by the sounds of it.
13	Q.	So I think, in the answer before last, you said
14		that this ought to have been disclosed not only
15		in this prosecution but all prosecutions,
16		certainly after the exchange occurred?
17	A.	I would think so, yes.
18	Q.	Going back up to the reply, please. Mr Jenkins
19		continues:
20		"I am aware of one problem where
21		transactions have been lost, in particular
22		circumstances due to locking issues. When this
23		happens, we have events in the eventing logs to
24		indicate that there was an issue and whenever we
25		provide transaction logs to the Post Office we
		82
1		between Charles McLachlan and Gareth Jenkins
2		we need to have"
3		Then it's the third bullet point:
4		" access to system change requests, Known
5		Error Log and new release documentation"
6		Would you have expected a defence request
7		for such disclosure to have been routed through
8		you, given that it relates to material held by
9		Fujitsu?
10	A.	Not at this stage. Not only was I not the
11		Casework Manager, I may well have moved on from
12		being the Fraud Risk Manager into my next role,
13		which was Accredited Financial Investigator,
14		unless and this goes back to what I said
15		earlier I seem to be involved in a lot of
16		projects and tasks relating to all sorts of
17		things.
18	Q.	In your time, and I'm talking about before 2013,
19		had you ever heard of something called a "Known
20		Error Log"?
21	A.	Not that I recall, no.
22	Q.	Did you know of the existence of a species of
23		document created by Fujitsu that recorded known
24		errors with Horizon?

1	Q.	If you had have known of a series of documents	1		"System Change Requests: Basically, he
2		written by Fujitsu, which recorded known errors	2		[Professor McLachlan] was asking to look at all
3		with Horizon, would that have been something	3		the system faults. I suggested that as we kept
4		which you had wished to consider for disclosure?	4		all testing and live faults in the same system
5	A.	Now, yes. Then, I don't know.	5		and that there were around 200,000 of them, then
6	Q.	Why do you think you might not have wanted to	6		this wasn't going to get him far. He then
7		look at the material if it was a series of	7		suggested looking at the system changes and
8		documents concerned with known errors with	8		would like to know all changes that had happened
9		Horizon?	9		to the system. I don't think this will help.
10	A.	Because back then, I I don't know whether	10		I don't know how practical it is for Fujitsu's
11		I would have understood the magnitude of	11		release management to provide that. I think all
12		something like that: is it relevant to cases,	12		we can do is ask the question."
13		and so on and so forth. Yeah, I just don't	13		You see the mention there of 200,000 or
14		know, back then.	14		around 200,000 live faults in the system.
15	Q.	Can we turn to POL00055113. If we scroll down,	15	A.	Yes.
16		please, this is an email exchange between	16	Q.	Was that a figure which was ever revealed to
17		Mr Longman and Mr Singh:	17		you?
18		"This is the response I have [got back] from	18	A.	I don't recollect that at all. I mean, reading
19		Penny following [the defence solicitor's] email.	19		that, it sounds as though Mr Singh knows more
20		"I've had a discussion with Gareth.	20		about Horizon and the relationship with Fujitsu
21		"It was agreed that Charles would	21		than I did.
22		provide notes reflecting the discussion	22	Q.	Would you consider that this material might fall
23		"His [Gareth's] views on the email string	23		for disclosure?
24		are"	24	Α.	Yes.
25		Then if we look at 3: 85	25	Q.	Thank you. That can come down. 86
1		Can we turn to the topic of unfolding knowledge of bugs, errors and defects in	1 2		a small standard letter by recorded delivery. [The manager] explained it should be £1.70 [you
3		Horizon. Can I start, please, by looking at	3		checked that was correct]. I associate 3 photos
3 4		POL00139733. This is a document which I think	4		which show"
			5		
5 6	٨	is written by you.			Unfortunately on the copies we've got it
6 7	Α.	Yes.	6 7		doesn't actually show it, we can't see it, but:
-	Q.	You say: "I conducted Torch visits to a number of			"1. The Horizon [system] 11 April
8 9		branches on 11/04/13"	8		screen clearly shows the weight of 25 grams in
			9		the top right-hand corner. However, there are
10 11		Can you tell us what a Torch visit was,	10 11		no options displayed concerning a first class
	Α.	Please? Yes, so I think we discussed yesterday, the last	12		signed for letter at £1.70. Instead, the signed
13	A.	job I had in Post Office Security was	13		for options start at £3.70 for a second class for a small parcel, to £6.75 for a first class
14		•	14		signed for medium parcel. The manager said he
14 15		a combination of investigation and security. Torch visits were so named because we would	15		has had problems in relation to this for the
16		visit branches to shine a light on their secure	16		past few days and has to reboot the terminal to
17			17		
		procedures, ie did they let us in without ID,	18		rectify, which takes a number of minutes to
18 19		was the safe door flapping in wind, and stuff like that.	19		perform. He has retained letters and asked
	_				customers to pop back for their receipts",
20		So was it primarily aimed at physical security?	20 21		et cetera. Scroll down. Again, please:
11	Q.	Vac			ALTERIA DE ALIANTE DIPASP
	A.	Yes.			
21 22 23		You say:	22		"[The manager] has written 'Horizon terminal
22 23	A.	You say: " Whilst at Westerham, the manager just	22 23		"[The manager] has written 'Horizon terminal shows a high value in Recorded Delivery.
22	A.	You say:	22		"[The manager] has written 'Horizon terminal

- 1 "... on 9 April, the manager has written
- 2 a similar entry ... 'called helpline', yes?
- 3 **A.** Yes.
- 4 Q. So this wasn't really about physical security
- 5 that you were writing the note?
- 6 $\,$ A. No, physical security was the reason for the
- 7 visit.
- 8 Q. No, but whilst you were there you happened to
- 9 see a Horizon anomaly?
- 10 A. Yes, and around this time I attended the weekly
- 11 Horizon integrity meetings and, to put it
- 12 bluntly, if we came across anything Horizon
- 13 related that's a potential issue, we were to
- 14 bring it back to the table, which is why
- 15 I captured all these photographs.
- 16 Q. I see, you've anticipated my next question: why
- 17 was it that you were reporting back? It was
- 18 because you were attending the Wednesday hub
- 19 meetings at this time?
- 20 A. Yes, yes.
- 21 Q. So anything to do with Horizon problems, you
- 22 scooped up and reported back?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. But this was something observed by you in front
- of your very eyes?
- 89
- 1 with ARQs, notify them of prosecutions, where
- 2 their data had been used.
- 3 Q. So it was specifically about the interface
- 4 between Post Office on the one hand, Fujitsu on
- 5 the other, in relation to investigations and
- 6 prosecutions?
- 7 A. Pretty much, yeah.
- 8 Q. Who led the meetings?
- 9 A. I don't think either of us led the meetings.
- 10 Normally, it was myself or my predecessor and
- 11 Penny and/or Pete Sewell. On this particular
- 12 occasion there are more attendees because,
- 13 thankfully, I'm handing over the responsibility
- 14 of the relationship to other people.
- 15 Q. Can we look at page 2, please. Can you see the
- 16 heading "Horizon integrity"?
- 17 **A**. Yes
- 18 Q. "Dave [I think that's you in context] explained
- 19 that there had been recent press coverage which
- 20 questioned the integrity of Horizon data. This
- 21 had been founded by Lee Castleton and articles
- had been seen in Computer Weekly and The Grocer and had featured on the Welsh BBC News. A team
- 24 had been formed to review these accusations."
- 24 Had been formed to review thes
- 25 Yes?

- 1 A. Indeed, yes.
- 2 Q. What impact, if any, did this have on your
- 3 impression of the reliability or integrity of
- 4 Horizon?
- 5 A. I thought it was another glitch, which, as
- 6 I mentioned yesterday, I think all computer
- 7 systems have from time to time. In terms of
- 8 financials, I think put on here somewhere that,
- 9 if the icon is not there, you can't -- it won't
- 10 affect the balance because you just can't choose
- 11 the option because there's no icon. But it is
- 12 a glitch and that's why I captured it.
- 13 Q. Can we go back in time, then. FUJ00154859.
- 14 Thank you. This is one of a series of notes of
- 15 bimonthly meetings with Fujitsu. This one
- 16 you'll see that the date is 3 November 2009,
- 17 covering the period of September and October
- 18 2009, yes?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Can you remember what the purpose of these
- 21 bimonthly reviews was?
- 22 A. Yeah, they weren't always bimonthly. There
- 23 could be a few months but it was basically
- 24 a catch-up meeting between Post Office casework
- 25 and Fujitsu, just to sense check where we were
 - 9
- 1 **A.** Yes.
- 2 Q. So this is at the time when Computer Weekly was
- 3 generating, would this be right, significant
- 4 publicity for the claims that Horizon lacked
- 5 integrity?
- 6 A. I believe so, yes.
- 7 Q. That had been repeated, as you say here, on BBC
- 8 Wales --
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 Q. -- and in The Grocer magazine?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 Q. So would this be right: by this time, in the
- autumn of 2009, both sides of the house, both
- 14 the Post Office and Fujitsu, insofar as they
- were engaged in the prosecution process, would
- 16 have been aware of the publicity about Horizon
- 17 integrity coming from these three sources?
- 18 A. I would say so, yes.
- 19 **Q.** You say that there was a team formed to deal
- 20 with the allegations or accusations?
- 21 **A.** Yes
- 22 **Q.** Was that a team at the Post Office, at Fujitsu
- or did it involve both organisations?
- 24 A. I don't remember it but I would imagine it was
- 25 a team from the Post Office.

- Q. Can you help identify the members of the Post 1
- 2 Office team that had been formed by autumn 2009
- 3 to deal with or review the accusations?
- 4 A I can't recall the team in 2009
- 5 Can you assist whether Mr Scott was involved in
- 6
- 7 A. I don't know.
- Mandy Talbot? 8 Q.
- I don't know. 9 A.
- 10 Rob Wilson? Q.
- Yeah, I don't know. 11 Α.
- Jarnail Singh? 12 Q.
- 13 A. I don't remember this, so I can't say who was in
- this particular team. 14
- Okay. This records you as saying that the team 15 Q.
- 16 had been formed to review allegations. Can you
- 17 recall what the review was to look like, what it
- 18 was to consist of?
- 19 Α. No, unless it concerns, I think, what we
- 20 discussed earlier, where -- or yesterday rather,
- 21 where I made sure that Rob Wilson was kept in
- 22 the loop on those particular meetings. I don't
- 23 know whether this team is that sort of team or
- 24 the same team.
- 25 Q. Was there any discussion, to your knowledge, of
- 1 Not that I recall, no.
- Q. Did it at least cause anyone, to your knowledge, 2
- 3 to pause and think "To what extent can we
- 4 continue to rely on assurances from Fujitsu of
- 5 the type we got in relation to the security
- 6 incident"?
- 7 Not to my knowledge, no.
- 8 Q. To your knowledge, did anyone think "We should
- 9 reflect and pause, potentially pause,
- 10 prosecutions"?
- A. I don't believe that was ever communicated to 11
- 12
- 13 Q. Do you think it was ever considered, to your
- 14 knowledge, by anyone?
- To my knowledge, I don't know, whether it was 15 Α.
- considered by anyone. 16
- Did you, for your part, consult with anyone else Q. 17
- about these accusations that were being made? 18
- Not that I recall. 19 A.
- 20 Q. I mean, if we look at the cast list at the top
- 21 on page 1, who's the senior Post Office
- individual there? 22
- 23 Α. Mark Dinsdale.
- 24 There's a lot of managers there, why is he the
- 25 most senior?

- 1 whether an independent review was necessary and
- 2 should take place in the light of the
- 3 allegations or accusations?
- 4 A. Not to my knowledge then.
- 5 Q. Now, at this time, out of the people concerned,
- 6 at least you and Mr Wilson would have been aware
- 7 of the correspondence earlier in 2009 which
- 8 referred to errors impacting the ARQ data --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- and that that had involved what was described
- 11 as an unseen error by Fujitsu?
- 12 Α.
- 13 Q. How did that knowledge inform your reaction to
- 14 these accusations that were being made in these
- 15 three sources?
- 16 A. I don't know whether that security incident
- 17 would have been factored into my thinking in
- 18 relation to these articles.
- 19 You had essentially been assured by Fujitsu at
- 20 that time?
- 21 A. Yes.

24

- 22 Q. Did anyone at this time, later in the year,
- 23 query whether the Post Office should continue to
- 24 have confidence in assurances that Fujitsu gave
- 25 as to the integrity of Horizon data?

- So I'm relinquishing the role of the Casework
- 2 Manager or, more specifically, the Fujitsu
- 3 relationship element of the Casework Manager.
- 4 Mark Dinsdale was, in effect, I believe, going
- 5 to be the new Casework Manager and Jane Owen
- 6 reported to him, so I think the pair of them
- 7 were going to take over the relationship.
- 8 Q. This discussion was occurring right at the same
- 9 time as the development of Horizon Online was
- 10 working at pace, wasn't it?
- A. I don't know. 11
- 12 Were you aware of the development of Horizon
- 13 Online in autumn 2009?
- 14 A. I can remember Horizon, I can remember Horizon
- 15 Online and I can remember Horizon Next
- 16 Generation. I don't know what the differences
- 17 are between them, other than that they were
- 18 updated versions of Horizon. I don't know the
- dates or the specifics of them. 19
- 20 Q. Was there ever any discussion that you were
- 21 a party to or that you heard about concerning
- 22 whether revelation of bugs, errors and defects
- 23 in the existing Horizon, Legacy Horizon, would
- have or might have implications for the 25 development of Horizon Online?

1	٨	I don't recall and that's something I think	1		to here?
1 2	A.	I would have remembered.	2	Α.	I don't know. I don't know what the team is.
3	^	Where you later aware of something called the	3		Were you interested in the work of the team and
4	Q.	Ismay report?	4	Q.	what it made of the accusations?
5	A.	Only through watching these proceedings, yes.	5	Α.	Interested? Um, I'll be brutally honest with
6				Α.	
	Q.	Going back to page 2, please, and looking at the	6		you, I probably wasn't interested because
7		Horizon integrity section, a team had been	7	^	I couldn't wait to get out of that job.
8		formed to review these accusations. What did	8	_	Why couldn't you wait to get out?
9 10		you later learn about what that team did, if	9	Α.	,
	Α.	anything? I don't recall.	11		didn't like it from day one and was pleased when
11 12	Q.		12	Q.	I did get out. There's a reference to an article in The Grocer
	Q.	Were you told about the Ismay report at the	13	Q.	
13		time, that it reports in August 2010?			here. Can we look please at POL00167138. If we
14	Α.	I don't believe I was, because when I saw	14		just scroll down, please, can you see an email
15		Mr Ismay giving his evidence, I think that was	15		here from you on 1 February 2010 to Michele
16		the first I knew about and from what I can	16		Graves, Mandy Talbot, Jon Longman, Jane Owen
17		gather, it was the Chief Executive who asked	17		Andy Haywood, "re another article from The
18		him, who was a Senior Manager, to do the report	18		Grocer re Horizon".
19		and, again, I'm probably a bit too far down the	19	Α.	Yes.
20	^	pecking order to have had sight of it.	20	Q.	•
21	Q.	Is what you are referring to here a team	21		"Michele/Mandy,
22		being formed to review the accusations in	22		"This ties in with previous correspondence
23		your view, what ended up being the Ismay report?	23		I've submitted in that Defence teams can and
24	Α.	I don't know.	24		do challenge Horizon in prosecution cases.
25	Q.	What happened to that team that you're referring 97	25		"Jon Longman is the Investigation Manager in 98
1		this case.	1		If we go back to the email, please,
2		"I have been assured previously	2		POL00167138, and scroll down, please. You say:
3		(Dave Smith), that our Criminal Law Team are	3		"This ties in with previous correspondence
4		being kept updated regarding questions	4		
5		surrounding Horizon integrity.	5		"Jon Longman is the Investigation Manager
6		"They are obviously aware of this case, but	6		
7		can you confirm that they continue to be updated	7		"I have been assured previously [by
8		on the wider issues."	8		Dave Smith] that our Criminal Law Team is being
9		If we can look at The Grocer article,	9		kept updated."
10		POL00053935. I think it's right-hand side,	10		Why, in February 2010, were you involving
11		halfway down, "A question mark". Yes,	11		yourself in this?
12		"A question mark over Horizon's IT":	12	A.	Is mine the first email in that chain?
13		"There is just room here to report that	13	Q.	If we scroll down, keep going. There's an email
14		Computer Weekly, which has been closely	14		from Michele, who is from the Executive Team
15		following the problems subpostmasters claim to	15		correspondence team, to Mandy Talbot and Martin
16		be suffering over their Horizon accounting	16		Humphreys.
17		system, says that 'a subpostmistress accused of	17		Then if we scroll up, it's not completely
18		theft from the Post Office has had her case	18		clear if we just scroll down in between
19		postponed to allow experts time to investigate	19		how you got that. Can you see? There's no
20		the accounting IT system at her branch'.	20		forwarding or reply to you.
21		"The report adds: 'Seema Misra,	21	A.	
22		subpostmistress at the West Byfleet Post Office	22	Q.	Anyway, looking at the substance, if we scroll,

24

25

please. You say:

"I've been assured previously ... that our

100

Criminal Law Team are being kept updated ..."

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in Surrey, is accused of one count of £74,000.

account deficit'."

She claims the IT system may have caused the

23

24

That assurance had been given by Dave Smith. 1

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. In what circumstances had Dave Smith given you
- 4 that assurance?
- 5 A. I don't know what circumstances.
- 6 Was Mr Smith, that you're referring to there,
- 7 the Head of IT?
- 8 A. I think he was -- yes, the Head of IT and
- 9 Change, maybe.
- 10 How frequently did you discuss allegations Q.
- concerning Horizon integrity with the Head of IT 11
- and Change? 12
- 13 A. I don't recall discussing with him at all but,
- 14 clearly, if I've been assured by him previously,
- 15 there must have been some engagement. And
- 16 I think the thrust of this goes back similar to
- 17 what I said yesterday, that "Please keep Rob
- 18 Wilson in the loop", and on this particular
- 19 occasion I've been assured by Dave Smith that
- 20 our Criminal Law Team are being kept updated or
- 21 in the loop.
- 22 Q. Can we scroll up, please. It's forwarded on to
- 23 counsel in the case, Mr Tatford, and the
- 24 solicitor, Mr Singh.
- 25 Α. Yes.

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- 1 No. Can we turn, please, to POL00141142. If we
- 2 just scroll down, please, and again. Can we see
- 3 the email that we looked at earlier from --
- 4 sorry, if we keep scrolling, and again. Can we
- 5 see the email that you sent to Mr Smith --
- 6 A. Yes.

8

- 7 Q. -- on the two case studies, yes? I'm just going
 - to pick that back up. If we go back to the top,
- 9 please, to page 1, at the top of page 1. Can we
- 10 see an email there from you to Sue Lowther and
- 11 Dave King concerning Horizon integrity?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. You say:
- 14 "Sue/Dave
- 15 "Below details individuals that were invited
- 16 to the conference calls -- not all participated.
- 17 There have been 2 conference calls ... it was
- 18 envisaged that another would occur 16 October 19
- [2009], but that didn't materialise. Dave Smith
- 20 phoned me last week -- asked me a few questions
- 21 and indicated that Alan Cook is asking for more
- 22 robust defence of Horizon. I believe the Press
- 23 Office are drafting a response to the challenges
- 24 we have had, based on the responses by
- 25 conference call participants.

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- 1 Q. Again, can you just help us why you were
- 2 involved in this, if you had moved on and, in
- 3 fact, were anxious to move on?
- 4 A. Can we just scroll down one?
- 5 Q. Yeah, and again, and again.
- 6 A. No, so my first email, it says, "Re another
- 7 article" -- I don't know, because I don't seem
- 8 to have been copied in on Michele Graves's
- 9 email.
- 10 Q. She sent it to two people?
- Yes, Mandy Talbot and Martin Humphreys. 11
- Then if we go back up --12
- 13 If we go back up --
- Q. -- suddenly you're replying to her and lots of 14
- 15 other people too.
- 16 Yes, I mean -- but I didn't get the email or A.
- 17 I wasn't copied in on the email. I mean, I've
- sent it to Michele Graves and Mandy Talbot; 18
- 19 Jon Longman who is the officer in case, which
- 20 seems logical; Jane Owen because she was the new
- 21 Casework Manager; Andy Haywood was my senior
- 22 manager. So I think I've copied in the relevant
- 23 people but I don't understand that because
- 24 I wasn't on the circulation in the previous
- 25 email.

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- 1 "I also associate two emails that were sent
- 2 by [some other people].
- 3 "[and] I associate the case studies
- 4 requested by Dave Smith which concern 2
 - prosecution cases."
- 6 Yes?
- 7

5

- Q. This records you having a conversation with Dave 8
- 9 Smith, yes?
- 10 A. Yes.
- "Dave Smith phoned me last week"? 11
- 12 Α.
- 13 Again, is that David X Smith, the Head of IT --
- 14 A. I think so.
- 15 Q. -- rather than the Managing Director of the
- 16 company?
- 17 A. I don't recall a managing director of the
- company Dave Smith. 18
- Q. No. You, in this email, say that: 19
- 20 "[Dave Smith] asked me a few questions and
- 21 indicated that Alan Cook is asking for a more
- 22 robust defence of Horizon."
- 23 Can you remember who Alan Cook was at this
- 24
- 25 A. I think he was the Managing Director of the Post

5

- Office. 1
- 2 Q. Correct. So you were being told by the Head of
- 3 IT that the Managing Director of the company
- 4 wanted a more robust defence of Horizon?
- 5 A. It looks like it, yes.
- 6 Why was Dave Smith telling you about it?
- 7 A. I've got no idea.
- 8 Was it because you were a person who was going
- 9 to be carrying that request into effect?
- 10 A. What, a robust defence of Horizon?
- Q. Yes. 11
- A. I don't think so but I don't remember this. 12
- 13 Q. Can you help us here? I mean, presumably it's
- not every day of the week that you get a very 14
- 15 senior member of the organisation, the Head of
- 16 IT, a member of the Executive Team, telling you
- 17 the Managing Director's views?
- No, it's not a -- it's a rare occurrence but --18
- 19 Yes, you don't hear every day or very often --Q.
- 20 Α.
- Q. -- from the MD of the whole of the Post Office? 21
- 22 A. Correct, but I can't remember it.
- 23 Q. What was going to be done more robustly to
- 24 defend Horizon?
- 25 A. "[Dave Smith] asked me a few questions and
- 1 people.
- 2 Q. The long email that we read, that's on pages 2
- 3 and 3 of this chain, the "muddying the waters"
- 4 email, I am going to call it. Was the provision
- 5 of that kind of information by you to more
- 6 senior members of the Post Office part of
- 7 an exercise in being more robust about the
- 8 Horizon?
- 9 A. I don't know and I don't think so.
- 10 Q. Why were you providing information that
- subpostmasters who seek to blame Horizon for 11
- 12 their losses were just "muddying the waters"?
- 13 Α. I think that was my honestly held view at the
- 14 time.
- Yes, but why were you being asked to regurgitate 15 Q.
- it? 16
- 17 A. I don't know.
- Q. Well, isn't it so that it could be deployed as 18
- part of a more robust defence of Horizon? 19
- 20 Α. That could be an element of it but it -- yeah,
- 21 I don't know.
- 22 Q. Was, essentially, what was happening here you
- 23 being tasked to produce essentially rebuttal
- 24 evidence, by way of these case studies, in
- 25 response to the adverse publicity in Computer

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- 1 indicated that Alan Cook is asking for more
- 2 robust defence of Horizon. I believe the Press
- 3 Office are drafting a response to the challenges
 - we have had, based on responses by conference call participants."
- 6 I don't know what he was going to do or how
- 7 he was going to go about it.
- 8 Q. Do you know why the Managing Director of the
- 9 Post Office was asking for a more robust defence
- 10 of Horizon, as opposed for seeking neutrally
- 11 an explanation of the issues and their impact
- on, amongst other things, prosecution cases? 12
- 13 I don't know but that sounds similar, from my
- 14 perspective, to the Rod Ismay report and the
- 15 circumstances about him drafting that report.
- 16 Q. But, again, why were you being told this? Were
- 17 you one of the lieutenants that were being asked
- 18 to be called into action to make that more
- 19 robust defence?
- 20 A. I don't know, all I can do is repeat what I said
- 21 earlier, is that I seem to be a go-to person to
- 22 assist with this or help out with that or point
- 23 people out in the right direction here and do
- 24 many, many other tasks. But, I mean, I was
- 25 nowhere near the pay level of these sort of
 - 106
- 1 Weekly, BBC Wales and The Grocer in autumn 2009?
- 2 A. The case studies could be relevant to that but
- 3 I don't recall them.
- 4 Q. Were you asked ever to conduct a substantive
- 5 investigation or review of the integrity of
- 6 Horizon?
- 7 A. I don't believe so. I don't think I'd know
- 8 where to start.
- Q. You produced some material saying that, in some 9
- 10 prosecution cases, the raising of Horizon was
- 11 done to muddy the waters or in the hope that the
- 12 case is dropped. What evidence did you examine
- 13 to satisfy yourself that that was, in fact, the
- 14 case?
- 15 A. I don't recall. I think it was a general view
- that a number of branches requested Horizon 16
- 17 data, nothing was found to be wrong with that
- data and guilty pleas were entered. 18
- Q. Can we look at page 2 of the email, please --19
- 20 sorry, just look at the top of page 1 so we can
- 21 see Michele Graves to David X Smith and a group
- 22 of other people -- yes --
- 23 A. Yes.

25

- 24 Q. -- and including Rod Ismay. It says:
 - "Following on from Friday's conference call,

I was asked to look into who the subpostmaster 1 2 was behind the postofficevictims website. 3 "I understand this to be Alan Bates whose 4 contract was terminated in 2003. 5 "Mr Bates also features in Rebecca Thomson's 6 article from Computer Weekly (you may recall 7 from our past communications she raised 8 a challenge to the system earlier this year via 9 Brian Binley). 10 "If you've not already done so, I would draw your attention to www.computerweekly.com and 11 12 enter 'Post Office Horizon' into the search 13 facility, this will take you through to articles 14 on the Horizon and most notably the two latest 15 of 10 and 28 September. The former is from 16 David Jones MP saying he is considering 17 a commons debate and the latter around the 18 potential setting up of a subpostmaster action 19 group. Subpostmasters are invited to email 20 Rebecca or Mr Bates. 21 "Potential interest from BBC Watchdog is 22 also mentioned." 23 So this was Ms Graves, for the Executive 24 Team -- she is the Executive Team's 25 Correspondence Manager -- circulating A. No. 2 And Philippa Wright? Q. 3 Α. 4 Q. You're included in this distribution list here, 5 yes? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Why were you included amongst this company here? 8 A. I don't know because I don't recall it. 9 Did you participate in Friday's conference call Q. that's referred to? 10 A. I don't know. 11 12 Q. If we scroll up, please. A further email: "Here is the website URL ... I have a hard 13 14 copy of articles ..." Then up again, please. 15 A. Sorry, was I included on that one? 16 Q. If we scroll down. I don't think you were but 17 you seem to have got it because, if we scroll 18 up, you forwarded it. 19 20 Α. Q. So, presumably, there is some separate email 21 22 somewhere of this being sent to you and you've

cut it into this email chain. You say in the

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body of the email "I associate" it.

23

24

25

A.

Yeah.

1 information about Mr Bates and his website, by 2 the reporting by Computer Weekly and by 3 potential interest from the BBC, yes? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Some investigation, it seems, had gone on into 6 identifying Mr Bates as being behind the Post 7 Office Victims website, yes? 8 A. Yes. Q. This was circulated to a number of people and, 9 10 if we scroll up, some of whom are familiar to 11 us. Can you help us with those that aren't: 12 Alana Renner? 13 No idea. 14 Q. Bob Booth? 15 No. A. 16 Q. Hayley Fowell? 17 No. 18 Q. Jeremy Worrell? 19 Α. No. 20 Q. Peter Johnson? The name rings a bell but I can't say what it 21 22 23 Q. Richard Stephenson? 24 A. No. 25 Adam Martin? 110 1 Q. You say that there had been two conference 2 calls. Can you recall whether Fujitsu were ever 3 invited into those conference calls? 4 A. I can't remember this incident so I certainly 5 couldn't say whether Fujitsu were part of the 6 7 Q. Can you recall whether there was any discussion 8 of the need for an independent investigation in the light of this publicity involving Computer 9 10

Weekly, BBC Wales, potentially BBC Watchdog, The 11 Grocer magazine and an MP?

12 A. Not that I recall, no.

13 Q. Can you recall what was done to satisfy the

14 Managing Director's request that there should be

15 a more robust defence of Horizon?

A. I don't recall, no. 16

17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry Mr Beer, it's a very minor

point but, just so I'm not missing what's 18

happening here, the email that Mr Posnett 19

20 forwarded, he does appear, does he not, next to

Mr Hulbert as a recipient? 21

22 MR BEER: Oh, quite right. I'd completely missed

23 that. We had both missed it. Thank you, sir.

24 Yes, so mystery solved. You forwarded it

25 because you received it.

- 1 **A.** Yes.
- 2 MR BEER: Sir, that is an appropriate moment because
- 3 I was moving on from this correspondence to
- 4 a new topic. I wonder whether if we might break
- 5 until 1.55.
- 6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
- 7 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir. 1.55.
- 8 (12.57 pm)
- 9 (The Short Adjournment)
- 10 (1.55 pm)
- 11 MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear
- 12 us?
- 13 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
- 14 MR BEER: Mr Posnett, good afternoon. Can we look,
- please at a document we looked at this morning,
- just for one additional point. POL00167138,
- 17 please. If we can look at the bottom of page 1
- and the top of page 2, please. You remember
- 19 this email from you to that collection of people
- 20 we see on the right --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- and we were asking how it was that you got
- 23 the article from The Grocer in Michele Graves'
- 24 email below?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 that email address and all five people get it?
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. You can click on it, it will expand the group,
- 4 there will be five emails from that group?
- 5 A. Right. Yes.
- 6 Q. You could either add to it, you could
- 7 subcontract from it or just reply to all five of
- 8 them?
- 9 **A.** Okay.
- 10 Q. Does it look like you've replied to the people
- in the POL Horizon Integrity Group?
- 12 A. I -- if this was a general Horizon group
- 13 I wouldn't have thought Jon Longman was part of
- 14 that. He was more case related -- specific case
- 15 related, and Jane Owen I wouldn't imagine was
- 16 part of that group.
- 17 Q. Jon Longman gets the email twice, doesn't he?
- 18 A. He does, yes.
- 19 Q. Going back down, then, to this POL Horizon
- 20 Integrity Group, does it follow that by at least
- 21 February 2010, the Post Office had set up
- 22 an email group or a group of email addressees
- with the collective name POL Horizon IntegrityGroup?
- 25 **A.** It looks like that, yes.

- Q. Do you remember?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. If we scroll down, please, and again, please, we
- 4 can see that, on the face of it, she's not
- 5 sending you the article from The Grocer. Your
- 6 email address isn't one of the three listed
- 7 there, is it?
- 8 A. Oh, yes. Correct, yes.
- 9 Q. But can you see the first of the three email
- 10 addresses is the POL Horizon Integrity Group?
- 11 A. Yes
- 12 Q. The second one is Mandy Talbot and the third is
- 13 Martin Humphreys.
- 14 A. Yes
- 15 Q. What was the POL Horizon Integrity Group?
- 16 A. I don't know, perhaps other than a team that was
- 17 gathered to look at Horizon issues.
- 18 Q. If we scroll up, please, and again, it looks
- 19 like you reply to Michele Graves and then expand
- 20 what was the POL Horizon Integrity Group group
- 21 email address by responding to individuals.
- 22 You're aware you can do that?
- 23 A. Am I aware I can do that?
- 24 Q. Yes. If you have group email address, which has
- got five people in it, you can simply reply to
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- 1 Q. Do you remember being a part of the POL Horizon
- 2 Integrity Group?
- 3 A. I don't remember that. The only one I do
- 4 remember is the weekly Horizon integrity
- 5 meetings.
- 6 Q. Which is much later?
- 7 A. I believe so, yes.
- 8 Q. Can you help us as to why you may have been
- 9 a member of the POL Horizon Integrity Group?
- 10 A. As previously mentioned, I was utilised quite
- 11 often to get involved in this or that or help
- 12 people with this or that, because of my
- 13 longevity in the Security Team and also possibly
- 14 because of my role as Casework Manager.
- 15 Q. Can you recall what work the POL Horizon
- 16 Integrity Group did?
- 17 A. Other than what these documents show, for
- 18 example I was asked to do two case studies,
- 19 I don't remember.
- 20 Q. Do you know how long it lasted for?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. Do you know whether there were any terms of
- 23 reference for it?
- 24 A. Not that I recall.
- 25 Q. Is that noise putting you off?

1	Α.	It's fine.	1	Α.	Correct, not in this context.
2	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: It's putting me off!	2	Q.	When years later, from 2013 onwards, you became
3		Sir, I don't know whether you can hear it	3		a member of the Horizon integrity weekly group
4		sounds like the noise of a leaf blower or	4		meetings, did you think to yourself "Hold on,
5		a chain.	5		I've done this before"?
6	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: No, I'm immune from that, I'm	6	A.	I don't remember
7		pleased to say.	7	Q.	"I've been part of an integrity group three
8	MR	BEER: I wonder if we could just take a pause	8		years previously"?
9		whilst that's investigated.	9	A.	I don't remember thinking that. I do remember
10	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. I'll stay in my position.	10		thinking "Here we go again, another thing I've
11		I won't go anywhere, okay, Mr Beer.	11		been roped into", and it seemed to be me, from
12	MR	BEER: If we turn your camera off, sir, and all	12		Security, and pretty much Senior Managers or
13		stay in our own positions and sit down.	13		heads of from other departments.
14	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yeah, fine.	14	Q.	Let's look at that, then, the integrity meetings
15	0	(Pause)	15	α.	that you do remember. You address this in
16	MR	BEER: Sir, can you see and hear us?	16		paragraph 147 of your statement, and it's
17		WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.	17		page 43, please. Page 43 at the bottom,
18		BEER: We haven't found out what the noise was	18		paragraph 147. You say, third line:
	IVIT		19		
19		but it's stopped, so I'm going to take a punt			"In my last couple of years working within
20	CID	and carry on.	20		the Security Team, I participated in these
21		WYN WILLIAMS: Fine.	21 22	٨	meetings"
22	IVIK	BEER: Is the short point then, Mr Posnett, that		Α.	Yes.
23		you can't remember being a part of the Post	23	Q.	,
24		Office Limited Horizon Integrity Group of in	24		meetings'). These were weekly conference calls
25		February 2010? 117	25		meetings attended by different people 118
			4		
1		representing different teams within the Post	1		Who are you referring to there?
2		Office. Any issues or claims or information	2	Α.	That would be Jarnail Singh.
3		which had come to the attention of teams across	3	Q.	"However, on discussing the proposed content of
4		the business, relating primarily to Horizon,	4		the meeting, he did not think that most of it
5		were raised at these meetings. These issues	5		was relevant."
6		were collated and any actions identified.	6		Just help us there. Why did Jarnail Singh
7		I recall notifying Security Managers that if	7		think that meetings about Horizon integrity were
8		Horizon was mentioned during the course of the	8		not relevant?
9		investigation, then details should be flagged to	9	Α.	I don't think this was about Horizon integrity.
10		me to be raised at these Horizon integrity	10		This was Cartwright King were appointed the
11		meetings."	11		solicitors for the Post Office following the
12	A.	Yes.	12		split from Royal Mail Group. I was asked to
13	Q.	Can we look, please, at POL00126735. I think	13		instigate a meeting with Cartwright King and it
14		this is part of your appraisal; is that right?	14		was purely an introductory meeting, meet and
15	Α.	I believe so, yes.	15		greet, and we did a presentation to them, and
16	Q.	You say:	16		I can remember
17		"I instigated a meeting with Cartwright King	17		Would you like me to continue?
18		Solicitors as they had been contracted to deal	18	MR	R BEER: Sir, I'm afraid noise has started once
19		with prosecutions concerning Post Office Limited	19		again. I think we'll have to have a break in
20		cases."	20		the Inquiry until it goes away permanently. I'd
21		Yes?	21		probably ask you to turn off and occupy yourself
22	A.	Yes.	22		otherwise and we will contact you by email when
23	Q.	"I also invited the Head of Criminal Law as he	23		the Inquiry room is in a fit state to hear
24		had been appointed following the split from	24		evidence.
25		Royal Mail Group."	25	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: All right, that's fine.

were telling us, I think, that this first box is MR BEER: Thank you, sir. 1 1 2 2 Sorry, Mr Posnett. not referring related to the Horizon integrity 3 (2.10 pm) 3 meetings; it's about something else? 4 4 (A short break) A. Yes. 5 (2.17 pm) 5 Q. Nonetheless, however, you were proposing to 6 MR BEER: Sir, can you see and hear us? 6 Jarnail Singh that he attended and he said he SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. 7 7 didn't think that most of the content of the 8 MR BEER: We've been told that it's some gardening 8 meeting was relevant? A. Yes. 9 work being carried out on the third floor of the 9 10 London School of Economics, an outdoor garden. 10 Q. Cartwright King was the Post Office's customer, It involves some cutting and trimming, they need 11 we simply had to tell them what the Post Office 11 12 to do it whilst it's still daylight, they're wanted and how it should be delivered? 12 13 going to return and do it in about 15 minutes 13 A. Yes. 14 from now and that will last two or three 14 Q. You challenged that view because it involved 15 minutes. So in about 15 minutes' time it's relationship building with a new service 15 16 going to start up again for two to three 16 provider. 17 minutes. 17 A. Yes. 18 I'd suggest we all just sit tight, see that 18 Q. What was the meeting between Cartwright King and 19 through, and then carry on. 19 the Head of Criminal Law to be about? 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All the years that I've visited 20 It was a meeting between Cartwright King and the 21 London and, in particular, this part of London, 21 Post Office Security/Investigations. They were 22 I had no idea that such a garden existed, 22 brand new service provider and, as I said, it 23 Mr Beer. 23 was literally a meet and greet meeting, 24 24 MR BEER: No. introductions made, presentations given, 25 Can we look, please, at POL00126735. You 25 describe the teams set up, and so on and so 122 1 forth. 1 Mr Pardoe agreed with me that the point of this 2 Mr Singh was invited because he was the Head 2 meeting was to introduce ourselves to a new firm 3 of Criminal Law but I recall that his stance was 3 of solicitors who we were going to work with in 4 "We need to tell them that we want this, that 4 the future. He didn't think the gung ho 5 and the other, we want it quickly because it 5 approach of laying down the law in terms of 6 costs money", et cetera, et cetera. He had 6 costs and speed of work, et cetera, et cetera, 7 a point to some of what he said but my view was 7 was appropriate for that particular meeting. 8 that this wasn't the purpose for this meeting, 8 Q. I see. Can we move on, please, to POL00128293. 9 A. May I just say, I don't think Mr Singh was aware it was a meet and greet meeting. 9 Q. I think you said you transferred your challenge 10 10 of that, that particular behaviour was -- you to a Senior Security Manager and he ensured that 11 had to demonstrate when you challenge. 11 12 the Head of Criminal Law didn't attend the 12 Q. Yes 13 meeting? 13 A. So that was an example of mine where 14 A. That's correct. I spoke to Dave Pardoe, who was 14 I challenged somebody. the strand leader and I think he arranged it 15 Q. So that was like a competence or behaviour 15 16 that Mr Singh wasn't going to attend. 16 related --Q. That was what Mr Singh wanted, he didn't want to 17 Yes. 17 Α. 18 attend? Q. -- metric --18 No, I think Mr Pardoe informed Mr Singh that he 19 A. 19 Α. Yes. 20 wasn't going to attend but I wasn't privy to 20 Q. -- where you had to evidence certain that conversation so I'm not quite sure. 21 behaviours --21 22 Q. What was the difficulty here, then? Mr Singh 22 A. Indeed, yeah. 23 didn't want to attend and Mr Pardoe said, "I'm 23 Q. -- and the behaviour there was challenging? 24 going to ensure that he doesn't". 24 A. I don't think he worded it like that but 25 25 A. Q. This is, I think, your performance review for 123 124

the 2013 to 2014 period. It's dated, somewhere else in the document, 23 May 2014. If we go to page 4, please, about halfway through that box, you say:

"I have also subsequently formed part of the Horizon Integrity Working Group, bringing potential Horizon Issues to weekly ongoing conference calls ..."

9 **A.** Yes.

5

6

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8

- 10 Q. "... and I have demonstrate leadership qualities11 in other areas."
- 12 Yes?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Can you recall who attended the weekly Horizon15 integrity meetings?
- 16 A. There was myself, from Security, I -- again,
- 17 from documents I've seen, I think Rob King from
- 18 Security attended; Andy Haywood, I think, would
- 19 generally attend in my absence. You had people
- 20 from retail network, such as Gayle Peacock or
- 21 Gayle Laverick, Anne Allaker; we had somebody
- from the Network Business Support Centre; Martin
- 23 Smith from Cartwright King; Jarnail Singh as the
- 24 POL lawyer; somebody from Product and Branch
- 25 Accounting, Andy Winn, I believe; I think the
- 1 this there, myself doing this there, Helen Rose
- 2 doing a report there, Rod Ismay doing that
- 3 there. This was a good idea to me because it
- 4 brought everything into one place rather than
- 5 people working in silos.
- 6 Q. So to get away from siloed working, to bring all
- 7 knowledge of Horizon integrity issues together
- 8 in one place --
- 9 A. That was my understanding.
- 10 Q. -- and presumably consider whether any of it
- 11 needed to be disclosed in current criminal
- 12 proceedings?
- 13 A. Yes. But, on that particular point, Cartwright
- 14 King and Jarnail Singh were in attendance and
- 15 I think it was Bond Dickinson Who subsequently
- 16 ran the meeting, so there were legal people
- 17 involved.
- 18 Q. And presumably to consider whether any of it
- 19 needed to be disclosed in relation to past
- 20 criminal proceedings?
- 21 A. Yes
- 22 Q. Can we look at POL00139730. This is a meeting
- on 19 July 2013 and we can see that you're
- 24 present --
- 25 **A.** Yes.

- 1 Press Office were invited, I'm not sure they
- 2 were always in attendance.
- 3 Q. What was the trigger for the setting up of the
- 4 Horizon integrity meetings?
- 5 A. I can't remember but, having seen the documents
- 6 I believe there was an email from Susan
- 7 Crichton, the General Counsel at the time,
- 8 basically informing stakeholders that she wanted
- 9 a weekly conference call related to Horizon to
- 10 capture all issues that are raised or known
- 11 about, so it was in a sort of central place each
- 12 week.
- 13 Q. What was the purpose of the Horizon integrity
- 14 meeting?
- 15 A. I think, (1) to collate all the information in
- 16 one place.
- 17 Q. Information about what?
- 18 A. Horizon, so any issues, glitches, problems or
- 19 anything cited in interviews -- in my view, it
- 20 was anything Horizon related -- so collated into
- one place, and actions, where applicable, to try
- 22 to address those things that were raised. And
- 23 if I could just expand that, my reflections on
- this Inquiry were that I think you had sort of
- 25 Mandy Talbot doing this there, Sue Lowther doing
 - 12
- 1 **Q.** -- alongside some of the people you mentioned?
- A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Yes. If we scroll down, please, Rob King:
- 4 "Outlined the purpose of the meeting; to
- 5 identify any issues around the integrity of
- 6 Horizon from a technical perspective and take
- 7 any necessary action."
- 8 Would that accurately summarise to you the
- 9 purpose of the meeting.
- 10 A. Yeah, I think that repeats what I said a little
- 11 while ago.
- 12 Q. "A process needs to be set up within each
- 13 directorate where each representative
- 14 proactively seeks out any technically with
- 15 Horizon."
- 16 Do you know what that's meant to say?
- 17 A. Technicality?
- 18 Q. Did that happen, that each Directorate set up
- 19 a process in which a representative of that
- 20 Directorate sought out information concerning
- 21 technical problems -- I'll call them -- with
- 22 Horizon?
- 23 A. I can't speak for all the people at that meeting
- but I would imagine so. The only thing I can
- tell you is what I did, which was communicate to

- 1 all Security Investigation Managers, and I can 2 remember on my email saying "Anything relating 3 to Horizon that comes across -- comes to your 4 attention or is referred to in an interview must 5 be flagged up to me to bring to this particular
- 6 meeting each week".
- 7 Q. Just going back up to the cast list, from Security, is it right that only you and Rob King 8
- 9 were represented?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. Was Rob King senior to you? 11
- He was at that stage the Senior Security Manager 12 Α.
- 13 for the team that I was in, yes. So Dave Pardoe
- was and Rob King subsequently became him. 14
- So if we scroll back down, please, it says: 15 Q.
- 16 "No minutes circulated, but we will be 17
- taking notes."
- 18 Were you notetaker?
- 19 A. I was the notetaker --
- 20 Q. Sorry, did you say you were?
- I did take notes. I don't know whether -- is 21
- 22 this the first meeting --
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24 Α. Okay. Well, I can tell you my recollection,
- 25 which doesn't necessarily correspond to
- 1 I think that was the implication.
- 2 I was not comfortable with that and I was 3 not comfortable with not sending out minutes 4 because, if there's no minutes or actions being
- 5 sent out and there were no notes to have, then
- 6 what was the point of the meetings? It would
- 7 just be a chat every week and then we all go our 8 merry way.
- 9 So two concerns. One was shredding and 10 disclosure, et cetera, but the other one was the practicalities of the meeting. 11
- 12 Q. Can we break all of that down, then, that
- 13 document can come down for the moment.
- 14 So you attended the first meeting.
- 15 A. Yes.
- Before the meeting, was there any discussion 16 Q.
- 17 between you and any other person over whether
- a record of the meeting was to be kept? 18
- Not that I can recall. 19
- 20 Q. Did you, in fact, take a handwritten note of the
- meeting? 21
- 22 **A**. Yes.
- 23 In what, an Investigator's notebook or something

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- 24
- 25 No, it was a big yellow A4 pad that I used to Α.

- a document or a blog that I've seen, so I can 1
- 2 only tell you what my recollection was.
- 3 I thought it was the first meeting and I typed
 - up the minutes and actions and sent them out.
- 5 I had my own --
- 6 Q. Sorry, you typed up the minutes and actions?
- 7 Yes, which may be this but I'm not quite so
- 8 sure. But I typed up the minutes and actions,
- 9 sent them out, and then I can remember John
- 10 Scott coming to me and I think he was enquiring
- 11 how it went, which suggested to me that it was
- the first meeting. And, obviously, I'm just 12
- 13 dealing with the minutes and recommendations,
- 14 and I can remember him saying to me "No, we
- 15 don't want any minutes being circulated", and
- 16 I don't know if I'd got my wires crossed but
- 17 I was not to keep my handwritten notes: simple
- 18 as that.
- 19 He went away. I was concerned for two
- 20 reasons and I relayed those reasons to Jarnail
- 21 Singh, the lawyer. I told Jarnail what had
- 22 happened and I said to him "I've got two
- 23 concerns: number 1, I'm very uncomfortable with 24
- being told to not keep notes", and I don't know
- 25 whether the word "shredded" was used, but
 - 130
- 1
- 2 Why did you take the note of the meeting? Q.
- 3 The email from Susan Crichton explained what
- 4 this meeting was going to be, "Could you all
- 5 provide names of attendees to Dave Posnett from
- 6 Security". So, yet again, it was myself.
- 7 I don't know whether I was told or I took it to
- 8 mean that I'm running this meeting, as it were.
- 9 Q. So just going back to the minute that we have got, POL00139730. 10
- 11 Yeah, can I just raise a query?
- 12 Q. Yes
- 13 A. If this is the first meeting, given what I've
- 14 just said to you, I don't understand it's got
- 15 here "No minutes circulated". Well, I'm not
- 16 sure I would have put there's no minutes to be
- 17 circulated and then I'd have sent the --
- Q. That's what I'm going to ask you about? 18
- A. That's why I'm --19
- 20 Q. It says, "We will be taking notes". Do you
- 21 think that's a reference, given that it's
- 22 attributed to Rob King, to the Security
- 23 Department taking notes?
- 24 Yes. But if I prepared these, I wouldn't be --
- I don't think I would have been writing "No 25

- 1 minutes will be circulated, here's the minutes".
- 2 So this is where I'm a bit confused.
- 3 Q. There were only two of you from the Security
- 4 Department?
- 5 A. At that particular meeting, yes.
- 6 Q. Mr King, of the Security Department, is recorded
- 7 as saying, "No minutes will be circulated but we
- 8 will be taking notes"?
- 9 A. That's what he said.
- 10 Q. Does that reflect the fact that you were taking
- 11 notes from the Security Department, hence the
- 12 "we"?
- 13 A. Possibly, but I can't remember.
- 14 Q. So anyway you took a handwritten note?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. You told us that, subsequently, you were in the
- 17 process of writing up a note of the meeting and,
- 18 by that, do you mean typing up?
- 19 A. Yes, I think I'd actually sent the minutes and
- then I was told "Don't send the minutes" and,
- again, I can remember, "God, what have I done?
- 22 I've sent something that I'm now being told
- 23 shouldn't have been sent".
- 24 Q. So John Scott approached you, did he?
- 25 A. Sorry?

- 1 said, it was a case of: if it's written down, it
- 2 didn't happen.
- 3 Q. You said you were uncomfortable with this --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- and you went to see or spoke to Jarnail
- 6 Singh --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- and you told him you were uncomfortable?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Did you tell him that the implication of what
- 11 you had been told by the Head of Security was
- 12 that you should shred or destroy your existing
- 13 handwritten notes?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What did Mr Singh advise you?
- 16 A. He said keep the notes, don't destroy them,
- 17 don't get rid of them, or whatever, which I did.
- 18 Then I think at some stage, within a week or --
- 19 well, within a week, I think, the next thing
- 20 I knew is that I wasn't leading the meeting or
- 21 taking notes, Bond Dickinson were now doing it.
- 22 And I can remember at that time thinking "Well,
- 23 that's fine by me, it's now something that
- 24 I don't need to worry about because somebody
- 25 else is running it".

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- 1 Q. Mr Scott approached you, did he?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You told us that he said two things: one was
- 4 about distribution of minutes, correct?
- 5 A. Yes
- 6 Q. And one was about making or keeping
- 7 a handwritten note?
- 8 A. Yes
- 9 Q. What did he say about making or keeping
- 10 a handwritten not?
- 11 A. Again, I can't remember the exact words because
- 12 it was so long ago. A document I've seen says
- that the word "shredded" was conveyed to me, so
- 14 I may well have conveyed the word "shredded" to
- 15 Mr Singh. It may have been other words but, in
- my head, it was pretty much: if it ain't written
- down it didn't happen. That's the sort of gist
- 18 I was getting.
- 19 Q. So no matter the precise words used, the essence
- 20 of what Mr Scott was saying to you was that
- there shouldn't be a record of the meeting
- 22 retained?
- 23 A. That's what I understood it to be, yes.
- 24 Q. Did he explain why?
- 25 A. I don't recall, other than that I -- as I've

13

- 1 Q. Was it explained why Bond Dickinson were taking
- 2 over the note taking?
- 3 A. It may have been but I can't remember the
- 4 reason. I was just pleased that it wasn't me.
- ${\bf 5} \quad {\bf Q.} \quad {\rm Was \ privilege \ mentioned, \ legal \ professional}$
- 6 privilege?
- 7 A. Not that I recall.
- 8 Q. Do you know what legal professional privilege
- 9 is
- 10 A. Legal -- is it the same as legal privilege, that
- 11 it's confidential between client and --
- 12 Q. Yes.
- 13 A. I know that but I don't recall that being
- 14 mentioned.
- 15 Q. Was that mentioned at all as a reason for them
- 16 taking over the note taking, that it might be
- 17 protected by legal privilege.
- 18 A. I don't recall.
- 19 Q. What did you do with the notes that you had
- 20 made?
- 21 A. I kept them for weeks, months, years. I moved
- 22 into a different role in the Post Office then
- 23 ultimately I left the Post Office. I don't know
- 24 what happened to them, to be honest, but --
- 25 Q. They were likely disposed of at that time?

- 1 A. I remember when I left the Post Office trying to
- 2 find them, even then. But whatever it was on
- 3 the notes, I'd incorporated into the minutes
- 4 that I'd sent. So, again, going back to this
- 5 blog that I remember, I think it was Simon
- 6 Clarke or somebody had said nothing was
- 7 destroyed because it was -- well, nothing was
- 8 destroyed and it was included in the minutes.
- 9 Q. Can we go back to this note, please,
- 10 POL00139730. If we just scroll through the
- 11 document, please, and again, please. Thank you.
- 12 Does that look like the typed note that you
- 13 distributed?
- 14 A. It could be. I --
- 15 Q. Go back to the first page, please.
- 16 A. I think when Bond Dickinson took over, the
- 17 minutes had their logo at the top.
- 18 Q. Yes, in the top right, yeah.
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. So you think this is the typed minute that you
- 21 distributed?
- 22 A. Possibly. I think it was the first meeting but,
- again, in that blog, I think it says three
- 24 meetings in, so I'm not quite sure. But there
- was certainly a meeting where I have sent the
- 1 But now I don't know what a "Focusonline" is.
- 2 Q. So this is recording you saying that if
- 3 subpostmasters want to report an issue, if they
- 4 are a current subpostmaster they should use this
- 5 email address; if they're a former
- 6 subpostmaster, they should use this email
- 7 address. Is that right?
- 8 A. I can't remember. I don't think I would have
- 9 said they should do. I think these were
- 10 channels that were already there, although I may
- 11 be wrong.
- 12 **Q**. If we scroll to Mr Ismay's entry at the foot of
- 13 the page there. He says:
- 14 "Brought this topic to the Operating Board
- 15 regarding consequences and impact on the
- 16 [Financial Services Centre] Security, etc. One
- 17 area of concern was briefing/guidance/training
- 18 on hazardous goods ..."
- 19 The line "Brought this topic to the
- 20 Operating Board", what did you understand the
- 21 Operating Board to be?
- 22 A. I don't remember. I mean, it sounds like
- a senior group of managers type board.
- 24 $\,$ Q. Did you know what link there was between this
- 25 Horizon group meeting and the board or a board

- 1 minutes.
- 2 Q. What was Mr Ismay's role in these meetings?
- 3 A. He was from Product and Branch Accounting.
- 4 I don't recall him being at many of the meetings
- 5 because I think it was mainly Andy Winn from the
- 6 same team but, obviously, Product and Branch
- 7 Accounting, either received information about
- 8 Horizon or were a point of contact to look at
- 9 certain things in relation to Horizon.
- 10 Q. If we can scroll through, please. Next page,
- 11 please. Thank you. Your entry there, or your
- 12 record of you speaking, you're recorded as
- 13 saying:

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- "Reporting of issues by current or former
- 15 subpostmasters would be through publicised
- 16 channels, (Focusonline issue 164 and Intranet
- 17 for current subpostmasters, Branch Support Team,
- 18 [at an email address] for former subpostmasters,
- 19 contract team [at an email address])."
- 20 What's that mean? What's being recorded
- 21 there?
- 22 A. So I think these are the points where
- 23 subpostmasters or ex-subpostmasters or whatever
- 24 would feed in issues and I think they were the
- channels where we would capture the information.
 - 138
- 1 of the Post Office --
- 2 **A.** No
- 3 Q. -- ie whether its work was to be reported back
- 4 to the board and, if so, how?
- 5 A. I don't recall that, no.
- 6 Q. Moving on a paragraph, Mr Ismay is reported to
- 7 have said, "Internet chatrooms -- noted that
- 8 chatrooms and forums have sprung up. Origin of
- 9 one was Yahoo mail. Local groups/others have
- 10 instigated chatrooms re giving advice (perhaps
- in good faith). Question -- what can we do
- 12 about this? Currently no evidence of forums
- being used to give malicious advice to defend
- 14 accusations of impropriety."
- 15 Can you recall what that was about? What
- 16 the concern was?
- 17 A. I don't recall but that would suggest to me
- 18 that -- it's probably not the right word,
- 19 obviously, but I'll use the word "noise" again,
- 20 that perhaps there was more discussions about
- 21 Horizon in these particular chatrooms or forums
- that have sprung up.
- 23 Q. Can we move to page 3, please, and look at your
- 24 entry, which is just at the foot of the page
- that we can see there. Thank you. You're

1 recorded as saying that you:

"Confirmed that security did not have a master list of all of the issues, unclear if anyone can respond to potential query ... appears there is currently no central point of contact for queries."

So this is mid-2013. Was it still the case that there was no central point of contact within Security for Horizon-related questions?

10 A. Again, I don't recall but, judging by that, yes.11 I wouldn't know how that would have been

12 confirmed.

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Q. Was it still the case by mid-2013 that the
Security Department of the Post Office still did
not have a list of all issues concerning
Horizon?

17 A. I don't recall.

18 Q. What about the Horizon integrity group that had
19 been operating in 2009, we saw from that email
20 earlier?

21 A. Yeah.

Q. Had that not been a group that had been set upto deal with the challenges to Horizon?

A. It looks as though it was but whether -- I mean,
 I don't know if it was just a case study or
 141

1 silos's.

Q. She was recommending an anti-silo measure --

3 A. Right.

4 **Q.** -- in 2005 -- we've explored this in the evidence with her already --

6 A. Right.

Q. -- that there be a coordinated approach that
 seeks to draw together all of the challenges
 that there were to Horizon, even in 2005.

10 A. In 2005, I was an Investigation Team Manager,
11 so, in all likelihood, I'm not sure I would have
12 been made aware of that.

Q. What mechanism was put in place for the
 disclosure of information discussed that went to
 Horizon integrity issues at these meetings?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. Was there a mechanism?

18 A. I don't know. If there was, I would imagine it
19 was Cartwright King or Jarnail Singh or Bond
20 Dickinson, which were the three sort of groups
21 of legal people.
22 Q. Was there any discussion at the meetings that

22 **Q.** Was there any discussion at the meetings that you attended of whether these very documents

24 needed to be disclosed on unused material

25 schedules?

1 to -- I don't know whether it was all Horizon

2 issues.

3

4

Q. What about the team that you mentioned as having

been convened or set up in 2009 to deal with

5 Horizon challenges? Do you remember that email

6 from before lunch?

7 A. I remember the email but I don't remember the8 forming of the group or the work that was done.

9 $\,$ Q. Put another way, this wasn't new in 2013, was

10 it?

11 A. No.

12 **Q.** There were a collection of challenges to

13 Horizon?

14 A. Yes, and I think it was 2013 where Cartwright
 15 King were doing their sift of cases, assessing

16 cases.

17 Q. Were you aware of Mandy Talbot, in 2005,18 recommending to a range of senior Post Office

19 figures that a coordinated approach to any

20 Horizon challenges should be maintained, that

21 expert input sought and an independent review be

22 conducted of Horizon?

23 A. I don't recall that. If I wasn't aware of that

24 at the time, then that's another example where

25 I've mentioned that people seem to work in

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1 A. Not that I recall but would imagine, if those

2 discussions were held, they would be on some of

3 the minutes for some of the meetings.

4 Q. Thank you. Can we move on to a different topic,

please. Can we look, please, at POL00118096.

6 Can you see an email at the top of the page from

7 Mr Wise to Mr Stanway and then, if we scroll

8 down, please, to foot of the page, an email from

9 you to lots of people in May 2011.

10 **A.** Yes.

5

11 Q. Just looking generally at that group of people12 as at that date, May 2011, who are those people?

13 A. They are Dave Pardoe, the Head of the --

14 Q. Without going through them individually?

15 A. Sorry, investigation-related people.

16 **Q.** So they're Investigation Managers or managers of

17 Investigators?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** The function that you were performing in May20 2011 was?

21 A. Accredited Financial Investigator.

Q. Why were you sending an email out about caseworkcompliance?

24 A. I think it was because we had a North team and

a South team and the whole of the South team

- left. So we were getting a whole new South team 1
- 2 from outside the business.
- 3 Q. A team of whats, Accredited Financial
- 4 Investigators?
- 5 A. No, Security/Investigation Managers.
- 6 But what had that got to do with you? You were
- 7 an AFI at this time?
- 8 Yeah, it's another example of: can we get
- 9 involved in this? The idea was the new people
- 10 who came in, the compliance would be for them to
- ensure consistency in the work they did. 11
- You write: 12 Q.
- 13 "Most of you are aware that case files 14 submitted for legal advice will become subject 15
 - to compliance checks. This process is due to
- 16 commence in June and is designed to raise
- 17 standards of files submitted (including their 18 contents reports, taped summaries, appendix
- 19 enclosures, recovery stakeholders, etc) and
- 20 ensure there is a consistent approach across the
- 21 team. It is probably an opportune time, given
- 22 we have recently recruited new people to the
- 23 team.
- 24 "I've associated relevant documents that 25 feed into compliance. Please familiarise
 - 145
- 1 Do you recognise this document?
- 2 A. I don't recognise the document.
- 3 Q. You sent an instruction out to a large number of
- 4 members of the Security Team telling them to
- 5 familiarise themselves with, amongst other
- 6 things, this document?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Presumably, at the time, in 2013, you were
- 9 familiar with this document. You wouldn't be
- 10 asking 20-odd members of the Security Department
- to familiarise themselves with it if you 11
- yourself weren't familiar with it? 12
- 13 Α. Well, I don't remember this document. I don't
- 14 remember sending it out and I don't remember any
- 15
- Q. I've asked a slightly different question, which 16
- 17 is: given that you did send it out and given
- 18 that you did instruct people to familiarise
- 19 themselves with it, presumably you would have
- 20 been familiar with it?
- 21 A. I would -- when I was an Investigator, which
- 22 goes back to 2000/2004, I would have been
- 23 familiar with the identification codes. If
- 24 I was attaching a document to send to them,
- 25 I wouldn't necessarily have opened it up because

- 1 yourself with these documents.
 - "Myself and Paul will be attending each ..."
- 3 "Security Operations Team", is that?
- 4 A. Yes.

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- Q. "... meeting [North, Central and South, and the 5
- 6 dates are given].
 - "Happy to discuss ..."
- 8 We can see from the top of the page, if we
- 9 scroll up, that that included a zip file, your
- 10 email --
- Yes. 11 Α.
- Q. -- as an attachment, the zip. 12
- 13 Yes.
- We know what's in the zip file. Can you start 14
- by telling us what the purpose of you sending 15
- 16 out this suite of case compliance documents was?
- 17 Yes, so if we were reintroducing compliance,
- 18 I was sending out the compliance documents that
- 19 were in force some years previously, so that all
- 20 the Investigation Managers knew what was going
- 21 to be assessed in terms of the compliance.
- 22 Can we look at POL00118104, please. One of the
- 23 attachments to the email within the zip file was
- 24 this document.
- 25 A. Yes

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- 1 the identification codes are the identification
- 2 codes.

8

- 3 Q. Why? You said in your email that you'd be happy
- 4 to discuss the contents with them?
- 5 A. And if they want to discuss the contents,
- 6 I would have discussed them.
- 7 Q. So, what, you would have sent blind some
 - attachments to an email saying "Familiarise
- yourselves with these, your compliance with them 9
- 10 is going to be checked. I'm happy to discuss
- the contents with you", without looking what was 11
- 12 in the contents?
- 13 I mean, just ignoring the content for the
- 14 moment, and don't let that colour your answers,
- 15 do you really think that's so?
- A. I've wracked my brains over this document. 16
- 17 I think I either didn't read it or I skim read
- 18 it and didn't take on board what was in it or
- 19 I thought this was the up-to-date version of
- 20 that form but, on reflection, it's not
- 21 an official form. So that would be why there
- wasn't a more up-to-date version of it. I hope 22
- 23 it's not the third of that scenario.
- 24 Q. Sorry, I missed the second of those
- 25 possibilities.

- 1 A. Either didn't read it, or I read it quickly just
- 2 to make sure it was codes, or I thought this was
- 3 the latest version. But it's not an official
- 4 Post Office form because it hasn't got number at
- 5 the bottom. So, I mean, at the end of the day,
- 6 I can't remember the form. I may have used this
- 7 form but it was so long ago.
- 8 Q. Looking at it now, what do you think the purpose
- 9 of the form was?
- 10 A. I think I put in my statement that it was used
- 11 to complete an NPA1 form.
- 12 Q. Cutting through it, what do you think the NPA1
- 13 form was for?
- 14 A. I think that was to notify the police in the
- 15 event that somebody pleaded guilty or was
- 16 convicted, to update their records.
- 17 MR BEER: Sir. Apologies, if we just pause there,
- 18 I think the two to three minutes of noise has
- 19 just started.
- 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Well, I'll remain in
- 21 my chair but I'll take myself off screen.
- 22 **MS SCOTT:** In fact, sir, what we could probably do
- is, if we broke until 3.10, we could probably
- 24 take are afternoon break early.
- 25 **SIR WYN WILLIAMS:** All right that's fine. 3.10. 149
- 1 I also don't remember any of the other forms,
- 2 other than the score sheet one that I've seen.
- 3 Q. The Excel spreadsheet --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- which contains a score out of 100 --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- with a series of columns and rows --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- marking you on things, ranging from the font
- 10 that you use, to an adequate summary of the
- 11 interview that you conducted?
- 12 A. That's correct, and I think that was an old
- 13 compliance set of documents, I think I've
- 14 just -- I don't know whether someone has emailed
- to me or they've been on an old team drive or
- SharePoint site, or they were on my computer.
- 17 But I think I've lifted them from wherever and
- sent them out to the people on the email.
- 19 Q. So would you just put this down to being sort of
- 20 a single email that you distributed that you
- 21 sent out, containing a document that you didn't
- 22 pay much attention to, and that's why you didn't
- 23 pick up what might be described as grossly
- 24 offensive racial profiling within it?
- 25 A. That's one possibility.

- 1 MR BEER: Thank you, sir.
- 2 (2.55 pm)
- 3 (A short break)
- 4 (3.10 pm)
- 5 MR BEER: Sir, good afternoon, can you see and hear
- 6 us

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- 7 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
- 8 MR BEER: Thank you.
 - Mr Posnett, I'd shown you an email of May
 - 2011, with you distributing to a wide range of
- 11 people within the Security Department the
- 12 Identity Codes document, amongst others, yes?
- 13 You said that you don't remember sending the
- 14 email and you don't remember looking at the
- 15 contents of the document --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- but that you think that you were either
- 18 distributing the contents without looking at any
- 19 of them or, insofar as you looked at them, you
- 20 assumed that this ID codes document was
- 21 an updated version of something that went
- 22 previously; have I got that right?
- 23 A. One of the possibilities I thought was it's the
- 24 most up-to-date version or that there hasn't
- 25 been another one, so that's what it is. But
 - 150
 - Q. We're in possession of a -- I'm not going to
- 2 take you to them in the interests of time, I'll
- 3 list them for the transcript -- but we're in
- 4 possession of a series of emails of you
- 5 redistributing that document --
- 6 A. Yes.

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- 7 Q. -- time and again?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 **Q.** On 29 March 2012, POL00115665; on 27 April 2012,
- 10 POL00121810; on 1 May 2012, POL00121816; on
- 11 31 May 2012, POL00121843; on 16 June 2012,
- 12 POL00120956; and on 21 September 2012,
- 13 POL00121913.
- So, by my count, you distributed it seven
- 15 times in 2011 and 2012.
- 16 A. I thought I'd sent it three times, but ...
- 17 Q. Okay, well, let's not go into that for the
- 18 moment. No doubt, if any of my references or
- dates are wrong, that can be picked up in due
- 20 course. Is it really the case that, on every
- 21 occasion you were sending out to different
- 22 members of the Security Team a document telling
- them that they needed to comply with its
- 24 contents, that you didn't know what you were
- 25 sending out because you didn't look at it?

- 1 A. Yes, because -- well, if the first time I sent
- 2 the email I didn't look at it, I would have
- 3 thought the second and third time -- if it is
- 4 three -- I wouldn't have looked at it because
- 5 I'd have thought "Well, I'm just sending out the
- 6 same email that I sent before".
- 7 Q. Wouldn't you have wanted to check what you were
- 8 sending out was appropriate for all of these
- 9 people to have to comply with its terms?
- 10 A. I would say yes but, again, this -- my day job
- 11 was Accredited Financial Investigator. I don't
- 12 know the details but I would imagine myself and
- 13 Paul were asked to reintroduce compliance
- 14 checks. So, again, it wasn't my day job.
- 15 I think I would have just picked up the
- 16 documents and sent them out.
- 17 Q. Looking at the document now, what do you
- 18 understand its purpose to be?
- 19 A. For use when completing the NPA1. That's the
- 20 only reason I can think as to why we had
- 21 identification codes and I think identification
- 22 codes existed on the offender report templates
- 23 from when I first started investigations.
- 24 Q. So the NPA1 -- we can go through a lot of
- documents to work out that, in fact, I think it
 - 153
- 1 A. I believe so, and if it wasn't that NPA form
- 2 then I don't know why we --
- 3 Q. We'll go through those forms in a moment. Does
- 4 it follow that the codes that needed to be used,
- 5 if they were to be notified to the police
- 6 service, needed to be the police service's
- 7 codes.
- 8 A. That would make sense, but ...
- 9 Q. Do you believe, then, that these were the police
- 10 service's codes in 2011 and 2012?
- 11 A. I don't know.
- 12 Q. Before we look at that series of NPA forms, can
- we look at POL00126594. There's a no on that.
- 14 I'll try an alternative reference, if you
- just give me a moment. POL00126735. If we go
- 16 to page 3, please, at the top, do you remember
- 17 we looked at this earlier, it's your appraisal
- 18 document, I think, for 2012. You say in box 13
- 19 at the top:
- 20 "Due to the agreement that a colleague would
- conduct all compliance checks on case file
 submissions. I met with him and handed ov
- submissions, I met with him and handed over alloperate documentation and explained the process
- 24 and recording/monitoring mechanisms associated
- 25 with the compliance process. I also checked the
 - 155

- 1 was the NPA3 that was the report but it doesn't
- 2 matter -- a form that was used to report matters
- 3 to the police service; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. It's essentially what you're --
- 6 A. I think so, yes.
- 7 Q. -- referring to. What was the purpose of
- 8 reporting some information to the police?
- 9 A. Well, the Post Office conducted, in effect,
- 10 private prosecutions. So we had to notify the
- 11 police, so that they could put it on their
- 12 national system, any convictions.
- 13 Q. Was it at the point of conviction you understood
- 14 that the notification was to occur?
- 15 A. I believe so, yes.
- 16 Q. When you say on their national system, do you
- 17 mean the Police National Computer?
- 18 A. I think so, yes.
- 19 Q. So to summarise what your belief was, it was
- 20 necessary to set out on a form that was sent to
- 21 the police, at the point of conviction; is that
- 22 right?
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- 24 Q. The identity code of a convicted person to
- 25 include on the Police National Computer?
 - 154
- 1 first few compliances undertaken, to ensure
- 2 consistency and understanding and thus enable
- 3 a smooth transition of the process to this
- 4 colleague."
 - Is the colleague there Andrew Wise?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. We see in other emails that your case compliance
 - check email, including the ID codes document, is
- 9 subsequently, after the end of September 2012,
- 10 distributed by Andrew Wise and not by you.
- 11 **A.** Yes.

8

16

- 12 Q. Do you think this handover you were talking to
- 13 here was with him?
- 14 A. I don't know but it could be because I think
- 15 Andrew was a temporary team leader, which would
 - make sense, because he would do the compliance
- 17 checks on the Investigators.
- 18 Q. But here you're talking about a meeting with
- that person, handing over all appropriate
- documentation to them and explaining the
 process. Presumably you looked at the suite of
- documents, I think there are only eight of them,
- in the case compliance material --
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. -- on this occasion?

- A. Again, I don't remember it, but if I'd have 1 2 emailed it to him, as we've seen, I don't see
- 3 why I would have had a meeting with him and
- 4 handed over all the documentation.
- 5 You're claiming as part of your appraisal that Q.
- 6 you did?
- 7 A. Yes, if he's the colleague.
- 8 Q. Sorry?
- 9 A. If he's the colleague.
- 10 Q. Yes. Well, whoever the colleague is -- we'll
- call him Mr X -- you met with Mr X and handed 11
- over all the documentation for case compliance, 12
- 13 explained the process to them, explained the
- 14 recording and monitoring mechanisms associated
- 15 with them and then checked the first few
- 16 compliances undertaken. You must have looked at
- 17 the ID codes document then?
- 18 Well, all I can say is that I don't remember.
- 19 But looking at these words that you were
- 20 claiming credit for in your personal appraisal,
- 21 you agree that you must have done?
- 22 Α. Well, it says I've handed over appropriate
- 23 documents. I can't say what --
- 24 Well, not just that you've handed over the Q.
- 25 document. You've explained the process to him,
- 1 We didn't have Teams meetings then.
- 2 Q. Okay, so when it says, "I met with him", does
- 3 that mean "I didn't meet with him; I spoke with
- 4 him on the phone"?
- 5 A. I don't know what it means; it's 10 years ago.
- 6 Q. Put aside the content, Mr Posnett -- I realise
- 7 why you might find the content of the ID codes
- 8 difficult -- and just focus on what you said in
- 9 your personal appraisal here.
- 10 A. Yeah, I genuinely cannot remember it. I don't
- 11 remember who the colleague was, how the meeting
- 12 went. If I do, I would say so.
- 13 Q. Looking at these words, do you think it's likely
- 14 that you went through the documentation with
- 15 him, Mr X? Put aside whether it was Andrew Wise
- 16 or not.
- 17 A. I don't know.
- Q. And you think you might have sent it out seven 18
- times, the ID codes document, if my calculations 19
- 20 are correct, without looking at the contents?
- A. It's possible but I don't know. 21
- 22 Q. Can we look, please, at POL00038495. If we just
- 23 look at the foot of the page, the policy title
- 24 is "Reporting of Criminal Offences to Police"
- 25 and, if we go to the top, please, it's part of 159

- 1 Mr X, you've explained the recording and
- 2 monitoring mechanisms associated with
- 3 compliance --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- and you checked the first few compliances
- 6 undertaken?
- 7 Α. Yeah
- Q. You must have looked at the ID codes document 8
- 9 then, mustn't you?
- 10 Not necessarily. I've handed over the Α.
- 11 documentation, explained the process and
- recorded monitoring mechanisms, and also checked 12
- 13 the first few compliances undertaken, so it
- 14 doesn't necessarily mean I've rechecked that
- 15 form. I may have done but I can't remember.
- 16 Q. You've got eight documents in front of you.
- 17 You're sitting with a colleague who is going to
- 18 take over this job from you?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. You're handing over the documentation to them.
- 21 You're explaining the process to them.
- 22 I don't know if I am sat with them, it might
- 23 have been online or on the telephone, I don't
- 24 know
- 25 Q. Or it might have been a Teams meeting?

- 1 an investigation policy and it seems that it's
- 2 appendix 15 to it.
- 3 If we look at paragraph 3.1, the policy on
- 4 reporting of criminal offences to the police
- 5 says:

- 6 "The development of the Phoenix National
- 7 Criminal Justice Record Service has enabled the
 - Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
- Disclosure Group to design national standardised 9
- 10 forms for the reporting of offences and the
- 11 results of prosecutions/cautions to Police
- 12 Authorities
- 13 "These standard forms, which are designed
- 14 for use by all Non-Police Prosecuting Agencies
- 15 (NPAs) have been provided to all Security
- 16 Managers.
- 17 "Form NPA1 -- source Input Document for
- 18
- "NPA2 -- continuation Sheet for additional 19
- 20 offences.
- 21 "NPA3 -- Notification of result of case (PSO
- 22 use only)."
- 23 Do you know what PSO was?
- 24 Prosecution Support Office, maybe?
- 25 So the NPA1 form is the Source Input Document

1		for Phoenix. Do you remember what Phoenix was?	1		interview?
2	A.	No.	2	A.	Agreed, yeah.
3	Q.	Do you remember an intelligence system that was	3	Q.	Can we look, please, at POL00121116. Do you
4		different from the Police National Computer?	4		remember this, a case progression map?
5	A.	No.	5	A.	I don't recall that, no.
6	Q.	But NPA3 is the notification of the result form,	6	Q.	Can we go to the last page of the document and,
7		yes?	7		under "Acquiring AS Number" do you remember
8	A.	Yes.	8		what an AS number was?
9	Q.	If we go down to 3.2.	9	A.	Was that something to do with the summons?
10		"During the course of a suspect interview,	10	Q.	It may be, an arrest summons or a summons for
11		investigators should complete the offender	11		arrest?
12		details on side 1 of form NPA1"	12	A.	Right.
13		Can you see that?	13	Q.	Anyway, "Acquiring the AS number", the
14	A.	Yes.	14		instruction is to:
15	Q.	" and all of side 2, which deals with the	15		"Update the front of the NPA1 form with the
16		identification details of the [case]."	16		date of the court hearing and details of the
17		So the Investigator was required to fill out	17		court.
18		the NPA1 form at the point of interview; is that	18		"Complete the offence and the method used in
19		right?	19		the offence section
20	A.	That's what it says, yes.	20		"Email the updated NPA1 to the Casework
21	Q.	So, although you recalled that the form to which	21		Team."
22		the ID code is document related was about	22		Do you agree that it seems that an NPA1 form
23		reporting convictions, that doesn't seem right,	23		was required for a Magistrates Court to issue
24		according to this, does it? Convictions is the	24		a summons?
25		NPA3 form; NPA1 form is at the point of	25	A.	It looks that way, yes.
		161			162
1	Q.	Who would be responsible for generating these	1		the ethnic appearance part of this form by
2	Q.	NPA1 forms, the Criminal Law Team or the	2		reference to the ID codes document that we
3		Investigator?	3		looked at?
4	Α.	I thought it was the Investigator.	4	٨	I thought that's what would be used to complete
5	Q.	Can we look, please, at POL00062566. Can we see	5	Λ.	this form. However, if you scroll to the top of
6	Œ.	that this is an NPA1 form, if we just scroll up	6		this NPA1, it's got there "Form NPA1, 1/97", so
7		a little bit, in the top right-hand side, top	7		if this form goes back to 1997, even then what
8		right-hand corner. Thank you. Yes?	8		you've read out doesn't correlate to the form
9		This is an example of an NPA1 form, yes?	9		that I sent out.
10	A.	Yes.	10	Q.	Do you know why that is?
11	Q.	Does this ring any bells?	11	Α.	Why?
12	Α.	It rings a bell.	12		Why the Post Office was circulating why you
13	Q.	Can we look at page 2, please. Can you see that	13	α.	were circulating a form that didn't correlate to
14	Q.	at the top of the page no, they've been	14		at least the 1997 edition of the NPA1 form?
15		redacted. At the top of the page there's a box	15	A.	I don't know.
16		entitled "Ethnic Appearance"?	16		Would Investigators have to refer back to the ID
17	A.	Yes.	17	Ψ.	codes document in order to complete this
18	Q.	There were, I can tell you, underneath that box,	18		document or the bit of it that concerns ethnic
19	٠.	seven boxes, one which said, "White European";	19		appearance?
20		the second, which said, "Dark European"; the	20	A.	Not necessarily.
21		third is "Afro-Caribbean"; the fourth is	21	Q.	Why so?
22		"Asian"; the fifth is "Oriental"; the sixth is	22	Α.	Well, I think when I became an Investigator,
23		"Arab"; and the seventh is "Unknown", yes?	23		I had to go as a second officer on jobs with
-		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			, ,

25

A. Okay.

25 Q. Was the intention that an Investigator completed

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experienced people and they'd send me their

reports so you'd see the codes on the reports,

1 online? and I think, over time, you get used to the 1 2 codes and know what they were without having to 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. refer to a form. 3 4 Q. So what was the purpose of the circulation of 4 5 the ID codes document, then? 5 6 Α. Because, on the compliance, when you did 6 7 a suspect offender report, one of the sections 7 8 on the template was the identification code so 8 9 that was a point of reference if they needed to 9 10 find out the code or they could ask someone, or 10 11 Google it or whatever. 11 When you say "or Google it", what would they 12 Q. 12 Q. 13 13 Google? A. Identification code. 14 14 What would they find if they Googled 15 Q. 15 16 identification code? 16 17 A. I don't know because I haven't Googled it. 17 Would they find the Post Office Identity Codes 18 18 19 document? 19 20 A. I doubt it very much. 20 21 21 They would find some other organisation's 22 identity codes, Police Scotland or --22 23 A. Possibly, yes. 23 -- the ACPO Identity Codes document, or the 24 24 Q. 25 National Crime Agency, if they even put those 25 1 linked. It goes to the police. 1 2 Q. That can come down thank you. 2 3 Were statistics kept on the identities of 3 4 the racial and ethnic identities of people 4 5 investigated by the Post Office? 5 6 A. Not that I recall. 6 7 Was there any central repository where any 7 8 information was stored and any analysis 8 9 undertaken of it? 9 10 A. Not that I recall. 10 Q. So why was the Post Office maintaining its own 11 11 list of ID codes, which didn't match that of the 12 12 13 police? 13 14 A. I don't know. 14 Q. You were distributing it and telling people that 15 15 16 their compliance with it would be marked. Why 16 17 17 were you doing that? Because that was part of the compliance forms 18 Α. 18 that I would have picked up from whatever year 19 19 20 it was. 20 MR BEER: Sir, those are the only questions that 21 21 22 I ask Mr Posnett. I think there are some 22 23 questions from the Howe+Co team.

That wouldn't be very helpful, would it, if they were willing out a Post Office form -- ie, the jacket to the -- or the front page, the frontispiece of the offender report, looking up somebody else's ID codes to fill it in wouldn't be that helpful, would it? A. No, but I'm not aware as to all those different companies you've mentioned have different codings. I don't know. Do you think they were the same as the ID codes document we've looked at? A. I don't know. Q. Are you suggesting that we can really put this ID codes document to one side because Investigators would just go online and Google "ID codes" in filling out forms? A. If they Googled it, I imagine it would be police Q. Yes, and why would they want to use police ID codes in filling in the part of the offender report that asks them to identify somebody's ethnic appearance? Because I think, as I said, this form is police THE WITNESS: That form is the form that's given me most grief in relation to this Inquiry and it's not even Horizon related. I don't remember the form. I think it's a very old form but, clearly, I've sent it out and, on reflection, I shouldn't have. And I can only apologise. I certainly didn't mean to cause any offence. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, there were some questions from Howe+Co. Questioned by MR STEIN MR STEIN: Mr Posnett, my name is Sam Stein. I'm just going to ask you a few questions on behalf of the Howe+Co clients. Howe+Co represent a very large number of subpostmasters and I'm going to take you directly, please, to a document that we've asked the Inquiry to put up on the screen and be available and it is POL00098520. If we can go to the second-to-last page, please, of that document -- yes, we have it -and scroll down a little bit underneath the "We 23 now have a Spot Review -- SR022". 24 Mr Posnett, let's orientate ourselves around

this document, just to familiarise yourself with

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THE WITNESS: Can I just say one thing on that?

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MR BEER: Yes.

1		it, because no doubt it's been a little bit of	1		stage. When it says, "We now have a Spot
2		time since you've seen this: 9 June 2013. Okay?	2		Review", then a number is given, the number
3	Α.	Yeah.	3		appears to relate to a document we'll see in
4		So this is in the same period of time where	4		a minute, but then it goes on to say:
5	٠.	you've been asked questions by Mr Beer, who has	5		"Please can you come to the dial-in on
6		asked you questions today so far, and you are	6		Wednesday having reviewed and your comments on
7		dealing with the Integrity Group at that stage;	7		how to approach this one."
8		okay?	8		What was that about? What was this Spot
9	Α.	Yes.	9		Review about?
10	Q.	This from Simon Baker, dated 9 June to Andrew	10	۸	Okay, I was asked on the Royal Mail questions
11	ų.	Parsons, Andrew Winn, Craig Tuthill, and then	11	Λ.	whether I had any involvement with Second Sight,
12		yourself and, after that, Gareth Jenkins and	12		and I think my response was I don't recall being
			13		
13		others. You'll see there it says:			involved with Second Sight, and then I received
14		"We now have a Spot Review SR022."	14		further documentation that's spoke about these
15		Going on to say:	15		Spot Reviews, which were in relation to Second
16		"Please can you come to the dial-in on	16		Sight. So I completely forgot about those and
17		Wednesday having reviewed and your comments on	17		I don't remember.
18		how to approach this one."	18		I think my recollection now of the Spot
19		Going to on to say:	19		Reviews were there were a selected number of
20		"Pete, it would be good if you could join us	20		post offices that this group of people were
21		so we can get the request in to Fujitsu for the	21		going to review and I think what I did in
22		XML data, so it is ready for when Gareth when he	22		relation to the cases was obtain the suspect
23		gets back."	23		offender report and perhaps the interview
24		All right? Can you just try and help us	24		summary, so I could speak from a Security
25		a little bit with what was going on at this 169	25		perspective at these meetings. I may have 170
		130			,,,
1		cascaded those documents to the people on the	1	Q.	From your perspective, your most senior boss?
2		call but I can't remember.	2	A.	Yes.
3	Q.	Okay. If we scroll up, please, to the top of	3	Q.	Right. Just staying for a moment with this, if
4		this document, we'll see then the way that this	4		we go down a little bit further, we'll see that
5		was dealt with, and you'll see, Mr Posnett, that	5		the reference is, further down that page, from
6		you're at the top.	6		Dave Posnett, sent 10 June to Simon Baker,
7	A.	Yes.	7		you're then referring to, it seems, the
8	Q.	So this is 12 June 2013 and you'll see then the	8		documents, and this is these were issues with
9		reference under "Subject" to the documents SR021	9		scratchcards and problems that related to the
10		and 022, and they're referred to as attachments.	10		use of scratchcards within particular branches.
11		Helping us a little bit in relation to this,	11		That seems to be what the documents were about?
12		from your perspective, who was Simon Baker,	12	A.	Yes.
13		Andrew Winn who was Simon Baker?	13	Q.	Okay. If you go to the second well, yes, the
14	Α.	Simon Baker, I can't remember, other than he was	14	-	second main paragraph that starts "I ran
15		a senior manager. Andy Winn worked, I believe,	15		a number of intervention/education initiatives",
16		in Product and Branch Accounting and I think his	16		and then go to the end of that paragraph, which
17		boss was Rod Ismay.	17		finishes with "There were many out shortages and
18	Q.	Then going down we see your title, Accredited	18		scratchcard holding concerns that seemed to
19	٠	Financial Investigator, at the Security Team?	19		highlight other problems at branches."
20	Α.	Yes.	20		Do you see that?
21	Q.	Your boss being Mr Scott; is that right?	21	A.	Sorry, which paragraph?
22	Q. A.	Not my direct boss but he was the Head of	22	Q.	Certainly. So the second page, please, of the
23	α.	Security, yes.	23	٠.	document. Go a bit further down, go back up.
24	Q.	Head of?	24		Right, thank you. If you read down from what
25	Q. A.	Yes.	25		you have in front of you, you have three
20	Д.	171	23		172

paragraphs there and you'll see the third 1 2 paragraph:

> "Also in the file is my (then) monthly holdings overview spreadsheet."

5 Yes?

6 A. Yes.

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Q. At the end of that paragraph, it says:

"There were many audit shortages and scratchcard holding concerns seemed to relied other problems at branches."

Yes. 11 Α.

12 Now, this, therefore, goes back, it seems, to Q. 13 around 2010 period of time, so that's when 14 you'll see that this document and your 15 investigation into this area, the problems with 16 scratchcards, seemed to take place. Starting 17 first of all in 2010, when you came across 18 issues such as this, people having problems with 19 the use of scratchcards, that causing -- it 20 seems to highlight other problems at branches, 21 what was the system at that stage, 2010? Was 22 there a central place to go and look to see 23 whether other people were having these sorts of 24 problems, was there a central place to report

1 activate the lot, so it's all of a sudden 2 £10,000 worth of value scratchcards and, if they 3 got stolen, they're worth a lot of money, 4 whereas, if they weren't activated, they're 5 worthless.

this into so you could see the volume of

6 Q. The question I'm asking you -- I understand, we 7 can see, in fact, from this document why it is 8 there's an issue in relation to scratchcards. 9 But when you're finding problems in the course 10 of your work, my question is: was there a way of 11 establishing a bank of these issues? There must 12 have been some system, is what we're trying to 13 find out, Mr Posnett.

14 A. I don't know, but the sentence there said "There 15 were many audit shortages and scratchcard 16 holding concerns seemed to highlight other 17 problems at branches". If there was such 18 a database, it sounds to me like it would be the 19 Audit Team who may have it. But I don't know, is my answer.

20 21 Q. In relation to such issues as this, when you're 22 doing the investigation, did you routinely 23 contact the different Area Branch Managers and 24 similar and say "Well, actually this something 25 we've encountered"? Was there a way of 175

1 problems across the system? So 2010, to start 2 off with.

3 A. I don't recall there was a central place to 4 record those sort of problems.

5 Q. From your perspective, at this particular time 6 in 2010, can you help us understand why there 7 wasn't something? Why there wasn't a library or 8 some way you could establish what was going 9 across the system?

10 A. Right.

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11 Q. Did that not exist?

A. I don't believe so. In relation to scratchcards 12 13 they were an anomaly because I think they were 14 the only stock item that had to be activated on 15 a Lottery terminal before they became value 16 stock and they had to be remmed in. Every other 17 item of stock, from recollection, was just 18 remmed in and it was already there as value 19 stock.

> So it was different and I think some subpostmasters struggled to understand that. So, for example, if a branch received £10,000 worth of scratchcards, the idea would be that you activate one pack, £200, to sell, or two packs, £400 to sell. But a subpostmaster might 174

1 spreading information amongst the branches, in 2 that sense, within the management of the 3 branches?

4 A. Not from my perspective because the Fraud Risk 5 programme that I was running in this case 6 related to scratchcards. The other problems 7 noted came out of audits. So the Audit Team 8 would be aware of these other issues.

9 Q. Right. So to the extent that you're able to help us with that at the moment there's an issue 10 11 here of being siloed into different parts of the 12 system?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Then in 2013, when this is being looked 15 at, you think as part of Second Sight and their 16 investigations --

17 A. The Spot Reviews?

Q. Yeah, the Spot Reviews. 18

A. From what I've seen and read, yes. 19

20 Q. Had things changed by that point? Had there 21 been a system then established to establish 22 a bank of problems/issues that were uncovered?

23 A. I don't know but, obviously, we've seen there

24 was this Horizon Integrity Group here and that

25 one there and that one there. So I don't know.

Q. Lastly, as regards Mr Scott, you referred to him

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I could never prove it, and I think I was --

2		earlier in your evidence as being the individual	2	a number of people over the years who left
3		who suggested that notes shouldn't be kept.	3	Security, or who were, in effect, forced to
4		You, in fact, discussed this with Mr Singh,	4	leave Security.
5		saying that using the word "shred" in	5	Q. Not exactly a way to manage security concerns so
6		relation to getting rid of documentation. Did	6	that people feel that they can raise concerns or
7		you take this up with Mr Scott? Did you say,	7	difficulties, or challenge authority or, indeed,
8		"Mr Scott, sorry, but I think this is not really	8	ensure that there's an honest and competent
9		something that I can possibly do"? Did you	9	response by the Post Office, agreed?
10		challenge him on this?	10	A. I agree but that is my take on it.
11	A.	I didn't. Number 1, I didn't find him very	11	MR STEIN: One moment, please.
12		engaging; number 2 he didn't like to be	12	Thank you, Mr Posnett.
13		challenged; and number 3 I think there was	13	A. Thank you.
14		a sort of culture of fear, hence I opted to tell	14	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Anyone else?
15		Mr Singh.	15	MR BEER: No, sir.
16	Q.	When you say "a culture of fear", are you	16	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, thank you, Mr Posnett, for
17	Ψ.	talking about, on the one hand, being directly	17	giving evidence to me over two days.
18		threatened, or are you talking about another	18	Admittedly, yesterday was a bit shorter but it
19		type of fear?	19	was still a fairly hefty session. So thank you
20	A.	Not directly threatened, but you didn't want to	20	very much for answering so many questions and
21	Λ.	get on the wrong side of him.	21	thank you also for your detailed witness
22	Q.	What would he do to you?	22	statement, which provoked so many questions.
23	A.	Well, my last year in Security was a nightmare.	23	THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
24	Λ.	I thought I was being bullied and harassed.	24	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: We will adjourn now and start
25		I think I know where that was coming from but	25	again at 10.00, yes?
		177	20	178
1		BEER: Yes, that's right, sir.		INDEX
2		WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you.		DAVID DOOUGTT (
3		BEER: Thank you very much, sir.		DAVID POSNETT (continued) 1
4	(3.5	60 pm)		
5		(The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am		Questioned by MR BEER (continued) 1
6		the following day)		
7				Questioned by MR STEIN
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