1			Thursday, 7 December, 2023	1		to your statement?
2	(10.	.00 am)		2	A.	Yes, there are.
3	MS	PRICE:	Good morning, sir, can you see and hear	3	Q.	Would you like to tell us what those are?
4		us.		4	A.	Certainly.
5	SIR	WYN W	ILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.	5		Paragraph 3, regarding my background. My
6	MS	PRICE:	Please may we call Mr Wilcox.	6		last day of service was actually 4 March 2011.
7			MICHAEL JOHN WILCOX (sworn)	7		Paragraph 78, regarding training
8			Questioned by MS PRICE	8		instruction, I have recollection of the IC codes
9	MS	PRICE:	Good morning, Mr Wilcox. My name is Emma	9		question.
10			nd I will be asking questions on behalf	10		Paragraph 81 and 151, due to late receipt of
11		of the li	- 1	11		documentation, it's to do with Barkham Post
12			uld you confirm your full name, please.	12		Office, which I initially said was not my case
13	A.		I John Wilcox.	13		but this is now given me another thought on
14	Q.		you for coming to the Inquiry to assist it	14		that.
15			ork and for providing the witness	15		And paragraph 84, question regarding
16			ent you have in advance of today. You	16		duplicated transactions.
17			have a copy of that statement in front of	17	Q.	
18			s dated 26 October 2023.	18		paragraph 84?
19		•	ou could turn to page 43 of that,	19	Δ	I don't know whether it's something that's been
20			Do you have a copy with a visible	20		produced to me or something that I've happened
21		signatu		21		to pick up while watching the Inquiry. But
22	Α.	Yes, I c		22		there is evidence that I did have some knowledge
23	Q.	•	your signature?	23		of duplicated transactions in an ARQ.
24	Α.	Yes, it i	·	24	Q.	
25		,	re any corrections which you wish to make	25	Œ.	your statement true to the best of your
	Ψ.	7 4 0 4 10	1	20		2
1		knowle	dge and belief?	1		McColl's as a relief postmaster.
2	Α.	Yes, the		2	Q.	
3	Q.		purposes of the transcript, the	3		including being a counter clerk in a Crown
4			ce for the statement is WITN05060100.	4		Office branch, an Auditor and an Audit Manager
5			arting, please, with an overview of your	5		and, of most relevance to your evidence today,
6			with the Post Office, you have said in	6		an Investigation Manager between September 1997
7			atement that you worked for the Post	7		and January 2011 sorry, March 2011; is that
8		•	or a total of 47 and a half years.	8		right?
9	A.	That's		9	A.	That is correct.
10	Q.		igure slightly lower, given your	10		You say in your statement at paragraph 5 that
11	α.		on saying that your last day of service	11	α.	you were approached and asked to apply for the
12			oner in time?	12		role of Investigation Manager. This was
	A.		cause I think in my original statement	13		precipitated, you say, by a business review and
14	Λ.		was January, so we're talking about two	14		reorganisation. Can you explain, please, the
15		•	, but it was the time that I got made	15		changes to the business which led to you being
			ant from the Post Office and I started	16		, ,
16 17			r job in a Post Office, but it's how long	17	۸	approached?
			•		Α.	Yes. I believe it was to do with Royal Mail and
18	^		ctually in between the two dates.	18		the Post Office on one of their first
19	Q.		was the last date before redundancy?	19		separations that they had. And, before that,
20	Α.		nade redundant on 4 March, yes.	20		there used to be a Post Office Investigation
21	Q.		timespan from 1973 until January of last	21		Department, and the Post Office Investigation
22			ith a three-year break following	22		Department actually dealt with enquiries right
23			ancy in 2011; is that right?	23		across the board.
24	Α.		only an 18-month break because the other	24		When they were announcing a split and they
25		18 mon	ths I was still working for Martin 3	25		had to choose between whether they wanted to 4
			~			7

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work for the Post Office -- Post Office 1 2 Counters, as it was -- or Royal Mail, most of 3 them chose Royal Mail. Basically, I think they 4 were paying more money and it was probably 5 better prospects for them. So the POID, as it 6 was, was left with very few, if any, people that 7 wanted to stay for Post Office Counters. So 8 there was a bit of a recruitment drive there, 9 I think, and I was approached because of my 10 accounting experience, mainly.

At that point, did you have any prior experience 11 12 in criminal investigation or criminal law?

13 A.

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14 Q. You address the training you underwent ahead of taking up the Investigation Manager role at 15 16 paragraph 6 of your statement. Could we have 17 that paragraph of the statement on screen please, it is page 5 of WITN05060100. You say: 18

> "I recall attending a training course prior to taking up the post as there was a national training event taking place in Croydon. Over the course of my time in the 'Security Team', as an Investigator I attended various training courses including refresher courses and ad hoc meetings/training events when any new

I knew the course and I knew the five points to prove for theft and I knew about false accounting, and I was the smarty pants there, really, because every time there was a question asked, I was able to come back on it.

But it was covering all sorts of initial introduction to it. But it did cover everything from interviewing, taking statements, putting together case papers. Yeah.

Can you recall if that initial training covered 10 Q. 11 disclosure?

12 **A.** If it covered putting together case papers, then 13 the disclosure forms that we had, which were the 14 CS forms, then yes, it would do, as far as --15 these dates and times are all taken from 16 certificates that I found at home, so these are 17 firm dates that I know I had training and, as 18 far as I can recall, I think, because it was 19 a complete oversight of everything, I would have 20 thought so.

21 Q. So you think you would have been trained in the 22 disclosure forms which you were required to 23 produce as part of your case work?

24 That's correct.

25 You then went on a Suspected Offender Interview

legislation was introduced, which would affect 1 2 my role courses attended were as follows ..."

3 The first one you list is Investigation 4 Awareness Workshop, August 1997, two days.

Stopping there, the Investigation Awareness 6 training workshop, was that the same as the event you refer to in Croydon, earlier up that paragraph, or is it a different event?

9 A. No, that's right, all the earlier workshops were 10 taking place in a place called Impact House, 11 which was a security training centre in Croydon.

So the Investigation Awareness Workshop was the 12 Q. 13 event in Croydon?

14 **A.** As were all of the others, basically, yeah.

Q. Well, just referring to the initial training 15 16 course you did prior to taking up the post, 17 which you say took place in Croydon, the

18 National Training event, is that the

19 Investigation Awareness Workshop?

20 A. Yes, sorry. Yes, it is, yes.

21 Q. You say that lasted two days. Can you recall 22 what was covered on your initial training?

23 A. I think it was the basics of investigation.

24 I know -- I remember going there. I did a lot 25 of research in advance, so that when I turned up

1 Workshop in March 1999, which you say was five 2 days; then a Witness Interview Workshop in April 3

1999, which was three days; and a Search 4 Awareness Course in December 1999, lasting two

5 days. Whilst you were on that Search Awareness

6 Course, was the basis for Post Office

7 Investigators conducting searches covered?

8 A.

9 Q. What were you told about the basis for Post 10 Office Investigators carrying out searches?

11 A. The course was conducted at a police training 12 centre somewhere in London, I believe, although 13 it was led by the Post Office Security trainers. 14 Searches, as far as I understood, were to --

15 they were purely voluntary. We had no powers of 16 search whatsoever, we needed to get authority

17 from the suspected offender to conduct the

18 search and they were purely to look for any

evidence that may assist in proving an offence. 19

20 Q. You went on a Prosecution Process Course in 21 March 2002, lasting two days. Can you recall 22 what was covered on that course?

23 A. I think that has to be the submission of the

24 offender file, going right through to court 25

attendance.

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Q. Was disclosure covered on that course, as far asyou can recall?

- A. I would have to say that it was because, putting
 together the committal bundle, those forms have
 to be in there, so I would have to say yes.
- Q. Can you recall being given any guidance or
 training on disclosure, over and above how to
 complete the disclosure forms?
- A. I can't specifically say that I do. However,
 there were many sessions within team meetings
 over the years, where Legal Services would turn
 up and either give refresher training or
- anything that changed. So I honestly can't say
 whether there was a specific -- any more about
 disclosure.
- 16 Q. Can you recall what you were told, if anything,
 17 it about the disclosure duties policing to
 18 Disclosure Officers and prosecutors?
- A. Well, disclosure, as I understand it, was a case of just basically, at the end -- when I was putting together a file, every single piece of paper or every single bit of evidence I'd lay out in front of me on the desk and it would go on one of three forms, I believe. It would either be evidence, it would be unused or the

Q. Were those the reports that you could print atthe counter in a branch?

3 A. That's correct.

- Q. Were you told anything on that course about the
 potential for balancing discrepancies to arise
 because of bugs, errors or defects in the
 system?
- 8 A. Absolutely not.
- Q. In August 1999 you became a member of, if we can scroll down a little, please, the International
 Institute of Security, following completion of course 137 of the International Professional
 Security Association. What did you cover on that course?
- A. I honestly can't remember what that covered. It
 was a business initiative at the time that I was
 put forward for and I know I kept having to go
 to Birmingham, I think, and then sit an exam at
 the end of it. I think it was mainly security,
 so physical security, as opposed to
 investigation.
- 22 Q. You also gained a City & Guilds NVQ level 4 in
 23 Investigation in June 2005. What did you cover
 24 when you were studying for that qualification?

25 A. That was my current job as an Investigator, so

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third one was anything that might harm the prosecution and help the defence, and I think the only time I ever put anything on that form was once, when it was informant details.

I always used to annotate that form with "There are no items considered that will help the defence or harm the prosecution".

- 8 Q. You then went on an Audit and Investigator
 9 Course for Horizon, and you say it was a one-day
 10 course delivered by ICL Pathway. There's no
 11 date there for when you attended that course;
 12 can you remember when it was?
- 13 A. The certificate is undated, which is why
 14 I can't -- but it was at the introduction of
 15 Horizon, so it would have been 19 -- 1999?
- 16 Q. What was covered on that course?
 17 A. It was, basically -- it wasn't how to use the
 18 system, it wasn't about transactions. It was
 19 purely for an Auditor or an Investigator, which
 20 would tell you how to pull off reports that
- would help you identify where losses might be or give you the end of day reports. But it wasn't about transactions at all; it was purely about how to pull off the reports that we needed which would help us.

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basically it would take a case, or two or three
cases, that I was doing and it would be a step
check to everything I did, to make sure that
I was carrying it out correctly.

Q. You say you also took part in or sat in on new
 subpostmaster and staff Horizon training on at
 least two occasions. Can you recall that
 training now?

9 A. It was, basically -- I'm based in Plymouth and
10 there was a training centre in Plymouth and, if
11 I had any spare time at any time and I knew
12 there was a course going on, I would just see if
13 I could sit in on it, and that did cover new
14 postmaster training, so it would be to do with
15 transactions.

Q. You refer at paragraph 67 of your statement to
 refresher training provided during national team
 meetings or whenever there was a change in
 legislation. Who would provide that refresher
 training?

21 **A.** That would be the Criminal Law Team, Legal22 Services.

Q. You say in your statement that the Legal
 Services would offer advice on case presentation
 as well as any changes in legislation. What

- kind of advice did they give on case 1 2 presentation?
- 3 A. I think that was all tied in with, like, the
- 4 compliance, to make sure that you had everything
- 5 in the file, so that, when they received it,
- 6 they could make a fair judgement on the evidence
- 7 that you've provided.
- 8 You say at paragraph 7, which is on the screen
- 9 here now, that you understood your role to
- 10 involve investigating possible criminal offences
- against the business or its clients, and you say 11
- 12 "to include protecting the integrity of the
- 13 business". What do you mean by the "Integrity
- 14 of the business"?
- A. Yeah, I think from day one it was always 15
- 16 an understanding that the Post Office was
- 17 a public-owned company and backed by the
- 18 Government and, basically, it was government
- 19 money that we were using. And I think it was
- 20 about being seen that the Post Office was
- 21 a company that you could trust because, I mean,
- 22 back in this time when I started, there were
- 23 13,500 post offices and they were the hub of
- 24 every city, town and village, and they wanted
- 25 people to feel that that was a place that they
- 1 "From the time I started working in
- 2 Investigation I was always a 'lone worker',
- 3 based initially in a room in a Crown Office then
- 4 later in the Security Suite in the mail centre,
- 5 both in Plymouth. Initially (prior to Horizon) 6
- 7 80 miles away, and my nearest colleagues were

my manager was based in Bridgwater, some

- 8 based in either Bristol or Bournemouth, some
- 9 125 miles away. Latterly the Head Office and my
- 10 line manager were both based in London some
- 11 250 miles away. I did not therefore have the
- 12 opportunity to work within a group on
- 13 a day-by-day basis, like some of the teams.
- 14 I therefore did not, on a daily or weekly basis,
- 15 'associate' with any of the National Team. When
- 16 I needed, or someone else needed a second
- 17 officer then I would normally be Gary Thomas
- 18 (Bournemouth) as my first port of call."
- 19 Given that you were a "lone worker" as you
- 20 put it, was it difficult for you to get a sense 21 of the issues which were arising in
- 22 investigations carry out by other Investigators?
- 23 A. I think that that is the aim of that sentence
- 24 that I put in, yes.
- 25 Was your set-up unusual or were there other Q.

- could go and they could just trust people there. 1
- 2 Q. What was your role in protecting the integrity
- 3 of the business?
- 4 A. My role was to investigate if there was any
- 5 criminal offences.
- 6 Q. You say at paragraph 8 of your statement that
- 7 you recall your line manager being someone
- 8 called Geoff Hall, initially --
- 9 A. Initially, yes.
- 10 Q. -- and that was when you were part of a regional
- 11 team with headquarters in Bristol; is that
- right? 12
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. Then when the team became a national team, you
- recall your line managers being David Posnett? 15
- 16 Correct. Α.
- 17 Q. Then Paul Whitaker, Ged Harbinson and, finally,
- 18 Jason Collins; is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct. I think there might have been
- 20 Paul Dawkins in between, as well, but it was not
- 21 for a very long time. I think Dave Posnett was
- 22 only about three or four months.
- 23 Q. Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 9 of
- 24 Mr Wilcox's statement, it's page 6.
- 25 You say here:

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- 1 Investigators in this position as lone workers
- 2 as well?
- 3 A. I think the South team, which I was a part of,
- 4 I think most of those people were -- there were
- 5 five of us, I believe -- I think we were all
- 6 lone workers in different parts of the country,
- 7 whereas the North team, some of them -- no,
- 8 because London was the South team. So London,
- 9 I think, might have had one or two but the North
- 10 team, I think some of them were working in
- 11 pairs. But we were certainly single.
- 12 What processes existed for information sharing
- 13 between Investigators?
- 14 Do you mean official documentation?
- 15 Q. I mean, any processes or means of sharing
- 16 information between Investigators?
- 17 A. There was a post office intranet site and part
- 18 of that was there was a Security section in it
- as well, which only the Security Team would 19
- access. That would normally be used for 20 21 policies, policy updates and, failing that,
- 22 I suppose, anything that needed to be sent out
- 23 to all team members would be sent out by email.
- 24 Q. You say at paragraph 71 of your statement that
- 25 you were totally unaware of any proceedings

1		taking place about Horizon failings, either	1		visiting offices about security weaknesses, it
2		criminal or civil. Given that there were such	2		just meant that was another part of your
3		cases going on during your tenure as	3		caseload. Obviously, if you weren't doing that,
4		an Investigator, how effective do you think the	4		you'd be allocated more investigation cases but
5		processes for sharing information between	5		I don't think that impacted at all on the
6		Investigators were?	6		quality of investigation standards.
7	A.	It's obviously not worked. From what I've	7	Q.	You say in your statement that:
8		learnt, purely from this Inquiry, from 2004,	8		"All investigations would be conducted
9		I think Lee Castleton who I had never ever	9		taking into consideration the rules of the
10		heard of before, until this Inquiry. I cannot	10		Police and Criminal Evidence Act, the Criminal
11		believe myself that I've been there for	11		Procedure and Investigations Act, the Regulation
12		seven years after that, and I didn't even know	12		of Investigatory Powers Act, the Data Protection
13		about that case. At no stage did anybody sit me	13		Act and the Human Rights Act."
14		down or call a team meeting and say, "We may	14		Where would you have found copies of those
15		have a problem here, this is what's happening,	15		Acts as an Investigation Manager?
16		and this is how we're going to handle it".	16	A.	I've had to refresh my memory and I've taken
17	Q.	You say at paragraph 19 of your statement that:	17		those from a policy statement to say what we
18		"The structure and role of the Security Team	18		worked to, just so that I could remember.
19		changed many times, including our job titles."	19		I remember the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.
20		What impact, if any, do you think this	20		We always carried that the Codes of Practice,
21		regular change had on the adequacy of	21		we always carried that book with us because that
22		investigations?	22		was produced at any interview, any taped
23	A.	I don't think it had an impact on that because	23		interview.
24		when you took on parts of physical security,	24		The CPIA, I remember having to go to every
25		which dealt with robberies, burglaries and	25		bookshop in Plymouth to try to buy a copy 18
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1		because they weren't being supplied, but we	1		standards applying to investigations.
2		would take that with us as well, and anything	2		Could we have that on screen, please. The
3		else, basically, would be on the policy	3		reference is POL00104754. This document has
4		document.	4		a heading, in the top left corner "Investigation
5	Q.	You identify at paragraph 7 of your statement	5		Policy", and then in bold and centre "Rules and
6		the official policy relating to investigations.	6		Standards". The date at the bottom of the page,
7		Could we have that document on screen, please.	7		please, is May 2001.
8		It's reference POL00031008. This is the "Royal	8		Looking, please, to page 4 of the document,
9		Mail Group Limited Criminal Investigation and	9		section 5, "Document details", we see a last
10		Prosecution Policy". This version, if we can	10		updated date of October 2000. The "Assurance
11		scroll down, please, to the bottom of the page,	11		Details" and "Final Review" sections appear to
12		is dated November 2010. An earlier version,	12		be blank. Would you agree that a version of
13		dated December 2007, was also provided to you	13		this document appears to have been in force from
14		for the purposes of preparing your statement to	14		October 2000, on the face of that last updated
15		the Inquiry. Would you agree that it is	15		entry.
16		materially very similar?	16	A.	Yes, yeah.
17	A.	From what I recall, yes. Yeah.	17	Q.	Going back to the first page, please. Did you
18	Q.	You were an Investigation Manager from 1997. In	18		recognise this document when it was provided to
19		terms of the official policy governing	19		you by the Inquiry?
20		investigations before 2007, being the earlier	20	A.	I can't say I recognised it but I've no reason
21		version of this document, there was a further	21		to doubt that I didn't receive it.
22		document sent to you by the Inquiry for the	22	Q.	This document sets out "Consignia Investigation
23		purposes of preparing your statement, which is	23		Standards" and "Consignia Legal Standards", as
24		dated May 2001. That's a document which	24		well as referring to "Consignia employees"
25		nurnerted to get down the precedures and	25		throughout Was this a document which applied

purported to set down the procedures and

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throughout. Was this a document which applied

1		to the work of Post Office Investigators?	1		the database."
2	A.	Yes, because the Post Office changed its name to	2		Pausing there, do you recall there being
3		Consignia, so it would have been Post Office	3		a database with policy and standards documents
4		only and not Royal Mail.	4		on it?
5	Q.	Do you think that this was the official policy	5	A.	Yes, definitely.
6		governing investigations before the December	6	Q.	Were copies of relevant legislation and guidance
7		2007 document?	7		also contained on that database, can you
8	A.	If that's the last one that there was, then	8		remember?
9		I would imagine that's the one, yes.	9	A.	I can't remember specifically but, if it was
10	Q.	Under paragraph 3.1, we see investigation	10		something that applied to everybody with
11		standards are addressed. The "high level	11		regarding the policy, then there's no reason why
12		investigation standards" are defined as follows:	12		it shouldn't have been there.
13		"All Security Managers who are authorised to	13	Q.	Did you ever go to the legislation itself, as
14		conduct investigations into crimes or suspected	14		opposed to a policy document, when you were
15		crimes will carry out their duties in accordance	15		an Investigator?
16		with Consignia legal standards for investigation	16	A.	I honestly couldn't say whether I did or
17		of crime and Consignia rules relating to the	17		l didn't.
18		treatment of employees and agents in accordance	18	Q.	Under paragraph 3.2, we have "Consignia Legal
19		with mandatory instructions detailed in	19		Standards":
20		investigation policies.	20		"When undertaking investigations into crimes
21		"Relevant changes in the law or any	21		or suspected crimes, all Security Managers must
22		significant aspect affecting the way in which	22		comply with the relevant legislation so far as
23		investigations are conducted will be	23		this relates to the investigation of crime, the
24		communicated to all Security Managers by email	24		interview, arrest and search of persons and
25		and where necessary an amendment will be made to 21	25		process before the courts. In particular, 22
1		Investigators will be bound by the following	1		Juveniles."
2		legislation"	2		Does this part on interview rights look
3		For England we have Human Rights Act 1998	3		familiar to you?
4		(in force from 2/10/2000); Police and Criminal	4	A.	Yes.
5		Evidence Act and Codes of Practice; RIP Act,	5	Q.	Was it what governed your approach to interviews
6		Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Then	6		as an Investigator, at least before the
7		we see the same entries under Wales there.	7		introduction of the December 2007 Criminal
8		Then at 3.3, please, we have "Prosecution	8		Investigation and Prosecution Policy?
9		Casework," and it says this will be dealt with	9	A.	Sorry, I don't understand the question.
10		"in compliance with the following instructions",	10	Q.	Were these points, so stressing an interviewee's
11		and for England and Wales there's Consignia	11		right to have a friend present at an interview
12		Prosecution Guidelines, Consignia Code of	12		and an interviewee's right to have a friend
13		Practice Criminal Procedure and	13		present at searches, was that what governed your
14		Investigations Act 1996.	14		approach to interviews?
15		Under paragraph 3.4 we have this:	15	A.	Those points would have been from day one
16		"When undertaking investigations into crimes	16		training, always offer a friend present at
17		or suspected crimes involving Consignia	17		interview, whether it's taped interview or not
18		employees and agents, all Security Managers must	18		a taped interview, and the same applies to
19		comply with Consignia rules regarding the	19		searches.
20		conduct of interviews. In relation to:	20	Q.	There's no reference in this section to legal
21		"An interviewee's right to have a friend	21		rights in terms of solicitor representation, is
22		present at interviews.	22		there? Simply, this is referring to the right
23		"An interviewee's right to have a friend	23		to have a friend present. Does that indicate
24		present at searches.	24		this is a Post Office policy on having a friend
25		"Special treatment afforded Consignia 23	25		present?

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- A. Yeah, it's basically saying it's a Consignia 1 2 rule or a Post Office rule. It's not a legal 3 riaht. 4 Q. Could we have on screen another document which 5 was provided to you by the Inquiry, which 6 governs the disclosure of unused material to the defence and is also dated May 2001. The 7 8 document reference is POL00104762. We can see 9 from the title that this document covers the 10 disclosure of unused material and refers in the
- Investigations Act 1996 Codes of Practice.
 Did you recognise this document when it was
 sent to you by the Inquiry?
- 15 A. I can't say I recognised it but, again, it seems16 relevant, yes.

title to the Criminal Procedure and

- 17 Q. It seemed what, sorry?
- 18 A. Sorry, it seems relevant. There's no reason why19 I wouldn't have had access to it or saw it.
- 20 yeah.

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- Q. Do you think it was provided to you when youwere an Investigator?
- 23 A. It wasn't actually handed to me but it would
- 24 have been made -- I'd have been made aware that
- 25 it was on the Security database.

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

Were you aware at the time you were an Investigator of the Attorney General's Guidelines on Disclosure?

- 9 A. I can't recall specifically about the Attorney
 10 General rules but, if that was covered in the
 11 updated training session we had, then it would
 12 have been covered, yeah.
- Q. It is not referenced in this document but were
 you aware of, and did you ever refer to, the
 Code for Crown Prosecutors?
- 16 **A.** No.

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Q. Further down the page the "General Principles"
section, we see there's a section on
"Investigators and Disclosure Officers", then
over the page, please, the second paragraph on
this page says this:

"The Disclosure Officer is the person responsible for examining material retained during an investigation, revealing material to Legal Services during the investigation and any

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Q. Under "Purpose", this document sets out the
 following:

"The aim of this policy is to ensure that
Security Managers know and understand the
investigation procedures in relation to the
Disclosure of Unused Material, as described in
the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act
1996 Codes of Practice, which must be adhered to
by all Consignia staff undertaking
investigations."

You refer in your statement to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act. At the time you were an Investigator, were you aware of the CPIA Code of Practice?

A. Yeah, I specifically -- as I say to you, I had
 to search around Plymouth to find a copy of it
 so I actually remember there was a specific
 training session held by the Criminal Law Team
 at one of our team meetings regarding that.

Q. This document explains in the introduction that:
 "The rules relating to the disclosure of
 unused material to the Defence are laid down in
 the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act
 1996

25 "In light of the Human Rights Act 1998 the 26

criminal proceedings resulting from it, and certifying to Legal Services that he has done this. Normally the Investigator and the Disclosure Officer will be the same person."

5 Do you recall that being the case, that the 6 Investigator and the Disclosure Officer in 7 a case were usually the same person?

- 8 A. Yes, definitely, yes.
- Q. You refer in your statement at paragraph 12 to
 the forms which would need to be completed by
 the Investigator, the form CS006C, CS006D and
 CS006E. You then say at paragraph 13 of the
 statement that the disclosure documentation bore
 the name of that Investigator as the Disclosure
 Officer.

Did you understand at the time that you were acting as the Disclosure Officer in the case when you were an Investigator?

- 19 **A.** Yeah, disclosure of the evidence that we had20 obtained during our investigation, yes.
- 21 **Q.** At the time, did you understand that this was a distinct role, over and above your role as an Investigator, which imposed upon you
- 24 additional and distinct duties?

25 A. I think it was a role as part of the training,

2 disclosure and filled in the disclosure forms. 3 I think we disclosed what we had to Legal 4 Services. It really depends on what you mean by 5 "further duties". 6 Q. Well, did you understand that you were doing 7 more than just filling in the paperwork, that 8 the role of a Disclosure Officer was a distinct 9 one, over and above your role as 10 an Investigator, which had its own duties? A. It had a duty to make sure we disclosed 11 12 everything that we had, yes. 13 Q. It is not referenced in this document but were 14 you aware when you were an investigator that there was an obligation on a criminal 15 16 investigator to pursue lines of inquiry which 17 18 of the suspect? 19 A. Yes, definitely. I mean, especially if you had 20 a case where somebody wasn't accepting 21 responsibility, part of that investigation into 22 proving that they did is also trying to prove 23 that they didn't. So that -- I would say that 24 went automatically anyway. 25 Q.

as to the fact of how we conducted the

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pointed away from, as well as towards, the guilt Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 33 of 1 when you worked for the Post Office. Were you 2 ever aware of a difference in the way Crown 3 Office employees and subpostmasters and their 4 staff were treated by the Post Office? 5 A. Definitely not. I took part in a prosecution 6 case of one of our branch managers myself. 7 Q. Could we have on screen, please, page 6 of 8 Mr Wilcox's statement. The top paragraph here 9 is a continuation of paragraph 7. About four 10 lines down, you say this: 11 "Away from any criminal investigation I was 12 also required to give assistance to Crown 13 Offices and subpostmasters regarding loss 14 reduction and security issues." 15 What do you mean by "loss reduction" in this 16 context? A. On occasions, the Post Office had tasked people 17 with loss reduction. It was basically about how 18 to avoid them. I'm trying to think, in this --19 20 in one of these instances, I actually made up

and prepared a presentation in connection with

meeting with members of our -- my own team, and

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loss reduction and tried it out in a team

1 Mr Wilcox's statement, it is page 14 of that 2 statement. 3 A little further down the page, please, at 4 paragraph 33, you say this: 5 "Throughout my team in the Security Team, 6 and even before when I was an Auditor, I believe 7 the policy and practice regarding the 8 investigation and prosecution of Crown Office 9 staff and the policy and practice regarding the 10 investigation and prosecution of subpostmasters 11 or their staff has basically remained the same." You go on at paragraph 34 to say that there 12 13 was no distinction when it came to prosecution 14 decisions between Crown Office employees and 15 subpostmasters or their staff. 16 As between these two groups, do you recall 17 there being any difference in approach to the 18 question of whether a criminal investigation 19 should be commenced, specifically following the 20 identification of a shortfall in a branch? 21 It would be investigated in exactly the same way 22 and, if evidence was found, the prosecution 23 would take place in exactly the same way. 24 Q. You had experience of both Crown Office and 25 subpostmaster branches in various roles you held 1 Security Managers or Investigators were going 2 around to Crown Offices giving these 3 presentations. 4 I also offered them to the NFSP and attended 5 two or three NFSP meetings with postmasters to 6 explain to them about controls at the office and

7 how to reduce losses. 8 9

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Q. What type of losses are we talking about here? Anything, really. Obviously, branch office losses are reported through the Post Office because branch office staff are employed by the Post Office. Other losses, sometimes we'd get a request from a postmaster to say they're having -- let's just say niggly little losses that they can't really get to the bottom of, and I would arrange or we would arrange to go and meet them somewhere, normally offsite, have a chat about what they think is going wrong, and

19 suggest improvements to ways they can just 20 monitor what's happening in their office. 21 Q. Did this part of your role involve advising

22 individuals following the identification of 23 unexplained shortfalls? 24 A.

It would be unexplained shortfalls. I mean, the 25 fact that it's unidentified makes it an unknown 32

we sort of tweaked it. And, from then, I rolled it out to the whole Security community and

1		shortfall anyway. So, yes, if somebody said,
2		"Look, I'm losing £20 a week, £30 a week, and
3		I can't understand it", it would be really just
4		having a discussion with them about the
5		procedures at the office and what they could d
6		to tighten up on those procedures.
7	Q.	You address possible causes of unexplained

- 7 **Q.** You address possible causes of unexplained shortfalls at paragraphs 160 to 162 of your 9 statement and you give examples of errors on the 10 part of a user of the system and theft by those 11 other than the subpostmaster. Does your 12 knowledge of the possible explanations you list 13 there come from assisting offices as well as 14 investigating them?
- A. The reason for that paragraph was really to try
 to show how difficult it is for an Investigator
 to look at unexplained losses. The number of
 things that can possibly happen, and all those
 instances I've given you are my personal
 experiences over the years of money that's gone
 missing.

It's just really -- it's not -- if it's an unknown loss, especially if somebody isn't declaring it -- if somebody is declaring unknown loss it's hard enough to investigate anyway. If

support) a criminal offence at the office (if there is any). If there have been admissions of a suspected criminal offence then it would be prudent to undertake a taped interview with the suspect and get a first account at that time."

What evidence would an Investigator be

seeking to obtain and secure at the branch? **A.** If there's been a reported shortage by the Auditors, then it would be to try to find either evidence by way of an interview, or evidence of, if you had to, bank accounts or any financial information, if that would assist the

information, if that would assist theinvestigation.

14 **Q**. What evidence

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14 Q. What evidence would you be seeking to establish15 a loss to the Post Office?

16 A. In interview?

that loss.

17 Q. No, at the branch when attendance was to obtain18 and secure evidence?

A. It may be that somebody has already admitted to taking the money, in which case it would be an interview. If they haven't admitted it, but they were a suspect and it was an interview under caution then, obviously, you'd be putting questions to them as for an explanation as to

1 somebody is going to cover up an unknown loss,

2 for whatever reason, I would say it's impossible

3 to actually assist them and find out where it

4 is.

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5 **Q.** Did it ever occur to you at the time that another explanation, in addition to those you

list in your statement, might be that the
 Horizon-generated figure for what should be held

9 by a branch was wrong?

10 A. Absolutely not.

Q. Turning, please, to the process followed by
 Investigators after the identification of
 a shortfall at an audit, could we have on
 screen, please, paragraph 40 of the statement.
 That is page 16. Here you say this:

"It would normally stand that if an audit shortage was reported to the Investigation Team and if an Investigator and a Second Officer were available (and could reach the branch in a reasonable time) then they would go to the office while the auditors are still there (dependant on the amount of the shortage)."

You go on at paragraph 41:

"The aim of the visit would be to obtain and secure any evidence which supports (or doesn't

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Q. What did you see as the evidence of the loss?
 A. The evidence of the loss would have been the

3 Auditor's findings.

Q. We're talking here about the difference between
 what the printable Horizon reports said should
 be in the branch and what the Auditor actually

7 found in the branch?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. You say at paragraph 58 of your statement that,
 10 if there had been admissions of a criminal
 11 offence, then it would be prudent to undertake

12 a taped interview with the suspect to get

a taped interview with the suspect to get

13 a first account at the time. Where an admission14 had been made to an Auditor before

an Investigator was on the scene, was it common

16 for the Auditor to ask the person who had made

17 an admission to sign a written record of the

18 admission?

A. They would ask them to sign a written record of
 the events of that day and just to agree that
 that's what actually took place, yeah.

22 **Q.** In general terms, how would you deal with any

23 such written record in a subsequent interview

24 under caution?

25 A. I would probably -- after the opening

	introductions and the legal rights and friend	1	page 7. You say:
	rights, I would probably just recap what	2	"Interviewing persons accused or suspected
	I understood happened in the morning. I would	3	of a criminal offence was part of my role as
	normally read out the signed piece of paper, as	4	an Investigator. Interviews were conducted in
	a record of what happened that day, and then	5	connection with PACE 1984 Codes of Practice.
	would ask the suspect to actually give me	6	Most of the taped interviews I conducted were
	a reason for the shortage in their own words.	7	voluntary attendees, ie suspects who were not
Q.	At paragraph 42 of your statement you deal with	8	under arrest, and the interview would be
	interviews. You say:	9	conducted at a mutually agreeable venue
	"Interviews could take place normally at the	10	(sometimes pre-arranged)."
	office if enough privacy is attainable and the	11	You go on to say:
	suspect did not require legal representation or	12	"On occasions, if it were necessary for the
	a Post Office Friend to be present."	13	Police to assist in an arrest or search then the
	At paragraph 43:	14	suspect would be arrested and interviewed at
	"I have on occasions, either after visiting	15	a police station. If anyone being interviewed
	the office or on the day, or when unable to	16	required or attended with a solicitor, then full
	attend an office, pre-arranged an interview with	17	pre-disclosure would be given before the
	the suspect for a future date. This would be	18	commencement of any interview."
	especially true if they required legal	19	Just pausing there, would full
	representation and, in that case, the interview	20	pre-disclosure be provided to someone before
	could normally be undertaken at the solicitor's	21	an interview if they did not wish to have
	office."	22	a solicitor present for the interview?
	You deal with the process applying to	23 A	A. Not generally, no.
	interviews at paragraph 11 of your statement.	24 (Q. Why not?
	Could we have that on screen, please, it's	25 A	A. Not sure I can answer that question. I'm not
	37		38
	really sure. You would tend not to talk to	1	"Caution and checking the understanding of
	somebody beforehand without cautioning them	2	the caution.
	anyway. I've never had anybody ask me for	3	"Explanation of Legal Rights and the rights
	disclosure before because, normally, when	4	to a friend being present (friend not applicable
	I invite them for an interview, I tell them what	5	at Police Custody Suite).
	the interview is about and why they're being	6	"Points to cover during interview,
	interviewed. So there's normally if it was	7	ie background, experience, training, staffing
	a postmaster, they would general understand what	8	and role at the office.
	it's all about, whereas if you had a solicitor,	9	"Conclusion of the interview and signing and
	they may not even understand Post Office	10	sealing of the tapes.
	procedures.	11	"Anything else which needed to be covered
Q.	You go on:	12	under the interviewing section of PACE 1984."
ų.	"We used a standard cribsheet during	13	You then say:
	interviews as reminders of procedures and	14	"Dependent on the outcome of the interview,
	questions. This was so a set format could be	15	•
	•		reports for Legal Services and the Discipline
	followed for standardisation, across the team,	16	Manager would be prepared if necessary."
	of casework papers and reports and also assisted	17	You deal at paragraph 97 of your statement
	with the correct PACE guidelines. The cribsheet	18	with the role of the Post Office Friend. Could
	would set out (from memory) reminders such as:	19	we have that on screen, please. It's page 29 of
	"Explaining what would happen during the	20	this statement. You say:
	interview.	21	"Part of Post Office (and Royal Mail Group)

and solicitor if present.

benefit of the tape.

"Opening tapes in front of the interviewee

"Introductions of persons present for the

policies are that any person being interviewed

entitled to have a 'Post Office Friend' present

by an investigator (on tape or informally), is

with them. The role of this 'Post Office

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1 Friend' is to sit in on the interview. They are 2 not allowed to take part in the interview at any 3 stage but are allowed to take notes on the 4 proceedings as long as they are kept 5 confidential. The Post Office Friend should be someone who works for the Post Office and 6 7 someone who is not involved in the enquiry. The 8 reason for not being allowed to say anything in 9 the interview is because they probably wouldn't 10 be qualified to advise and may say something which is not beneficial to the person being 11 12 interviewed. This would be the role of 13 a solicitor and this right should be exercised 14 if advice is required."

Pausing there -- and we'll come back in due course to what happened in Mrs Rudkin's case -- was a union representative classed as a Post Office Friend where they attended an interview with the interviewee?

20 A. Yes, definitely.

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- 21 Q. Were individuals who chose to be accompanied by
- 22 union representatives told that their
- 23 representative would be classed as a Post Office
- 24 Friend and, therefore, not allowed to take part
- in the interview?

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- a Post Office Friend, would not be able to takepart in the interview?
- A. The forms were -- yeah, the forms were signed on
 tape and that was read out and then they would
 sign it that they understood they couldn't take
 part in the interview.
- 7 Q. Okay. We'll come on to the form.

Were individuals attending interviews told that, if they wished to be accompanied by someone who could take part in the interview, they would have to have a solicitor?

12 A. I don't know if it was worded that way but 13 I would have certainly said, "Do you want legal 14 representation or a solicitor, because if you 15 do, I can help you find one?" And, if they said 16 no, then I would explain that they're entitled 17 to a friend but the friend wouldn't be able to 18 take part in the interview and wouldn't be able 19 to give them advice.

20 $\,$ **Q.** Could we have on screen, please, WITN01860100.

21 This is a statement made for the purposes of

- 22 this Inquiry by a former subpostmaster called
- 23 Timothy Brentnall, who was prosecuted for theft
- 24 and false accounting.
- 25 Mr Brentnall recalls who attending his

A. Yes, because they had to sign a form to say that they understood all of that. Whether it was

3 a union representative or whether it was

4 a counter clerk from a different town that

5 they'd never even heard of, they were entitled

to any of those people, as long as they worked
 for the Post Office, but the same rules applied

8 to them all.

9 Q. We'll come on to the legal rights form in due10 course. But you're saying it was your

11 understanding that that form dealt with the Post

12 Office Friend as well as a legal representative

13 solicitor?

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14 A. No, no, sorry, I didn't say that. The Post 15 Office Friend was -- they could have a friend as 16 well as a solicitor but you normally found if 17 a solicitor was there, they wouldn't allow 18 a Post Office Friend, for obvious reasons. But 19 the friend form was purely for people who wanted 20 a Post Office Friend and that could be anybody 21 whatsoever that worked in the Post Office, as 22 long as they weren't in that office, if you 23 like.

Q. Did you explain to them that that unionrepresentative, because they were acting as

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branch in Roch, Pembrokeshire after an audit in
2009 found an apparent shortfall of some
£16,500. Could we turn to page 2 of this
document, please, towards the bottom,
paragraph 9. Mr Brentnall says this:

"By the time I was audited in 2009 I had reduced the shortfall to some £16,500 by putting my own money into the post office when the Auditors came. I was very open and honest with them about what had been happening because I thought they were there to help. I quickly realised that they were not there to help me but to blame me. I recall the Auditor's name being Gaynor Davies, who had another man with her but I cannot remember his name.

"This was promptly followed by a visit from an investigating team. This was a man called Mike Wilcox. Another lady was with him but I do not remember her name. Whilst at first I thought they were there to help me and correct the fault, it soon transpired that they were Auditors to try and collect evidence against me. I remember Mike Wilcox telling me it was an informal chat and I asked if I would need a solicitor and he said no."

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Do you recall Mr Brentnall now? A. It would be fair to say that I have only seen this document at 9.30 this morning. When you said a statement from Tony Brentnall (sic), my immediate thought was that it was somebody from our Post Office department. So I remember the name, I don't know what for. Roch is completely out of my patch but I'm not saying I didn't do it.

So, to answer your question, I remember the name, I don't remember specifically doing this case. But, at no time whatsoever, do I do an informal chat with a suspect. Informal chats are if I'm out there because somebody is asking me -- they're having problems with losses. No circumstances whatsoever would there be an informal chat and I would not take a second person with me if it was.

- 19 Q. Have you ever told a subpostmaster that you were 20 investigating that they did not need a solicitor 21 because the discussion you were having was just 22 an informal chat?
- 23 A. Definitely not. Never.

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Q.

The next paragraph, Mr Brentnall says this: 24 25 "I remember being told that I was the only

> that I hadn't got it. They asked for bank statements, credit card statements, and they told me if I didn't cooperate, they would come and search my flat."

Do you recall Mr Shingadia now? A. Again, this was given to me at 9.30 this morning. I do remember the name. More so I remember the fact of Nippi Singh and, in fact, I believe you've got my notebook and I recall that there's an entry in my notebook about this case. I don't know what it says. I don't know what the outcome was. But I've returned my notebook recently, because I've only just found it, and I believe this case is mentioned in it.

In general terms, did you ever use the threat of searching someone's property to encourage them to cooperate and provide

Well, we can certainly try and locate that.

documentation?

19 20 A. Searches that we conduct are purely voluntary. 21 There is no way that I would ever have said to 22 anybody "If you don't, we're going to do 23 a search". At the end of the day, they're told 24 that we may need to do a search but it's purely

subpostmaster having these kinds of issues."

2 Did you ever tell a subpostmaster with 3 an unexplained shortfall that he or she was the 4 only one having problems balancing?

- A. I don't use that phrase, no.
- **Q.** Could we have on screen, please, WITN01610100. This is a witness statement made by Hasmukh Shingadia, a former subpostmaster, for the purposes of this Inquiry.

Mr Shingadia explains in his statement that he had problems balancing. Like Mr Brentnall, he was prosecuted for theft and false accounting. He recalls being interviewed by you at paragraph 59 of his statement. Could we go to that, please, it's page 7. He says:

"On 11 May 2010, I was interviewed at Newbury sorting office by Michael Wilcox. A Federation representative, Nippi Singh, was there supposedly to support me. However in the 7 hours that I was there, he did not say a word. When I challenged him about this, he said, 'Well it's your Post Office' and got in his car and drove away.

"The interview was a real grilling. I was asked repeatedly where money was. I kept saying

1 entitled to a friend present. It's -- I'm afraid I don't work for the Sweeney from the 2 3 1970s' TV programme. It's just a completely 4 different way altogether.

5 Q. Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 68 of 6 Mr Wilcox's statement. It's page 23. You say:

"With specific emphasis on obtaining evidence from third parties, there would be occasions when further investigation was required, or documents required to prove or disprove a criminal offence. With legislation changing over the years obtaining evidence from third parties also changed. Sometimes our 'working partners', ie Department for Work and Pensions and Fujitsu, would have a contract with

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16 the business for the release of any

17 documentation. Documentation from banks used to

18 be obtained by the person involved in the

19 enquiry signing a release form for the data to

20 be released. Later with legislation form (DPA, 21 RIPA or CPIA) we would also need to submit

22 a 'Data Protection Disclaimer' form confirming

23 that the information was for a genuine

24 investigation purpose. Any changes in procedure

25 would be notified to us either by meetings,

with their permission and, again, they're 47

personally or notification on a policy change on the intranet."

Just picking up on the third line there, where something was required to disprove a criminal offence, can you think of an example of a time there you investigated further or sought documents to disprove an offence?

A. I think it's just a general term, as I said before. If I'm investigating a case and somebody said they've taken some money and paid it into their bank account, we would ask for those bank accounts, and that may show the money has gone in or it may not show that money has gone in.

It's the same with ARQ data. I don't know if you want to cover that at later stage but, with ARQ data, you can ask for ARQ data but it's not going to prove necessarily -- it depends on what the person tells you that they've done with the money or whether they haven't done anything with the money. But ARQ data is very subjective.

My personal opinion is, depending on the type of loss and what you're told, in some instances, it's no good to you whatsoever.

different skills who could look at such data and make different types of analyses, weren't there? Specifically, Fujitsu employees would be able to tell more from the data than you could, as a non-technical Investigator?

A. The ARQ data that we got was a mirror image of the transactions that were going through the office. There was no further information on there than a subpostmaster could have got himself. The only advantage with ARQ data is it went back further in time, as opposed to it dropping off the system in the office, and it was in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. So it was great to filter and sort figures and specifically look at things.

It would tell me nothing about, if what you mean -- it would tell me nothing about the back office procedures and the technical aspects of the system, no.

the system, no.

That's your opinion on what could or couldn't be gleaned from the data. But do you understand that that would be disclosable, once you'd obtained that data, and what happened to it after it was disclosed is a separate matter from what you thought, as an Investigator?

So -- can I give you an example of what I'm trying to say?

3 Q. Please do.

A. If there's an audit shortage of £10,000 and the postmaster says to you "I took that money six months ago and I've paid it into my bank account", you could get bank statements from him showing that £10,000 has gone into his bank. You could also ask for audit data. Now, if he tells you he's been covering up that £10,000, so nobody knows about it, you'd look at that audit data and it won't show you anything. It'll show you that he's been balancing all the time.

So you could argue, yeah, that's what he said, he's covering it up, that's why it's not there. But the defence could argue, "Well, there's no loss been shown, so how can you prove there was a loss"?

So that's what I'm trying to say by either trying to prove the offence or not the offence. It depends on what you're told, really.

22 Q. You're referring there to what you could glean23 from ARQ data.

24 A. Yeah.

Q. There were, of course, other people with

A. If I ever had ARQ data, then it would always
 form part of my witness statement and evidence,
 whether it helped me or whether it didn't,
 because the paragraph would probably say ARQ
 data shows that it could back up this person's
 story. But it also may be not.
 Q. Could we have paragraph 82 of Mr Wilcox's

Q. Could we have paragraph 82 of Mr Wilcox's
 statement on screen, please. It's page 26. You
 say:

"I would obtain ARQ data on any investigation where unexplained losses were involved whether there was a suspected offence, or if I was trying to assist a subpostmaster in investigating losses at their office."

Is that right, that you obtained ARQ data in
any investigation where there were unexplained
losses or where you were just trying to assist
a subpostmaster with unexplained losses?

A. If it was purely unexplained losses, then that is true. If somebody said to me -- an example I used before, if somebody said to me "There's £10,000 missing, I've taken that money and paid it into my bank account, and I've been inflating the cash every day for six months to cover it up", if I could prove from bank statements that

they've paid the money in, ARQ data is not going to help me one little bit because, when I look at that ARQ data, if they're covering up the losses, it's not going to show me the losses anyway.

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In that instance, it's of no use for helping me. It's -- and that's what I was saying to you before about it depends what the person tells you. If it is -- somebody says, "I'm having losses every week and it's nothing to do with me, I don't know where it's going", then, yes, it would be useful to look at but, again, I am not convinced it would actually show you anything if somebody is covering those losses

- 16 Q. When you were in the role of assisting, as you 17 put it, subpostmasters to get to the bottom of 18 things and you obtained ARQ data, would you 19 provide that data to the subpostmaster, as 20 a matter of course?
- 21 A. No, I wouldn't say I would provide it to them, 22 because I was there to help them, and they knew 23 what I was doing. I might show it to them, 24 I might, you know, have looked at the dates of 25 when they thought there were losses and it might
- 1 data, either a decision that you were making or 2 that another Investigator was making? 3

A. Well, I can't speak for other Investigators.

4 I -- as far as I'm concerned, where I thought 5 applicable, I always asked for ARQ data. 6 Depending on the, you know, irrespective of the 7 limits because, if I'm going to do a job, then 8 I need to have that information to hand.

> And even if it was a case where I didn't think ARQ data would help me, initially, I would still ask for it, because -- on the off-chance that I may have to do a committal bundle and it would just save time, I'd already have it.

14 MS PRICE: Sir, I have reached the end of one topic 15 and the next topic is a little lengthier. Would 16 now be a convenient moment for the morning 17 break?

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, certainly. So what time 18 19 shall we resume?

20 MS PRICE: Fifteen minutes. I think it's 11.15, so 21 that would take us to 11.30.

22 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: 11.30, then, yes.

23 MS PRICE: Thank you, sir. 24 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine.

25 (11.15 am) 55

1 show that a member of staff to was declaring 2 cash and it was showing a shortage in the 3 balance and then, two minutes later, you see the 4 cash has been altered and there's suddenly a nil 5 discrepancy; that's good evidence that somebody 6 is changing the cash declaration, and that would 7 be shared with the person -- with the postmaster 8 I was helping, yeah.

9 Q. You say at paragraph 85 of your statement that 10 you did not have direct contact with Fujitsu and 11 that all requests for ARQ data went through the Casework Management Team; is that right? 12

13 That's correct, yes. A.

Q. Is it also right that you recall there being 14 a limit on the number of requests which could be 15 16 made for ARQ data?

17 A. There was initially because I remember -- you 18 used to just wing off an email and say, "Can you 19 order me ARQ data for this office between these 20 dates", and sometimes it would come back and 21 say, "You'll have to wait for next month's 22 allocation". It wasn't a major problem but it 23 just slowed you down a bit.

24 Do you recall those limits ever impacting upon Q. 25 a decision as to whether or not to request ARQ

(A short break)

2 (11.30 am)

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3 MS PRICE: Hello, sir, can you see and hear us?

4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you, yes.

5 MS PRICE: Could we have on screen, please,

6 paragraph 71 Mr Wilcox's statement, it's page 24 7 of the statement.

You say here:

"This may be the time to clarify a point 10 made about Horizon bugs, errors and defects. Up until the time I left the Post Office in 2011 11 12 and therefore my time in the Security Team, 13 I was never given any indication of any failings 14 within the Horizon system."

15 Does it remain your evidence that you were 16 never aware that bugs, errors or defects in the Horizon system could cause apparent shortfalls 17 18 in a branch?

A. I have never heard of the phrase "bugs, errors and defects" until I was following this Inquiry and, as I said before, that paragraph is trying to impress that nobody had specifically called the team together or me together and said about possible problems with the system. As I said to you, I can't believe, I was there for years

- after things were happening and this wasn'tcommunicated.
- ${f 3}$ ${f Q}$. Could we have on screen, please, document
- 4 reference POL00172808. This is an email that
- 5 you have relatively recently been provided with,
- 6 from Mark Dinsdale, dated 12 March 2010,
- 7 attaching something, if we can scroll down,
- 8 please, called a "Security 4 Weekly Report".
- 9 You are one of a long list of recipients of this
- 10 email. What role did Mark Dinsdale hold at this
- 11 time, can you recall?
- 12 A. I can only go by Security Programme Manager, as
- 13 it says at the bottom of the form.
- 14 Q. What was the Security 4 Weekly Report?
- 15 A. You say I've received this recently, this --
- 16 I haven't seen this before --
- 17 Q. I understand --
- 18 A. -- as far as I'm aware.
- 19 Q. -- that it's been provided. If you need some
- 20 time to look at this, we can take it. Perhaps
- 21 if I show you the report itself, you can tell me
- 22 whether you recognise that.
- 23 A. Yes, certainly, yeah.
- 24 Q. The reference is POL00172809. Has this
- 25 document -- have you seen this recently?
 - 57
- 1 read them.
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right.
- 4 MS PRICE: Could we have back on screen, please,
- 5 document reference POL00172808.
- 6 This is the email that we started to look at
- 7 before the break, Mark Dinsdale, dated March
- 8 2010, to a long list of recipients, including
- 9 you. Just scrolling down, please, this is
- 10 attaching something called the Security 4 Weekly
- 11 Report. My question to you before was what was
- 12 the Security 4 Weekly Report?
- 13 A. I'm afraid I haven't got a clue. I mean, I'm
- 14 assuming it's a report that was sent -- well,
- 15 this looks like to the whole Security team so
- 16 it's just a blanket email that's been sent to
- 17 the whole Security Team. According to this,
- 18 I mean, it's sent out every four weeks, but
- 19 I can't recall this document at all, I'm afraid.
- 20 Q. So you don't recall receiving four-weekly
- 21 reports?
- 22 A. My name's on it, so I would have received it.
- 23 If you said to me it was a one-off, I probably
- would say, well, that's the reason. But,
- 25 I mean, if this came out every four weeks, I'm

- 1 A. This rings no bells whatsoever to me. I mean --
- 2 MS PRICE: Sir, I'm afraid we may need to take just
- 3 five minutes so that I can establish what's
 - happened in terms of the provision of this
- 5 document. Certainly Mr Wilcox should have the
- 6 opportunity to read it.
- 7 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course. Yes, well, okay,
- 8 well, we'll let Mr Wilcox have the document now
- 9 and, in any event, we'll take ten minutes and
- then we'll see where we go from there, all
- 11 right?
- 12 MS PRICE: Thank you, sir.
- 13 (11.36 am)
- 14 (A short break)
- 15 (11.56 am)
- 16 MS PRICE: Hello, sir, can you see and hear us?
- 17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.
- 18 MS PRICE: Thank you for the time, sir. The
- 19 document that I took Mr Wilcox to is one of four
- 20 documents that I plan on going to in my
- 21 questions, which were sent to Mr Wilcox
- 22 yesterday morning. Unfortunately, he hasn't had
- an opportunity to read those, they were on his
- emails, but he has now been shown those
- 25 documents and I understand has had a chance to
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- 1 not saying I didn't get it, what I'm saying is
 - I can't remember getting it.
- 3 Q. Could we have on screen, please, the report
- 4 itself, which is POL00172809, and this is dated
 - 12 March 2010. Again, looking at this and
- 6 having had a chance to read it, do you recognise
- 7 this format at all? Going, please --
- 8 A. No, sorry, I was thinking --
- 9 Q. Apologies.

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- 10 A. No, I don't recognise the format but I'm not
- 11 disputing that I received it.
- 12 **Q.** Going, please, to page 3 of this report.
- 13 There's a heading here "Security programmes for
- 14 products" and, under the fifth bullet point
- here, there is a reference to Horizon Online,
- 16 and it says this:
- 17 "Due to live service issues, the decision
- 18 has been made not to migrate any further
- 19 branches until these issues are fully
- 20 understood, necessary actions agreed and success
- 21 criteria met. In effect, the pilot
- 22 stabilisation period has been brought forward in
- order to ensure the quality before proceeding.
- 24 This will allow Fujitsu some time to resolve
- 25 issues, including a higher than expected number

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1 of screen freezes and resultant recovery 2 transactions."

> Do you recall being updated, whether by these kind of reports or otherwise, about issues to do with the Horizon system?

- 5 6 A. I would have liked to have had this earlier so 7 I could change my statement I made about knowing 8 about Horizon. Having said that, to answer your 9 question, no, I don't. But to take it a step 10 further, if I was reading this back in 2008 now, there is nothing in there that says it's 11
- 12 a chance it would cause losses. So, if I did 13 read it, it would be a case of, okay, the 14 Horizon -- or Fujitsu have found that there's 15 some sort of glitch, but it's not saying
- 16 anything about this may well affect losses. 17 Q. You've anticipated my question of whether this 18 would have caused you any concern if you had
- 19 read it at the time.

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20 A. No, and I think, when you talk to me a bit 21 further on, I think the same is going to apply 22 but, obviously, I need to clarify to you my 23 reason for this thinking, and, in that, it's the 24 fact that it doesn't mention anything about 25 losses. There are bound to be glitches in the

1 Q. Could we have paragraph 85 of Mr Wilcox's 2 statement on screen, please. That's page 27 of 3 the statement.

The last sentence in paragraph 85 says this:

"I have received witness statements from staff at Fujitsu regarding the integrity of Horizon and, I think, whether there were any faults with a specific office to be included in that statement."

What did you understand to be the purpose of obtaining such statements if, as you say, you understood the position to be, there were no faults with the system?

13 14 A. Witness statements from Fujitsu were requested 15 for a committal bundle. They weren't requested 16 just for a normal investigation, and I just --17 it was something that the business set up with 18 the contract with Fujitsu, probably we were 19 told -- is it a Section 69 statement, is it, or something -- about the integrity of a computer 20 21 system? Have I got the right one?

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Q. Well, I can't help you with that. 23 A. Sorry, well, whatever it was, there's a special 24 section that you have to have to say that the 25 computer system is working correctly and, as far 1 system and I would expect Fujitsu to tell us 2 every time there is one, so we can actually act 3 on that.

4 Q. So are you saying, in relation to your statement at paragraph 71, where you say you were never 5 6 given any indication of any failings within the 7 Horizon system, you want to modify that?

8 A. I stand by that paragraph, in the fact that 9 nobody called a special meeting or sat me down 10 or called a team meeting and said, "Look, this 11 is getting serious, we're getting all these complaints", or "We know there's a problem and 12 13 this is what we need to do".

> There are things like this and, as I said to you, I spotted one, I think, during somebody else's evidence, that, if I'd have seen it, then it would have allowed me to alter my statement and I would have clarified that I've never been told anything in the fact that, yes, but it doesn't mention anything about losses.

21 Q. So you want to modify it in the sense that you 22 weren't aware of failings that caused accounting 23 discrepancies or balancing issues; is that 24 riaht?

25 A. At the moment, yes.

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1 as I recall -- I mean, that was -- we were 2 just -- from day one, I think that was the 3 request that had to be part of a committal 4 bundle.

5 Q. Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 149 6 of Mr Wilcox's statement. That's page 39. You 7 say here:

"At no time from the installation of the Horizon system to the time I left in 2011, was I aware or made aware of any challenges regarding the integrity of the system. I neither heard of nor saw any official documentation or correspondence regarding such claims."

You've already made a correction to an earlier paragraph in your statement relating to challenges. In terms of this paragraph here, has your evidence changed, in terms of your awareness of any challenges regarding the integrity of the system?

21 I think I changed paragraph 151, which basically 22 is linked to 149, which would be to do with 23 Barkham. And, as I said to you previously,

24 I mean, even from Lee Castleton, I hadn't even

25 heard of that one. So no, I was unaware of --

report in the Barkham case and it was authored 1 there was -- nobody had officially told me that 1 2 2 we'd got a problem going on. by you and sent on 23 February 2011. The branch 3 Q. You say at paragraph 150, in the context of your 3 is identified three entries down on that first 4 4 page. The enquiry type is "Cash Loss", just awareness of challenges to integrity, that you 5 tried to recall your caseload over the period 5 controlling down a bit, please. The main 6 and did not consider you had any cases issued to 6 enquiry type is "Disputed Transactions", and 7 you where the integrity of the system was 7 going, please, to the bottom of page 2 of this 8 8 document, "Are there outstanding issues of brought into doubt. 9 9 a significant nature", and you say this: You then say you do recall: 10 "... being asked to sit in on an informal 10 "This case was raised following an ongoing interview where a subpostmistress was 11 dispute between Mrs Stubbs and Post Office Ltd 11 12 experiencing losses after her Post Office had regarding an outstanding debt of £28,829.05. 12 13 been moved into a Portakabin." 13 Mrs Stubbs is suggesting that Horizon is at 14 You've had the chance to go through those 14 fault when it was moved into a Portakabin during 15 15 renovations." Barkham post office branch documents now, do you 16 think that the Barkham case is the one that 16 You go on: 17 you're recollecting her because of the reference 17 "Along with Graham Brander, I met with 18 to Portakabin. 18 Mrs Stubbs on 17 January and she was convinced 19 A. Most definitely, yes. 19 that Horizon was at fault. She has retained 20 Q. Could we have on screen, please, POL00165852. 20 daily transaction logs for December to January 21 21 This is one of the documents that you've only in which time she lost £9,000 and is not 22 just had an opportunity to look at but it 22 prepared to release this until she can compare 23 essentially draws together your comments on 23 it to Fujitsu data. I have examined the Fujitsu 24 a case where you've had emails in the past 24 data and cannot see any indications of fraud. 25 relating to this case. It is a case closure 25 She has declared all the losses and has been 1 asking for assistance for some time. There is 1 a Portakabin, but ceased the moment she was a possibility (although she will not accept it) 2 2 suspended and somebody else run the office. She 3 that an assistant has been taking the money but 3 did have a clerk, so it could transpire she has 4 that puts the onus back on her to report it to 4 nothing to do with the losses. We are talking 5 the police. I have sent her the Fujitsu data to 5 about £28K, a potential flag case, with MPs 6 reconcile with her daily transaction logs but 6 involved. The subpostmaster is questioning the 7 from a criminal/fraud point of view there is no 7 integrity of Horizon. 8 scope for further investigation into criminal 8 "It looks like contracts/Chesterfield dealt 9 activity." 9 with this themselves, although did speak to 10 10 So this is a case where you were saying, at investigations. Once I received the paperwork 11 the point of case closure, that Mrs Stubbs was 11 from Nigel it looks like there are numerous 12 12 convinced that Horizon was at fault for the activities that have taken place, including 13 apparent shortfall; is that right? 13 somebody sending in an auditor who sat with the 14 A. That's what she was saying, yeah. 14 subpostmaster for half a day which clearly made Q. Could we have on screen, please, POL00004708, 15 15 matters worse. 16 16 "I don't know why we were never approached page 2 of this document, please. This is an email chain about the Barkham case. In the 17 17 to deal with this as a criminal investigation in 18 middle of the page, we have an email from Mark 18 the first instance, perhaps it was felt that it 19 Dinsdale to Andy Haywood and Iain Murphy dated 19 wasn't at the time. The auditor supposedly 20 14 September 2010. This email reads as follows: 20 witness all transactions for half a day and 21 21 witness Horizon being short, thereby "Andy/lain 22 "This is quickly turning into a bit of 22 corroborating her account and also now

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a potential witness for her (when in fact

clearly he cannot have witnessed everything),

and also begs the question as to why it was left

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a problem.

"This is a potential fraud where losses

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occurred when a subpostmaster moved into

'high and dry' at the time and Credence was not checked etc.

"This now leaves us in a very difficult situation. With the subpostmaster writing letters to Dave Smith, her MP and no doubt countless other people, this is high profile. She has also joined the subpostmasters fight to question the integrity of Horizon. As it stands no investigation has taken place by us, various intervention has probably complicated this, yet because it is a question of Horizon integrity we can't simply ignore it, or drop it, but probably have some difficult questions ahead of us in terms of why it has taken so long for us to consider this criminal if this is the course of action we take."

So this email is referring, isn't it, in terms, to the wider subpostmasters' fight to question the integrity of Horizon. So multiple people raising this issue, a high profile issue with MPs involved.

22 A. Correct, yes.

Q. The email above this is from Mark Dinsdale to
 lain Murphy on 17 September, and it says this:
 "lain, sorry I run out of time to ring you

of the next week or so in line with his own operational workloads. I've asked that he report back his findings in regards to the matter and we can [then] make an informed decision on any potential grounds for an investigation case."

So the email chain below, with the emails we've just looked at, was being sent to you, wasn't it --

- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. -- including the emails making clear that this
 was one of a number of challenges to the
 integrity of the Horizon system?
- A. Sorry, just -- no, the chain hasn't been sent to me, by the looks of it. All I've got is the email from Jason Collins that went to Mark
 Dinsdale and Nigel Allen. The rest of the things are --
- 19 Q. Well, we have here a top email with emails
 20 underneath, which appear to be part of a chain,
 21 don't they?
- A. I'm sorry, I didn't read it that way when
 I received this. I thought they were just
 emails that you've just put together. If you're
 telling me it's a full chain, then I can't argue

and I'm off on Monday.

"I think in a nutshell, we need to decide if one of the investigators who have the knowledge to sit in and sift through what has been provided along with the ARQ and go and see what the ex-subpostmaster is holding. I think this is going to be a very onerous task, but I can't see how we can let this one go considering she is questioning the integrity of Horizon.

"How do you want me to deal with this one?

Jason did offer some advice, but I think it has
grown to be a more serious problem now with what
has subsequently come to light, ie auditor
corroborating the subpostmaster's account."

Could we go to page 1 of this document, please. At the bottom of the page, please, we see lain Murphy to Mark Dinsdale copied to Jason Collins on 21 September 2010. There are further emails above this. Then, at the top of the page, we have an email to Mark Dinsdale and Nigel Allen, copied to you, from Jason Collins, and it is dated 8 October 2010. It says this:

"Mark/Nigel

"I've passed on the details to Mike Wilcox, who will review the information over the course

with you but I didn't read this as being the previous information that I had from it.

- Q. Well, just scrolling down the document, we havea number of emails, one on top of the other.
- A. Right, they all say, "Forward". Sorry, can you
 go back to the top one again, then. Okay,
 I accept that. It says, "Forward," yes,
- 8 correct, yeah.
- Q. Okay. So one of the emails being forwarded to you was the one making clear that this was one of a number of challenges to the integrity of the Horizon system and that there was an Auditor who had corroborated the subpostmistress's
 account
- 15 A. That's correct.
- Q. On any few, you were aware when you picked up
 this case, weren't you, that this was
 a challenge to the integrity on the Horizon
 system and that there were others?
- 20 A. Yes, yes, that would be true, yeah.
- Q. So why did you say in your statement that you
 were not aware of any challenges regarding the
 integrity of the Horizon system?
- A. I hadn't received this information at the time,which was why I said I'd have to make

1	an adjustment to it, as far as this email chain
2	is concerned. I mean, I was asked to look at
3	the case at Barkham to see whether there was any
4	evidence of a criminal offence. I've taken
5	Mrs Stubbs' side and said there is no evidence
6	of a whether or not there were challenges to
7	the system, which is what you're saying now,
8	this case was about me seeing if there any
9	this is my case closure is a month before
10	I left in February.
11	I'm not saving that I didn't do my job to

I'm not saying that I didn't do my job to the end but what I'm saying -- this was probably the last job that I ever took on. So anything after that -- I mean -- I think I've said to you in my statement, 2017, I worked in a sub office and I personally experienced a £1,000 loss. I put that money in out of my pocket. I didn't challenge Horizon. I still believed in it. Irrespective of whether people were challenging it, I still believed there was nothing wrong with Horizon.

21 22 Q. There is one last document relating to this 23 case, which I'd like to take you to, please, 24 Mr Wilcox. The document reference is 25 POL00106847. Going to page 3 of this document,

1 That is a "7", it's the ampersand above the 2 number "7". 3

Q. £7,000:

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"I will need to trace the auditor ... and discuss how this amount was disposed of or accounted for.

"She is more annoyed at the fact that she thinks she did not get the support from Horizon regarding checking her figures against the system. The main point is for the December trading statement when she only opened for about 2 weeks and still lost £9,000."

Over the page, please:

"I have agreed to obtain the full data from Horizon and look at the transactions for that period. I think this may help to convince her that Horizon is okay and it may be that someone has taken the money.

"It doesn't help that someone in her village used to help in designing Horizon and has suggested that Horizon is not perfect.

"She knows she owes for the office removal (£3,400 I think) and says she will repay when the office is sold.

"Will update you later ..."

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1 please, and starting about halfway down. This 2 is an email from you to Lin Norbury, Nigel Allen 3 and Mandy Talbot, dated 18 January 2011. Do you 4 remember Mandy Talbot?

5 A. I think she was civil litigation, possibly, in 6 Legal Services. Not sure I ever met her.

7 I didn't get involved in civil litigation.

Q. Do you know why she was involved in 8 9 correspondence about the Barkham Post Office, 10 which is the subject of this email?

A. I'm only assuming that, if there was no criminal 11 offence, I mean, the Investigation Team drop out 12 13 and it's dealt with by civil litigation for 14 recovery under the terms of the contract.

15 Q. You say this in your email:

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"I met with Mrs Stubbs yesterday and discussed the outstanding debt with her (this was not a suspect interview under caution).

"The £7,000 rem shortage on 25 May 2010 she was aware of as this was due to the rem being opened and checked by the auditor on the day. Due to a rushed despatch £7,000 was left out of the rem was it was resealed. She says this was sorted out by the auditor on the day and she wasn't aware that she still owed the £&000."

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1 Was this not a case where somebody whom you 2 interviewed explicitly raised the unreliability 3 of Horizon as a reason for the shortfall?

4 A. Yes, definitely.

5 Q. Why were you trying to convince Mrs Stubbs that 6 Horizon is okay?

7 A. Because I was never told anything different to 8 that.

9 Q. Was it suggested to you, by anyone from the Post Office, that you should convince Mrs Stubbs that 10 11 Horizon is okay?

12 A. Absolutely not. I mean, that's probably my terminology in the fact that I truly believed in 13

14 Horizon. I mean, I think I've -- initially, in

15 my witness statement I've said to you this

16 wasn't my case. I've gone from being not my

17 case to actually doing quite a bit of work on it 18 and not proving any criminal activity. And

19 I now do recall that she did have a gentleman

20 with her, I believe, he was a professor in 21 computers or something, I don't recall the bit

22 about he helped design Horizon and, to be

23 honest, he completely baffled me because it was

24 technicalities and that's really what I've

25 reported back.

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1 I've said it's not -- no evidence of 2 a criminal offence. I go back to my thing 3 I said this morning: just because Horizon showed 4 no criminal offence, it doesn't mean to say that 5 somebody wasn't taking money and covering it up 6 but ARQ data would not show you that. So I have 7 to stand by the fact that there was no evidence 8 of a criminal offence and I've referred it back 9 and closed the case, as far as the criminal 10 aspect is concerned.

Could we have back on screen, please, the case 11 Q. 12 closure report which is POL00165852. Back to 13 page 3, please.

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You say here that you examined the Fujitsu data and could not see any indications of fraud, which is what you've just referenced. Is that what you were looking for, indicators that Mrs Stubbs had committed fraud, when you were looking at the data?

20 A. Not the fact that Mrs Stubbs was committing 21 fraud, no, just anything at all. I was looking 22 for cash that had been redeclared, I was looking 23 for alterations to anything. As I say, it is 24 an exact copy of what Mrs Stubbs would have had 25 at the office. She could have looked at it on

1 a shortage of £200 from six months ago, where do 2 you start? The whole thing about, if you have 3 a loss of £200, you report it on the day and ask 4 for help: whether the Post Office gives you 5 help, that's -- I'm afraid I can't comment on 6 that but, if somebody comes to me and says "I've 7 lost £200 six months ago", I've got absolutely 8 no chance whatsoever of finding out where that 9 £200 has gone.

10 Q. Once it has been decided that there will not be 11 any criminal action taken against 12 a subpostmaster, would there be any effort made to get to the bottom of shortfalls by the Post 13 14 Office?

A. I can't comment. I'm assuming, once my case is 15 closed, it would go back to the Customer 16 Services or the Helpdesk, or whatever, and they 17 should continue to look at it. If they don't, 18 then that's pretty bad. 19

20 Q. Were you ever made aware of an issue which was 21 termed the receipts and payments mismatch issue?

22 A. I don't recall that, no.

23 Were you aware that there was a bug which could 24 impact upon balancing in a branch?

25 A. I wasn't, no.

a daily basis but after, I think, six weeks it 2 drops off the system. So I could have gone back 3 as far as I wanted to. But I think, as I said 4 before, the fact that there are losses shown, it doesn't tell you whether it's a genuine loss or 6 whether it's a loss because somebody has taken 7 the money or whether it was a loss because the 8 money has fallen in the wastepaper bin or it's 9 fallen down behind a shelf.

It doesn't tell you any of that but it also doesn't tell you if somebody has covered it up. So, even on a cash declaration, if there was £1,000 shortage and then two minutes later it's been altered, it may be that they've genuinely found that when they're recounting their cash. It may be that they've covered it up because they've stolen the money. That's why I don't totally rely on the ARQ data, unless it proves what the person is telling you.

20 Q. Did you look at this data with a view to trying 21 to get to the bottom of the shortfalls or was it 22 simply to establish whether or not there was 23 a criminal case to be pursued?

24 A. ARQ data would not have helped me get to the 25 bottom of the shortfalls. If I was looking at 78

1 Q. Were you aware that it was possible for Fujitsu 2 to alter a branch value at the counter of

3 a branch without the branch knowing?

4 A. I did not, until I watched Richard Roll's evidence two months ago and that was the only 5

6 true thing that's actually convinced me that 7 there was something wrong. Before that, no

8 idea, nobody told us. I thought it was a secure

9 system and common sense tells you, if somebody 10 is going to going and alter a computer system,

11 it's got to be controlled by a secondary

12 management, or something. But nobody should be

13 able to get in and have access.

14 Q. You have made a correction this morning to 15 paragraph 84 of your statement relating to the

16 duplication of transactions in ARQ data. Could

we have on screen, please, POL00167367. This is 17

18 one of the documents which you've only very

19 recently had a chance to look at, I'm aware of 20 that.

21 That's correct. Α.

22 Q. This is an email from Jane Owen to a list of 23 recipients, including you. It is blind copied

24 to Penny Thomas. It is dated 29 July 2010 and

25 the subject line is "Fujitsu -- Duplication of

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sorted in order.

Does this email assist you with recalling the duplication of transaction records issue?

- A. Right, without seeing it, I'd have said no.
 Having seen it, the only thing that rings a bell
 with me is saying this Tab 1, Tab 2, and Tab 3,
 and, if I really have to think back, I have
 a feeling that, whilst I'm copied in, it didn't
 affect me. I didn't have any outstanding ARQs,
 but I read this as affecting the ARQs only.
- Q. Just looking at the text of the email, it says:

"∆

"As you are aware, due to the recent problems with Fujitsu all ARQ requests have been suspended. I can now advise that the enhancement to delete duplicated records from the returns has been developed and is due to be tested by Fujitsu at the weekend.

"The attached spreadsheet highlights all requests as follows:

"Tab 1 -- duplicate entries. Fujitsu have supplied this list of requests that have been despatched to you but contain the duplicate data"

Then there are two other tabs. It says

honest I don't really know. I don't know in
 what context they would have been used.

- Q. Did this issue cause you any concern at all atthe time?
- A. No. As I say, I think I put in my statement, as
 well, that whenever I got ARQ data, I always
 sorted it anyway into either -- first thing
 I would do is check to see the users in the
 office, so that would show me that anybody that
 has used the computer properly meant to be at
 the office anyway.

And then, if I'm looking for -- say I'm looking for a £900 shortage, I would sort it so I've got all the £1,000 deposits, because that might show that it's been a keying entry, somebody wanted to deposit £100, the clerk has put an extra nought on, that gives you £900 shortage. It doesn't mean to say it would prove it, I'm back to my same argument, but there's

a chance that may have happened.

So I think I would have noticed -- and
I say, I don't think I had any involvement in
this but I would have noticed if there were
duplicate entries because they would have been

underneath there:

"I realise that you all have deadlines but we now need to be realistic in how we expect Fujitsu to deal with the outstanding requests. Can I ask that you all please look at your cases and advise the actual dates that you require the information by. Court cases and committals will need to take priority especially those on the 1st tab as the incorrect data could already have been submitted."

If entries were being duplicated, that would affect the integrity of the audit data, wouldn't it?

- 14 A. Yes, it would, yes.
- 15 Q. This was, on the face of things, an issue
 16 meaning that unreliable Horizon data had been
 17 produced in support of shortfalls which were
 18 being prosecuted, wasn't it?
- A. I mean, Fujitsu have pointed this out to us,
 which I would have expected them to do anyway.
 It does say they have supplied some lists
 already but, as I said to you, it depends in
 which context they're being used. But if
 they're being used in the context that -- that
- 25 they're being used to support a shortage, to be 82
- 1 Q. I would like to turn, please, to your
- 2 involvement in the criminal investigation and
- 3 prosecution of Susan Rudkin. You first became
- 4 involved in the investigation on 20 August 2008;
- 5 is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- Q. Do feel free to refer to your statement, if youneed to.
- 9 A. Yes. No, I'll take that. Yes, thank you.
- Q. You and your colleague, Gary Thomas, were on
 another enquiry in the Worcester area and you
 received a call asking you to attend the lbstock
- 13 branch?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 **Q.** Can you recall who it was who called you to ask16 you to attend?
- 17 A. I can only assume it would have been my line
 18 manager because I wouldn't -- nobody else would
 19 have any reason to tell me to, really.
- 20 **Q.** Can you recall what they told you about the case?
- 22 A. That there was an audit shortage and we needed
- 23 to -- I think -- yeah, I think there was
- 24 an audit shortage and we needed to attend to
- 25 make some enquiries.

- Q. The person who called you, you say in your 1 2 statement, told you about a conversation which
- 3 had already taken place between Colin Price and
- 4 Mr Rudkin, the subpostmaster of Ibstock branch;
- 5 is that right?
- 6 Α. That's correct, yeah.
- 7 Q. What were you told about this conversation?
- 8 A. I was told that they'd had a conversation,
- 9 and -- can I --
- 10 Q. Please do.
- A. Yeah, sorry. 11

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You start dealing with the case at paragraph 91, 12 Q. 13 and at 93 you refer to Colin Price. If we can 14 have that on screen, please, it's WITN05060100, 15 it's paragraph 93 on page 29. You say here:

> "I was informed [and this is in the context of you being telephoned to go out to the branch] that Michael Rudkin the subpostmaster, had spoken to my colleague Colin Price, who knew Mr Rudkin."

Then you say this at 94:

"I contacted Colin Price and was told that Mr Rudkin had said he would allow an interview to take place on his premises and said that his wife would cooperate fully with any

So part of that conversation in the back of my mind would have been about do I do a risk assessment on whether we go or not? And the fact that Colin knew Mr Rudkin, it was a case of deciding I didn't need a third person. It wasn't like we were possibly going to -- you know, it's not like you're looking for stolen pension books or stolen mail sacks or stolen -at the end of the day, it was going to be a normal investigation.

So I was quite happy, without -- other times we phone the police and we ask if there's any markers on the premises that we're going in and I decided not to do, you know, a risk assessment on that. So that's really why those questions -- or that's the conversation we had about it.

- So that was because Colin Price knew Mr Rudkin? 18
- A. I'm assuming, yeah. I mean, Leicester area is 19 20 way out of my patch. I mean, I don't think 21 I've -- well, I've been to Manchester before but
- 22 I've never been to Leicester.
- 23 Q. But, in terms of the relevance of this to you 24 not doing a risk assessment, are you saying you 25 didn't do a risk assessment because you didn't

1 investigation and would not require

2 a solicitor."

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Who was Colin Price?

- 4 A. Colin Price was an Investigation Manager in our 5
- 6 Q. What were you told about the conversation that 7 Colin Price had had with Mr Rudkin? Was it just 8 this, what he'd said about allowing an interview 9 to take place on his premises and that his wife 10 would cooperate fully and would not require

11 a solicitor?

Yeah, I think the reasoning behind that is the 12 A. 13 system changed over the years with regard to the 14 number of people that were required to do 15 an audit -- sorry, an investigation. Just after

16 I joined the Investigation Team, one of our

17 colleagues in Royal Mail, during a search of

18 a premises, got stabbed and fatally wounded, and

19 the business changed its risk assessment policy,

20 and said that if you were going to go to

21 a premises and you were going to do a search,

22 there had to be three people with you, so that

23 one could always stay with the suspect and you'd

24 have warning signs if you needed to leave the

25 premises quickly.

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1 think Mr Rudkin was a threat, because he knew 2

Colin Price?

3 A. I think so. Colin must have been -- it must 4 have been his area that he covered and Mr Rudkin 5 must have known Colin, yes.

6 Q. So looking at paragraph 94, you'd been told that 7 Mr Rudkin would allow an interview to take place 8 on his premises, his wife would cooperate fully,

9 and any investigation would not require

10 a solicitor. So when you went to the branch, 11 was that your expectation, that Mrs Rudkin would

be interviewed there, without a solicitor? 12

13 That's what I'd been told but, obviously,

14 I would have checked that when I arrived.

15 Q. Could we have on screen, please, your report for Legal Services, completed in this case. The 16 17 reference is POL00046485. We can see Susan 18 Rudkin's name at the top. Going to page 3, 19 please, of this document, we can see towards the 20 bottom your name and date of the report,

21 a little further down, please, 2 September 2008. 22 Going back a page, please, and towards the

23 top of the page, in the second paragraph, you 24 deal with what happened when you attended the 25 branch. You say:

"When we arrived at the office we introduced
ourselves to Mr Rudkin and then went into the
Post Office secure area where Paul Field was
compiling the audit. He handed me a signed
admission statement by Mrs Rudkin and informed
me that at the time the discrepancy in the
account was £43,856.89, which was mainly due to
a shortage in the cash of £43,761.17."

You describe here a signed admission statement made by Mrs Rudkin. Can we have on screen, please, the document to which you're referring. The reference is POL00045243. Is it possible to zoom out a little? Just looking at this document, the first thing to note here is that it is not, in fact, a statement made by Mrs Rudkin, is it? It's authored by and from the perspective of the auditor.

- 18 Yeah, I think I said it's a signed statement, 19 I didn't say it was a signed admission 20 statement, so signed statement of facts of what 21 happened on the day.
- 22 Q. We've just looked at it but we can look at it 23 again. Going back, please, POL00046485, second 24 page, please, second paragraph: 25 "He handed me a signed admission statement

1 would be a little short of money. When asked 2 how much she stated approximately £40,000. She 3 also stated that the subpostmaster Mr Michael 4 Rudkin did not know anything about the 5 shortage."

> Then there's a line underneath "This is a true and accurate reflection of what was said", and it seems to have been signed by both, although we can't see the signatures, Mrs Rudkin and the auditor.

A. Yeah. 11

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Q. On this account, Mrs Rudkin had said the Auditor 12 13 would find a shortage. Just to be clear, 14 because you have used the word "admission" to 15 describe this document, Mrs Rudkin, on the 16 Auditor's account, was not admitting to any 17 offence, was she? She was informing him that 18 there would be a shortage?

A. She was admitting that there would be 19 20 a shortage, correct.

Q. Can we have back on screen, please, POL00046485, 21 22 page 2, please. About a third of the way down 23 the page, in the fourth paragraph here, you say:

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24 "Later that day, after declining 25 representation, (GS001 copied at Appendix 'B'),

by Mrs Rudkin." 1

2 A. Apologies, I'm reading the next one down which says a signed -- it is an admission, it's 3 4 an admission that there's going to be money 5 missing at that stage.

6 Q. If you can just hold on there and wait for my 7 questions.

8 A. Sorry.

9 Q. If we can go back, please, to the note itself, 10 it's POL00045243. So this is not, in fact, a statement made by Mrs Rudkin; it's authored by 11 and from the perspective of the auditor, isn't 12 13 It. It starts "Myself and Kevin Watkins arrived 14 at the office".

15 A. Correct, yes.

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16 Q. The auditor wrote as follows:

> "myself and Kevin Watkins arrived at the office at 8.20 am. Following the necessary checks with the Helpline ..."

20 That word seems difficult to read but: 21 "... Sue Rudkin (wife of subpostmaster), 22 allowed us access to the secure area. 23 "Mrs Rudkin asked me if she could have 24 a word in the back office.

25 "When I entered she told me that the safe

I conducted a tape-recorded interview with Susan 2 Rudkin in the private residence at Ibstock Post Office."

> consented to a search of the premises and produced current bank details and statements, which have been forwarded to Ged Harbinson, Financial Investigator, who has an interest in this case."

Then you say:

16 "We also recovered paperwork from the Post Office including the record of shortages being 17 18 maintained by Mrs Rudkin."

Is it right, therefore, that you did not obtain any documentation, other than the signed Auditor statement, before interviewing Mrs Rudkin? Just to get the order of events clear.

24 Yes, correct.

25 Q. Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 96 of

Mr Wilcox's statement. That is page 29 of the statement.

You say:

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"Mrs Rudkin agreed to be interviewed on tape in her private residence and she did not require any legal representation which confirmed Mr Rudkin's conversation with Colin Price."

Could we have back on screen, please, Mr Wilcox's report for Legal Services, POL00046485, page 2 again, please. At the top of this page you refer to Mr Rudkin's conversation with Mr Price. So this is continuing from the previous page:

"... interview to take place on his premises and said that his wife would cooperate fully with any investigation and would not require a solicitor."

At the fourth paragraph on this page, you refer to conducting that interview at the private residence. You do not, in this report, refer to any conversation with Mrs Rudkin about whether she would consent to be interviewed. Did you, in fact, ask her whether she would agree to be interviewed before sitting down to the interview.

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acting as friend for his wife, but no one was 2 available. As it was her wish to have a friend 3 present, I took the unusual approach of allowing her son Dale to sit in if she was agreeable. 5 Unusual because Dale did not work for the Post 6 Office so although I 'broke' the Post Office Friend rule it was not a legal entitlement. I could of course have suggested the interview 8 9 was conducted at the police station where the 10 'Post Office Friend' rule was not applicable, 11 but I considered that to be unnecessary and over 12 the top as Mrs Rudkin was agreeable and 13 compliant."

> So you recall Mrs Rudkin wanting to have someone present interview with her; is that right?

A. I would say, yes, it must have been, but probably her husband had said to her "You need to have somebody with you", as well. I can't guarantee that, but that's from my reckoning. He was sort of trying to look after her the best he could. I think

23 Q. So Mr Rudkin tried to find someone from the Post 24 Office to attend but nobody was available. Why

25 didn't you put off interviewing Mrs Rudkin until

A. Yeah, I would have explained that I would need 1 2 to interview her regarding the alleged shortage 3 in the accounts, yes, and she agreed, yeah.

4 Q. So you didn't just take her husband's word for 5

6 A. Well, I couldn't force her to be interviewed, 7 no. I mean, I'd just say, "I need to interview 8 you, are you willing to do that here? I can do 9 that at your premises, if you're happy with 10 that". I'd have probably said to her at the 11 time, "Are you likely to want a solicitor?" And 12 she said no, which would have been confirmed on 13 the tape with the signing of the GS001.

14 Q. Could we have on screen, please, page 30 of Mr Wilcox's statement. At the top of this page, 15 16 which is a continuation of paragraph 97 of your 17 statement, you deal with the question of 18 representation at interview, and you say --19 Oh, apologies, I'm ahead of the monitor.

So at the top of the page, this is a continuation of paragraph 97, and you're dealing here with the question of representation at interview, in Mrs Rudkin's case. You say: "I seem to recall that Mr Rudkin had made

some phone calls to 'colleagues' with a view to

1 someone could be found?

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2 A. I think there was a large shortage, there was 3 an admission that the money was missing, she was 4 the suspect, and I had a job to do and it seemed 5 right to continue the interview there. I wasn't 6 stopping her from having anything. If she 7 wanted a solicitor, on the other hand, and we 8 couldn't get one, then I might have had no 9 option but to suspend it.

Q. You took the unusual step of letting 10 11 Mrs Rudkin's son sit in the interview with her 12 and you suggested here that the alternative was 13 to suggest that the interview was conducted at 14 a police station. Did you suggest that 15 alternative to Mrs Rudkin?

A. Absolutely not. I'm trying to explain to the 16 17 Inquiry why I made that decision.

Could we have on screen, please, POL00046546. 18 19 This is the legal rights document, the GS001 20 form, that you completed with Mrs Rudkin at the 21 start of her interview, so we see the date

22 there, 20 August 2008. Scrolling down, please, 23 you can see the name printed at the bottom and 24

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Looking at that form, this deals solely with

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1 2	•	the question of legal representation, doesn't it	1 2	Q.	Could we have on screen, please, the record of tape-recorded interview with Mrs Rudkin, the
3		•	3		reference is POL00050026. We can see the date
4	Q.	because it is a legal rights form? So it	4		of interview, 20 August 2008. The time is
5		doesn't deal with the Post Office policy on	5		1.00 pm, the duration 44 minutes and the
6		someone being accompanied by a Post Office	6		location, "Private Residence", Ibstock branch.
7		Friend, does it?	7		Scrolling down a little, please. There is
8	Α.	Not this form doesn't, no.	8		a summary of what you covered at the outset of
9	Q.	Which form does, because you referred earlier to	9		the interview:
10		a form that did refer to a Post Office Friend?	10		"Normal introductions including voice
11	Α.	Yeah, it's the same layout as this. I don't	11		identification, legal rights and caution. No
12		know the is it a this is a GS001, was	12		legal representation required. Son Dale allowed
13		this?	13		to sit in as 'friend'."
14	Q.	GS001, yes.	14		You described the step of letting
15	A.	1 I think it may be a 003, it's the same	15		Mrs Rudkin's son sit in on the interview with
16		format, it's got the same "Do you understand	16		her as unusual. Did you allow Mrs Rudkin's son
17		you're acting as a friend? Yes. Do you	17		to sit in because Mrs Rudkin appeared to need
18		understand you're not allowed to take part in	18		emotional support; was that the reason?
19		the interview? Yes. You may keep notes but	19	A.	No, I think it was more a case of because he was
20		they may not be shown to anybody without the	20		there and he was a family member, she would have
21		permission of the Post Office. Yes, yes, yes",	21		felt that she wasn't alone. I was just trying
22		and then they sign that.	22		to help out the fact that they were trying to
23		So that is also part of the that would	23		get a friend and I did my bit, the best I could,
24		have been in the same appendix as this form was	24		to get that dealt with, and not let it go on for
25		in my case file. 97	25		however long until we could agree that she could 98
1		find somebody. I think I've put "emotional	1		the Post Office and under the terms of the
2		support" in my statement, which is probably the	2		contract that should be made good."
3		best what I'm saying is it just felt like she	3		You ask:
4		had somebody with her.	4		"Is part if this because you haven't been
5	Q.	Did you ask yourself at the outset of the	5		putting the money in a make the losses up?"
6		interview whether Mrs Rudkin was in a fit state	6		Mrs Rudkin says, "Yes".
7		to be interviewed, emotionally?	7		You ask:
8	A.	I had no reason to doubt that she wasn't.	8		"Asks if trading statement is short would
9	Q.	Could we go to page 2 of this document, please.	9		you just inflate the cash to make that right?
10		Scrolling down, please, to 9.18 on the left. At	10		"Yes.
11		9.18, you show Mrs Rudkin the auditor's	11		"Also had bills for shop and house, gas and
12		statement and you ask her why it is short, so	12		electric."
13		why the branch is short.	13		Mrs Rudkin agrees.
14		Over the page, please. Four lines down, you	14		Going over the page, please, to page 4.
15		ask where the money has gone, and Mrs Rudkin	15		Towards the bottom 19.27. We see "GT" here,
16		says this:	16		that's not you, is it? That's Gary Thomas
17		"Well, because the business as a whole and	17	A.	Gary Thomas, correct.
18		the staff, the overheads and the business have	18	Q.	asking:
19		not really been doing what it should be doing.	19		"Trying to understand how the amount got so
20		I've had, you know, losses behind the Post	20		high."
21		Office counter and then coupled with trying to	21		Mrs Rudkin:
22		sort out the business and difficulties, I've	22		"Says that it started with the shortages and
23		just not know which way to turn."	23		not being able to make them good and when she
24		Then you say this, "MW":	24		did pay some back she would be short for bills
25		"Clarifies that there have been losses in 99	25		and then taking money in the hope of paying back 100

1		from takings."	1		Gary Thomas:
2		Then, over the page, please, towards the	2		"Clarifies that any difference between the
3		bottom of the page, if we can have page 7,	3		snapshot and paper record must be added on the
4		please. Again, towards the bottom of the page.	4		running total as well."
5		Apologies. Back to page 6, towards the	5		MW: "Asks if she ever made any shortages
6		bottom, and "MW" at the bottom here:	6		good."
7		"Clarifies the other option could have been	7		She says:
8		a balance snapshot to tell you how much it was	8		"Yes I tried the best way I could."
9		out."	9		MW: "What, the smaller amounts?"
10		This is in the context, isn't it, of	10		Mrs Rudkin: "Yes.
11		Mrs Rudkin having kept a running total, so she	11		"Confirms larger amounts would be added on
12		knew how much things were out by?	12		to the piece of paper. Discussion whether
13	A.	Correct.	13		anyone else could have taken any money and SR
14	Q.	Going over to the top of the next page, please.	14		says she believes it was just mistakes. Staff
15		Mrs Rudkin says:	15		were good with the paperwork."
16		"As time has gone on, I've had to do	16		Mrs Rudkin was in this interview telling her
17		a balance snapshot and check the figure and then	17		that her problems had started because she was
18		write that figure down so I know what to put	18		experiencing shortages, wasn't she?
19		in."	19	A.	, , ,
20		You explain that:	20		That she made these good for a time, from her
21		" any difference between the balance	21		own money, until she was no longer able to do
22		snapshot and her piece of paper would be	22		so?
23		a genuine shortage, which would have been added	23	A.	
24		on to the paper."	24	Q.	Because she had been making good shortages, she
25		She says, "Yes".	25	Ψ.	was short on money for the bills and, at that
20		101	25		102
1		point, she took money out for this reason and	1		already looked at:
2		she meant to pay it back. Is that a fair	2		"We also recovered paperwork from the Post
3		summary of what she was telling you?	3		Office including the record of shortages being
4	A.	Yeah, I think, yes, that's probably a fair	4		maintained by Mrs Rudkin."
5	Α.	summary, yeah.	5		So, after the interview, you found a record
6	0	So Mrs Rudkin may not explicitly have said that	6		of the shortages that Mrs Rudkin had been
7	۷.	the shortages she was experiencing were caused	7		experiencing; is that right?
8		by a fault in Horizon but she was quite clearly	8	A.	
9		telling you that her problems started with	9	Λ.	brought up the record, I asked her in the
10		unexplained losses, wasn't she?	10		interview where it was and she told me where it
11	Α.	I think, to be fair to Mrs Rudkin, in 2008, like	11		was and she produced it to me afterwards.
	A.			^	
12		me, she probably had never suspected anything	12	Q.	1 0 ,
13		wrong with Horizon. So that would be the reason	13		report as "a summary of the weekly balance
14		that she's never mentioned it and that's trying	14		discrepancies compiled by Mrs Rudkin".
15		to be fair, really. She did but, on numerous	15		Apart from attaching this documentation to
16		occasions, she said that they were errors, a lot	16		your report for Legal Services, what did you do
17		of them had come back, some of them they'd	17		with this document produced to you by
18		found. But I'll carry on when you when we	18		Mrs Rudkin?
19		get to the next part.	19	Α.	That would have been in Appendix B, with the
20	_	L'OUIG WO BOVO BOOK ON COTOON PLOCOS	20		evidence.
.)1	Q.	Could we have back on screen, please,	<u>.</u> .	_	Dil i ii ii ii ii ii
21	Q.	Mr Wilcox's report for Legal Services.	21	Q.	Did you make any attempt to establish the reason
22	Q.	Mr Wilcox's report for Legal Services. POL00046485, page 2, please. The penultimate	22		for the shortages listed on that document?
22 23	Q.	Mr Wilcox's report for Legal Services. POL00046485, page 2, please. The penultimate paragraph on this page towards the bottom,	22 23	Q. A.	for the shortages listed on that document? The right. Because of what she was telling
22	Q.	Mr Wilcox's report for Legal Services. POL00046485, page 2, please. The penultimate	22		for the shortages listed on that document?

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come back to audit data, if somebody says to you "I've been taking money and I've been inflating the cash each week to covering it up", audit data will not show you that at all. It will not prove anything either way.

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We've also got the fact that she was doing a balance snapshot. Now, if I can explain, the normal way of declaring your cash at night is you count the cash you've got, you put it into the Horizon system, and the system will tell you how much you're out by discrepancy, whether you're over or you're short. That will show on audit data, that will show that you've done that.

If, however, you go into the system and you ask the system how much money you should have, which is called a balance snapshot, you can then automatically add that money into the system, whether it's there or not, and that will not show a shortage. And this is what I was saying about it depends what somebody tells you about audit data. Audit data would have not helped me or Mrs Rudkin one bit in proving it.

The evidence I had was an audit shortage, I had an admission telling me that she'd been

I discussed whether it was practicable to call Mr Longman tomorrow, given that there had been, as I understand it, disclosure of hundreds of documents, which had a bearing on Mr Longman's evidence, at the end of last week, as I understand it.

Counsel to the Inquiry has only just begun to understand the significance of some of those documents and, in truth, he informs me that many of the documents disclosed are of relevance and need to be made public and the subject of questioning on Mr Longman.

Given where we are in relation to that, I've decided that it would not be fair to Mr Longman to ask him to consider many documents at extremely short notice, that's assuming even that they can be got to him before he begins his evidence and it would certainly be very unsatisfactory for him to be seeing documents as he is giving evidence.

So, as I've said, I've decided that Mr Longman's evidence should be postponed. That is regrettable, in one sense, in the obvious sense that we're going to lose a day tomorrow. However, it does make some sense that

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1 taking money in inflated cash and I had this 2 piece of paper from her supporting those 3 figures. That evidence was far greater than 4 I would have ever got from any Horizon data. MS PRICE: Sir, it is 1.00. May we take lunch at 5 6 that point? Could I ask that we have a slightly 7 shorter lunch, given the time we lost earlier, 8 coming back at 1.50, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yeah, fine. Yes. See you at 9 10 1.50. MS PRICE: Thank you, sir. 11 12 (1.01 pm) (The Short Adjournment) 13 14 (1.50 pm) Announcement re evidence of JON LONGMAN 15 16 MS PRICE: Good afternoon, sir. 17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. MS PRICE: Can you see and hear us? 18 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can. Just before you

21 tomorrow. 22 MS PRICE: Yes, sir. 23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I'm not sure whether it has yet 24 been communicated to anyone but, during the

begin, can I make an announcement about

25 lunch break, one of the counsel team and

Mr Longman's evidence be heard at about the same time as the evidence or the further evidence to be given by Mr Jarnail Singh, and so it's my intention that both those witnesses should be called either at the end of Phase 4, or perhaps even in Phase 5, when those parts of their evidence which overlap and/or dovetail can be examined more or less sequentially.

8 So that's an oral announcement. It may not 10 have been preceded by a written announcement. 11 But the effect of it is that there will be no 12 evidence from Mr Longman tomorrow and it will be 13 postponed to a suitable date in the New Year.

14 MS PRICE: Thank you, sir.

15 Shall I proceed with the questioning of 16 Mr Wilcox?

17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, please.

18 **MICHAEL JOHN WILCOX (continued)** Questioned by MS PRICE (continued) 19

MS PRICE: Mr Wilcox, we left off before lunch on the question of the use to which you put Mrs Rudkin's list of weekly discrepancies and the question of the use you consider ARQ data would have served in this case. Could we have on screen, please, paragraph 115 of Mr Wilcox's

1 1 statement, that's page 33, please. Could we now have on screen, please, the 2 2 At paragraph 115 you say this, in the document you reference at paragraph 115 of your 3 3 statement, that is POL00046505. context of the investigation into Mrs Rudkin: The recipient of this communication is 4 "As part of the investigation, I requested 4 5 Horizon ARQ data, and my report to Jarnail Singh 5 Jarnail Singh. Going over to the second page, 6 dated 29/1/2009 shows that there was nothing 6 please. We can see it's from you and dated 7 untoward regarding these figures." 7 29 January 2009. Going back to page 1, please, 8 8 There is no reference to you obtaining ARQ you say this: 9 data in your report to Legal Services. Is the 9 "Your original advice is noted on pages 14 10 only reason you think you requested any ARQ data 10 to 16 of these papers. Thank you. the document referenced here, POL00046505? 11 "Due to the admissions made by Mrs Rudkin to 11 12 (No audible answer) 12 the theft in excess of £43,000, I was instructed 13 Is that document the basis for you 13 to revisit the case and in particular the 14 understanding that you requested some ARQ data. 14 reported robbery which took place on 5 January I was asked to do some further investigations 15 2006, in which the business has stood a loss of 15 Α. 16 with regard to previous time to my actual 16 £58,000 (after appeal against culpability). The 17 investigation I was undertaking. But I think 17 confidential Police reports can be found at I would have ordered ARQ data anyway, pending 18 18 pages 26 to 31 of these papers." 19 a committal. 19 Then you say this: 20 Q. Could we have on screen, please, the summons for 20 "I requested Horizon data for this period 21 Mrs Rudkin at POL00046537. This is dated 21 (which showed nothing untoward) and also 22 12 February 2009. In the middle of the page 22 obtained bank disclosure authority for the last 23 there is the alleged offence, "Theft", and the 23 6 years' bank accounts." 24 period to which that charge relates, 1 January 24 You appear to be saying here that you 25 2007 to 20 August 2008. 25 requested Horizon data, not for the period of 109 1 1 January 2007 to 20 September 2008 but instead 1 relating to the robbery alone, or both that and 2 for the earlier period in 2006, when the robbery 2 another request? 3 took place; is that right? 3 That particular request, where I said I have 4 A. I was asked to continue investigations into the 4 examined ARQ data and it shows no anomalies, 5 previous robbery, so ARQ data was requested to 5 that was to do with the robbery, yeah. 6 look into that. However, because the ARQ data 6 Q. Okay. Is it right that you made no attempt to 7 7 wasn't considered necessary for the initial compare the list of weekly discrepancies made by 8 investigation, I would have asked for that after 8 Mrs Rudkin to any Horizon data to try to 9 the papers had been submitted, in case there was 9 establish the cause of the shortages? 10 A. Absolutely pointless. The -a committal. So I would have requested it but 10 11 it wasn't used to form my decision. 11 Q. I'm sorry, if you could answer my question, 12 Q. What is the basis for you saying you would have 12 please 13 requested it? There's no reference in your 13 A. Yeah, sorry. No, because it wouldn't have 14 legal report to it? 14 compared because there were no losses being A. Because it wasn't relevant. As I said, the fact 15 15 16 that Mrs Rudkin was covering up losses and Q. You have referred in a number of places to 16 17 inflating the cash, it would not have shown in 17 assisting subpostmasters and branches to the ARQ data. So I didn't consider it necessary 18 investigate unexplained losses. What did you do 18 19 to look at that because it wouldn't have given 19 to help Mrs Rudkin to get to the bottom of her 20 me any evidence either way, but I would have 20 unexplained losses? 21 requested it once the papers were sent in, in 21 A. I couldn't do anything because the ARQ data --22 22 case it was required as part of a legal bundle. once you start altering cash figures and 23 Q. So when you're referring, at paragraph 15, to 23 covering them up, you don't know whether it's 24 requesting Horizon data, at that paragraph, are 24 a genuine loss or not. There is absolutely 25 25 you referring to your request for the period nothing you can do if somebody is covering up

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losses. You've got nothing to go on at all.

Q. Going back, please, to the communication on screen with Jarnail Singh, three paragraphs up from the bottom. You say:

"I wrote to Mrs Rudkin requesting that she

attend a further interview regarding the financial situation prior to the admitted thefts. I have since been in contact with Richard Nelson solicitors (pages 33 to 35) who have notified me that Mrs Rudkin does not wish to attend a further interview as they have concerns over her deteriorating mental health."

You were writing this communication around two weeks before the summons for Mrs Rudkin was served. Did you feel any concern about Mrs Rudkin's mental health, in the context of the criminal proceedings being brought against her by the Post Office?

- 19 A. I think I've mentioned in there that she may not
 20 be fit to even go to court and that was my
 21 opinion. It wasn't my decision whether or not
 22 we served a summons.
- Q. It appears that after this communication, you
 contacted the police seeking their assistance to
 pursue investigation of the robbery in 2006.

Could we have on screen, please, POL00051258, starting on page 2, please.

This is an email dated 16 February 2009, from you to Gareth Goddard of the Leicestershire constabulary, and it reads as follows:

"Gareth, I have today served the summons on Mrs Rudkin in connection with her admissions to the theft of £43,000 from the Post Office last year.

"An analysis of her financial investigation over the last 6 years was undertaken and it was deemed that a further interview was required regarding the period prior to and leading up to the robbery at the office in 2006.

"Through her solicitor ... she declined the invitation to attend a voluntary interview due to her mental state and the fact that she would not remember events that far back.

"Would you please make enquiries as to whether any officers would be willing to meet with me to discuss the further evidence with a view to reinterviewing Mrs Rudkin regarding the state of the post office accounts at the time of the reported robbery.

"If not, we will just proceed with the theft 114

charges.

"Thanks for your help and any problems please give me a ring."

This email appears to have led to a response from the police on 25 March 2009. Could we have that on screen, please. It is POL00046522. This is an email from Detective Sergeant David Bacon, dated 25 March at 3.06 in the afternoon.

He says:

"Dear Mr Wilcox,

"I write to acknowledge your recent email to DS Gareth Goddard and to introduce myself as a future point of contact. I have discussed the robberies with Gareth at length and the exhaustive enquiries that were undertaken. There is no evidence at this time to support the fact that Susan Rudkin fabricated this offence in order to steal monies. Without fresh evidence I do not propose to reopen the offence after this amount of time; and decline the invitation to reinterview Mrs Rudkin.

"I propose that you continue as planned with the theft charges."

So the police were declining to reopen the investigation.

A. Yeah.

Q. Could we have back on screen, please,
 POL00051258. In the middle of the first page,
 there is an email from Gareth Goddard, also
 dated 25 March 2009 and timed around three hours
 before DS Bacon's email, which we've just looked
 at. This is him to a number of police officers
 copied to you. It says:

"Sir,

"Please could someone make contact with Mike Wilcox from the Post Office. He is sending these emails to me because he had my contact details from my days at Coalville CID. The post office he refers to was subject to two armed robberies, one of which I charged an offender with and he was convicted but the second one was believed to be an inside job by the subpostmistress. We never had any evidence to support this however and it remains undetected."

This leads to a further email at the top of the page, suggesting that you speak to DS Wheeler and there are some handwritten notes at the top. Are those made by you?

24 A. Yes, they are, yeah.

25 Q. They read:

"Will assist on voluntary interview. Will not arrest."

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So just to be clear, you were asking the police to arrest Mrs Rudkin for the purposes of interviewing her about the robbery in 2006; is that right?

7 A. Absolutely not. That's not what I'm asking them 8 for is their assistance and what he said to me, 9 "Yes, I'll come along and do an interview with 10 you", and it would have been under caution, if she attended, but not under arrest. I wasn't 11 12 asking for her to be arrested. She wasn't 13 a suspect in my opinion for that, unless the 14 police thought so.

> It was just a point of saying it's going to be a voluntary interview.

- 17 Q. That email at the top suggests there might have been some further discussion about whether or 18 19 not the police would be involved. Did the 20 police ultimately decline to be further 21 involved?
- 22 A. No, the last contact I got, according to this, 23 is they will assist me on a voluntary interview, 24 but, because of the letters I got from the 25 doctor about Mrs Rudkin, I just dropped it.

1 losses, as Mrs Rudkin did?

- 2 A. The situation I was in at the time the evidence 3 I had was an audit shortage. I had an admission 4 from Mrs Rudkin that she'd been disguising the 5 losses and she'd been taking money to pay into 6 her bank account and I'd had the piece of paper 7 from her showing what money was missing. I was -- it was not possible to investigate why 8 9 there were losses because of what she was doing 10 with the accounts, and I'm very surprised, 11 having seen this, that Mr Rudkin never mentioned
- 12 it to me at all. 13 Q. Is it right that, during your investigation into 14 Mrs Rudkin, you didn't make any enquiries of the 15 National Business Support Centre or the Horizon 16 helpline to see whether there were any calls 17 made from the branch, which might shed light on 18 the unexplained losses being experienced by 19 Mrs Rudkin?
- 20 A. That is true, and the reason for that is because 21 she told me that she did not ask for any help 22 and she knew she should have done but she 23 didn't.
- 24 Q. You appear in your statement to the Inquiry to 25 be casting some doubt on Mrs Rudkin's account, 119

Q. In terms of the enquiries you made in 1 2 Mrs Rudkin's case, relating to the theft charge

3 actually brought, you didn't make any enquiries

4 as to the history of the operation of the

Horizon system at the Ibstock branch, did you, 5

6 at the time?

7 A. Any history of the Horizon?

8 Q. Any history of the operation of Horizon and any 9 concerns or complaints regarding that. You 10 didn't make any enquiries about that at the 11 time, did you?

12 **A**. No.

13 Q. You are now aware, I think, from documents 14 provided to you by the Inquiry, for the purposes 15 of preparing your statement, that, had you done 16 so, you would have discovered that Mr Rudkin had 17 raised concerns about the operation of the 18 Horizon system on a number of occasions, prior 19 to the investigation of Mrs Rudkin, including 20 concerns about shortages, phantom transactions, 21 and balancing issues with the Horizon system in 22 2004 and 2005; is that right? 23 A. I've seen that since, yes.

24 Q. Looking back, do you think you should have made 25 such enquiries where someone had unexplained

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1 in her statement to the Inquiry, that she called 2 the helpline when she was experiencing

3 difficulties with the system; is that right?

4 A. That's correct. That's not what she told me during the interview, yeah. 5

6 Q. You have no knowledge yourself, do you, of 7 whether Mrs Rudkin called the helpline or not, 8 because you didn't ask the question?

A. Because she told me she hadn't. That's correct. 9

Q. Why is it, therefore, that you seek to cast 10 11 doubt on what Mrs Rudkin says about the fact of 12 calling the helpline?

13 Sorry, can you say that again?

14 Q. Why is it, then, that in your statement you seek 15 to cast doubt on what Mrs Rudkin says about 16 having called the helpline?

17 A. I think, when I read that statement, I'm very 18 upset at the fact that I was accused of denying

her legal representation because that just 19

20 didn't happen. When I reread the tapes and the 21 taped summary, she told me that she did not ask

22 for help. So I'm suggest -- I'm not suggesting,

23 I'm giving her the benefit of the doubt that

24 maybe she didn't remember what happened on the

25 day correctly.

- Q. Are you now aware that Mrs Rudkin's conviction
 was quashed by Southwark Crown Court on
 7 December 2020?
- 4 A. Iam.

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Q. At that hearing, it was accepted by the Post
 Office that the reliability of Horizon in her
 case was essential, and this was said by counsel
 for the Post Office appearing at that hearing to
 be because there were a number of calls from her
 branch to the Helpdesk relating to Horizon and
 balancing issues.

Could we have paragraph 146, please, of Mr Wilcox's statement on screen. That is page 38, please. You say here:

"Prior to the original court proceedings of Bates v Post Office I was contacted by Post Office Limited regarding my recollection of this case and it was agreed that it did not fall into the category of Horizon reliability."

Why did you feel the need to include that in your statement?

- A. Because I think I was surprised that the case
 was part of that initial batch of offices,
 because I didn't consider -- I thought the whole
 trial and the whole Inquiry was about being
 - were stealing money and they were admitting to it, and obviously then you couldn't blame the computer system.

There were also people that had unexplained losses and, again, you couldn't blame the computer system. In those days, prior to Horizon, you could phone up and say, "I've run out of money, can I have some more, please?" and nobody would know because it was all paper based. You could go two or three years in between audits and you could be using money all the time and nobody would know.

I was just trying to make a point that, at the introduction of Horizon, it's not possible to do that. So if people were taking money prior to Horizon, there's no reason why that shouldn't have stopped and I'm just trying to make a point that, because it was easier to get caught, I would have -- to be honest, I would have expected it to increase.

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have expected it to increase.

Q. Setting aside anything you have read or heard since you ceased being an Investigator for the Post Office, did you personally have any knowledge at the time of the numbers of prosecutions being brought by the Post Office

- 1 reliant on Horizon data. I wasn't reliant on
- 2 Horizon data when I first wrote the case. It
- 3 was purely based -- there was nothing to prove
- 4 through Horizon, so it was based on the other
- 5 evidence that I'd obtained.
- 6 Q. Is it the case that you are still disbelieving
- 7 of subpostmasters, even after their convictions
- 8 had been overturned?
- 9 A. When the convictions had been overturned, I --
- 10 if we're talking about this case in particular,
- 11 I believe that what she told me on the day was
- 12 correct.
- 13 Q. You deal at paragraphs 163 to 167 of your
 statement with prosecution numbers. What are
 you referring to when you say:

"There has been a great deal of discussion
 regarding the increase in prosecutions since the
 installation of Horizon."

- A. Yeah, um, I've been following the Horizon
 Inquiry for a couple of months now and there
 just seemed initially to be discussion around
 the increase since Horizon. I was just trying
 to point out that, even prior to Horizon, people
- 24 were stealing money, whether it was postmasters,
- 25 whether it was staff. There were people that 122
- 1 before and after the introduction of Horizon?
- 2 A. Not before the Inquiry, no.
- 3 Q. You say at paragraph 153 of your statement that
- 4 you understand, through following the Inquiry,
- 5 that Fujitsu was withholding information from
- 6 the Post Office regarding known bugs, errors and
- 7 defects. Is the basis for that understanding
- 8 the evidence you have now watched given by
- 9 Richard Roll, referenced at paragraph 169 of
- 10 your statement?

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- 11 A. I initially read the book by Nick Wallis and,
- 12 you know, put me over the edge, but Richard
- 13 Roll's evidence has been a complete eye-opener.
- 14 Q. You expressed some anger at Fujitsu at
- 15 paragraph 168 of your statement. You do not
 - seem to express any anger towards the Post
- 17 Office. Do you feel any?
- 18 A. I think -- from what I understand, I don't think
 - the Post Office actually were told by Fujitsu
- 20 until about 2011, which is the time I left.
- 21 That may be wrong but I've got nothing to do to
- defend the Post Office at all. I'm here at the
- 23 Inquiry to defend the way that I conducted the
- 24 investigations.
- 25 Q. Having had the opportunity to reflect on

- 1 matters, do you feel any responsibility for what 1 2 happened to Mrs Rudkin? 2 3 A. I've had a long think about this and would 3 4 I have done anything different? I think the 4 5 problem I've got is Mrs Rudkin was inflating 5 6 cash figures, she was taking money from the Post 6 7 Office, even though she wasn't making losses 7 8 good, and all that happened way before I got 8 9 involved. I cannot take responsibility for 9 10 that. I only became in -- once I became 10 11 involved, I purely worked on the evidence that 11 12 I had. 12 13 MS PRICE: Sir, those are all the questions that 13 I have for Mr Wilcox. Do you have any before 14 14 I turn to Core Participants? 15 15 16 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: No, thank you. No. 16 17 MS PRICE: It appears that there are no questions 17 from Core Participants for Mr Wilcox, sir. 18 18 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Thank you, Mr Wilcox, for 19 20 coming to give evidence to the Inquiry and for 20 21 answering a good number of questions. I'm 21 22 grateful to you. 22 23 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 23 24 24 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So that concludes Mr Wilcox's 25 evidence. Do you want a short break before 25 125 1 Q. I understand that, before we start, you want to 1 2 2 make some corrections to your witness statement; 3 is that right? 3 4 A. If possible, yes. 4 5 5 Q. So if you just take us through what corrections 6 you would like to make. 6 7 A. Right, okay. First one is paragraph 20, on the 7 8 second page of paragraph 20, eight lines down, 8 9 the sentence starts with, "If any admission was 9 10 made to the Auditor either on arrival or during 10
- the audit", and it currently says "they would 11 12 write this down", I just wanted to insert the word "would usually write this down" in case it 13 14 wasn't 100 per cent time that they did. 15 The next two are exactly the same wording 16

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for paragraph 45 and 56, and it's at the end of each of those paragraphs, which makes it a little bit easier, and I wanted to just add: "... were the now known bugs, errors and

defects apparent and identifiable in any of the ARQ data we received."

The fourth one is paragraph 81, and it's a name error there. In my statement I've put, at point (i) "Graham Brander's witness statement in support for an application for a restraint

Mr Thomas starts giving his evidence?

MS PRICE: Maybe five minutes, sir, just so we can

bring the next witness in.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: That's fine. I'll remain where

I am, so to speak, but I'll just turn myself off

for five minutes.

MS PRICE: Thank you, sir.

(2.18 pm)

(A short break)

(2.23 pm)

MS MILLAR: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and

hear us?

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you, yes.

MS MILLAR: May we please call Mr Thomas?

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.

GARY REECE THOMAS (sworn)

Questioned by MS MILLAR

MS MILLAR: Can you confirm your full name please,

Mr Thomas?

A. Yes, Gary Reece Thomas.

Q. You should have in front of you a witness

statement dated 4 October 2023. If you turn to

the last page of that, which is page 36, is that

your signature?

A. It is, yes.

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order". That should actually be Graham Ward,

not Graham Brander, I believe, as he was

a financial -- FIU.

Q. Thank you.

A. The final one is on the final paragraph,

I think, at 119, and four lines from the bottom,

the sentence starting "Again". "Again,

compensation worries appear to be their primary

focus", and then I'd like to omit between "yes"

and "appropriate".

11 Q. So you'd like to remove the words --

A. "... yes, whilst I do think this would be 12

13 appropriate."

14 I'd like to omit that, yes.

15 Q. Those are all the corrections you'd like to

16 make?

A. That's right, yes. 17

Q. Having made those corrections are the contents 18

19 of your witness statement true to the best of

20 your knock and belief?

A. Yes, they are. 21

22 Q. For the purposes of the transcript the URN is

23 WITN09160100.

24 My name is Megan Millar and, as you know,

25 I'll be asking you questions on behalf of the

- 1 Inquiry. I'm going to ask you questions about
- 2 issues which arise from Phase 4 of the Inquiry,
- 3 focusing on your involvement in the Security
- 4 team and, in particular, your involvement in the
- 5 case of Mr Julian Wilson.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. So, first, I'd like to ask you some questions
- 8 about your professional background. Is it
- 9 correct that you joined the Post Office in 1985
- 10 as a counter clerk?
- 11 A. That's correct, yes.
- 12 Q. Following that, you were an assistant manager
- and a branch manager before joining the Security
- 14 Team in 2000?
- 15 A. That's right, yes.
- 16 Q. You joined the Security Team as a Security
- 17 Manager; is that correct?
- 18 A. That's correct, yes.
- 19 Q. Is it correct that you then left the Security
- 20 Team in 2012?
- 21 A. It was around 2012, yes. Yeah, I think it was
- around maybe the March 2012, something like
- that. I did take my personnel papers so I can
- 24 confirm exactly if you need me to.
- 25 **Q.** After you left the Security Team, you became
- 1 main post office in Bournemouth in Albert Road.
- 2 I had an office that I worked out of from there.
- 3 Q. Is it correct that Geoff Hall was your line
- 4 manager when you first joined?
- 5 A. It was, yes.
- 6 Q. Later, your line managers included Tony Utting,
- 7 Andy Haywood, Dave Posnett and Jason Collins?
- 8 A. Not -- Dave Posnett -- sorry, Dave Pardoe,
- 9 I think you mentioned, and Andy Haywood they
- 10 weren't my direct line managers, they were more
- 11 Senior Managers. Jason Collins, yes. Dave
- 12 Posnett -- we did sometimes go through a change
- of some people might be in for a few months on
- 14 temporary promotion or something but,
- 15 predominantly, it started with Geoff Hall and
- 16 ended with Jason Collins.
- 17 Q. Thank you. Was your line manager located in the
- 18 same place as you?
- 19 A. No, Geoff was located in Taunton and Jason was
- 20 initially located in Croydon and then moved to
- 21 a different part within London.
- 22 $\,$ Q. Is it right that, during the time you were in
- 23 the Security Team, you remembered the Heads of
- 24 Security being Tony Marsh, then followed by Phil
- 25 Gerrish, Tony Utting and then John Scott?

- 1 a Network Transformation Field Change Advisor;
- 2 is that correct?
- 3 A. That's correct, yes.
- 4 Q. Can you just explain briefly what that role
- 5 entailed?
- 6 A. The Network Transformation role?
- 7 Q. Yes, please.
- 8 A. The Post Office was going through a complete
- 9 transformation of its network, where I think,
- 10 again, it was probably another cost cutting
- 11 exercise, where they were looking to change the
- 12 sub post office network into what they called
- 13 mains post offices or local post offices. They
- were trying to modernise it by taking down the
- 15 old-fashioned screens and trying to get
- 16 postmasters to convert to the new model, and
- that was the type of work I was undertaking at
- 18 that time.
- 19 Q. Is it correct that you then left the Post Office
- 20 in 2017?
- 21 A. I did, yes. I took redundancy.
- 22 Q. So moving on, please, then to the structure of
- 23 the Security Team. When you joined the Security
- 24 Team, where was your office located?
- 25 **A.** My office was located, when I joined, in the
- 1 A. That's right, yes.
- 2 Q. Who was the Head of Security when you left the
- 3 Security Team?
- 4 A. It was John Scott.
- 5 Q. Could we please turn to page 2 of your witness
- 6 statement, the reference is WITN09160100 and if
- 7 we start at paragraph 4 of the bottom of the
- 8 page. So you say:
- 9 "During my time in the Security/Fraud Team,
- 10 I found all of my colleagues and Direct Line
- 11 Managers (Area Team Leaders) to be both
- 12 competent, professional and approachable. I did
- 13 not necessarily feel the same or hold the
- 14 respect of all of the Security Senior Managers
- in my final last few years within the team and
- 16 before I left."
- 17 Who are the Security Senior Managers you
- 18 were referring to there?
- 19 A. Predominantly just one, really, which was John
- 20 Scott. I don't like to mention the other ones,
- 21 who were probably his understudies, because
- 22 I think -- how can I put the word -- they were
- just his whipping men.
- 24 Q. You then go on to say:

25 "The reason I say this is the firsthand

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experience I witnessed with the treatment of Security Team colleagues and managers in the last few years I worked there. They appeared to not welcome any challenges or questions raised from team members with regards to any decisions or changes made or planned to introduce."

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Did that extend to the way in which criminal investigations were conducted?

- A. Not necessarily, although I can't be specific. It's quite a long time ago, and I know everyone has used that comment pretty much through this Inquiry, but it was just various things that would happen, and if you -- no one sort of wanted to make a challenge because they felt that they were going to put their head above the parapet and then replications (sic) might happen afterwards. So it seemed like everyone was remaining quiet at times, I think, is probably
- 19 the word to sav. 20 Q. So can you provide us any specific examples? 21 A. There was a couple. I mean, one personally 22 towards myself was Mr Scott wanted to -- and I'm 23 not saying it was a bad thing at all, but he was 24 trying to encourage everyone within the Security 25 Team, Investigation Managers, whatever you call

1 working group in our various locations -- and 2 I think we've heard I was in Bournemouth, Graham 3 was in Southampton, Mike was in Plymouth, we 4 were dotted around --

5 Q. Can I just ask you to slow down a little just 6 because we've got a stenographer. 7

A. Sorry. So we were dotted around the country but we were all in our hometowns, if you like, home locations. Some of us worked outs of offices, 10 which I found fine, others were what I call LIW, 11 so they could work from home.

I'm trying to slow down again.

Now, the time came where Mr Scott decided that he didn't want that to happen and that he was going to introduce what he called "hub working", and I was told, along with Mr Wilcox and Mr Brander, et cetera, that we would now be going to a converted -- I think the best way to describe it is a shed that they were converting -- a shed, a Romec shed, that they were going to turn into an office for us to be office based in the Swindon Stock Centre.

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22 23 Q. Sorry to interrupt you but did you challenge 24

25 Oh, yes. It was mainly being driven, at that Α.

it, to study specifically for a degree in investigation-type work. It was something that I wasn't probably academically able to do and something I didn't really want to do and then find I'd failed and, et cetera, et cetera.

So it was something that I wasn't really keen to do. I think it was through the University of Leicester, or somewhere like that.

Now, some of the -- I actually said "No, I don't want to do that". Some of my colleagues, I think, shall we say, didn't want to obviously cause confrontation, so agreed to do it and subsequently ended up dropping out of it so there was probably undue costs that they should have -- you know, wouldn't have incurred had they not have dropped out. So that was one example. I won't witter on too long because I tend to do that.

The second thing was more personal again but also linked to my colleague who was here earlier this morning, Mike Wilcox, also Graham Brander, and other members of the team, probably nationally, as well, where Mr Scott decided that it was going to be the best way of working now where, after eight or nine, ten years, we'd been 134

time, by Dave Pardoe and that's why my first comment was -- I think it was being introduced via Dave Pardoe but at the request of John Scott.

The request was that my colleague, as in Mike, who was in here this morning, would have a 300-mile round trip from Plymouth to Swindon every day, at his own cost and at his own time and, basically, he couldn't fulfil that and the question was, "Well, that's where the job location will now be".

Myself, Graham and another gentleman called Lester Chine, we decide that we would obviously -- how can I say, not let Mr Scott win and we would go. We had a requirement we had to be in Swindon at least three days a week. Obviously, the other two days we'd probably be out on investigations and enquiries, et cetera. So it was basically an office based in Swindon, which I managed to do for several months, at our own cost or shared costs, we'd try and pick each other up, if we could to try to keep those costs down.

But Mike, unfortunately, had to leave the business because, in my eyes, it was 136

- 1 a constructive dismissal. He had no option --2 he had no option.
- 3 Q. Okay, so we'll move on then to the training you 4 received when you joined the Security Team.

When you joined the Security Team, did you have any experience of conducting criminal investigations?

8 A. No.

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- 9 Q. Did you have any knowledge of criminal law?
- 10 A. No.
- Q. After you joined the team, it's correct that you 11 12 went on a residential training course, which
- 13 lasted around three weeks?
- A. As I recall, about three weeks, yes. 14
- Do you remember who delivered this training? 15 Q.
- 16 A. I do. It was two gentlemen. The first one
- 17 I don't remember so much, although I remember
- 18 his name. It was a guy called Andy Brown and
- 19 I think he was a Royal Mail based Investigation
- 20 Manager, and the second one was a guy called
- 21 Mick Matthews.
- 22 **Q.** Is it right, then, that the topics you remember
- 23 being covered included the PACE Codes of
- 24 Practice, interviews, searches and the retention
- 25 and storing of exhibits?

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- 1 investigations or just shortly around the same 2 sort of time.
- 3 Q. Did you receive any training on Horizon in the 4 residential training course?
- 5 A. Not on the residential training course, no.
- 6 Q. After your initial training, did you shadow
- 7 anyone in the Security Team before conducting
 - a criminal investigation on your own?
- 9 A. Yeah, I didn't go straight into the -- straight
- to what we call first officer work. I would 10
- 11 have shadowed Geoff Hall, as my line manager,
- 12 and obviously more experienced people like Mike
- 13 Wilcox, for example, who would have been in the
- 14 job at least a year or two before me.
- 15 Q. Did you receive any further training or
- 16 refresher training in the further 12 years you
- 17 were a member of the Security Team?
- Very minimal. I think a lot of it would have 18 Α.
- 19 been either email based, or I remember going on
- something called a defensive driving course, 20
- 21 where it was as if we were going -- well, it
- 22 seems a bit strange going after someone but, if
- 23 you're with the case -- there was different
- 24 forms you could have, tape recorded or video
- cameras or CCTV, surveillance -- that's what I'm 25 139

A. Yes.

- 2 Q. You explained in your statement that you were 3 tested to ensure that you passed the necessarily
- 4
 - levels of competence; is that right?
- 5 A. That's right, yeah. We had a set of -- as
- 6 I remember, a set of books, pre-course books,
- 7 I think, and that was to sort of -- how can
- 8 I say -- give us a very basic start before we
- 9 got on the course and then there was a test at
- 10 the beginning of the course, I think, and a test
- 11 at the end of the course and a passmark.
- Do you remember this course including 12 Q.
- 13 disclosure?
- A. Specifically, if I'm honest, no, but I'm sure it 14
- did. It was a bit of a -- yeah, I think we'll 15
- 16 go on to that a little bit later.
- 17 Q. We will. Do you remember the Horizon system
- being rolled out around the same time that you 18
- 19 joined the Security Team?
- 20 Yes, I don't specifically again recall but I was
- 21 a branch manager in Southampton at the time.
- 22 We'd previously operated what was called an ECCO
- 23 computer system and I remember Horizon coming in
- 24 around that sort of time. I can't recall if it
- 25 was introduced before I left to join

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- 1 looking for, surveillance type work.
- 2 Q. Moving on, then, to the guidance which was
- 3 available to you, relating to the conduct of
- 4 criminal investigations. If we could look at
- your witness statement again at page 5. This is 5
- 6 a list of policies and guidance documents you
- 7 were provided with by the Inquiry, and that goes
- 8 on, if we go down the page, over to page 6 as
- 9 well.

10 If we go down to your paragraph 12, you say

11 that:

- 12 "In respect of all the numerous documents
- 13 I have accessed, I can say a few look familiar,
- 14 a few were more Royal Mail specific and some
- 15 documents I have never seen or recall as I had
- 16 already possibly left the Security Team when
- 17 they were produced and/or circulated."
- 18 Where were the policies kept so that Post 19 Office employees could access them?
- 20 A. As I vaguely remember there was something called
- 21 an intranet site and I think there was
- 22 a Security Team database, and whether they were
- 23 the same thing I'm not sure, but there were
- 24 things that you were able to get on to, to

25 obviously access these various policies and

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(35) Pages 137 - 140

1 things.

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- 2 Q. That statement can come down. Thank you.
 - Did you have access to the Royal Mail Group policies?
- 5 A. I probably did, if I'm honest, especially at the
- 6 start because, obviously, we were part of the
- wider team of the Royal Mail Group Security. 7
- 8 You go on to say at paragraph 15 that any
- 9 legislation, policies or relevant changes would
- 10 have been communicated to you. Do you remember
- how they would have been communicated to you? 11
- 12 Again, it would have possibly been through A.
- 13 a circular or an email attachment or referring
- 14 you to go to one of these sites to look at it.
- Q. So turning then, please, to casework compliance. 15
- 16 One of the documents provided to you by the
- 17 Inquiry was a document titled "Casework
- 18 Management", and there are two versions of that
- 19 policy, one from March 2000 and one from October
- 20 2002. You say in your statement at paragraph 34
- 21 that you would have had no reason to doubt you
- 22 were provided with those documents; is that
- 23 correct?
- 24 A. Yes
- 25 Do you recall that these documents set out the

- 1 One of the attachments explains the information
- 2 which should be included in the offender report.
- 3 So could we, please, have POL00118101 on screen.
- 4 So we can see it's titled "Guide to the
- 5 Preparation and Layout of Investigation Red
- 6 Label Case Files, Offender Reports and
- 7 Discipline Reports". Could we go to page 10,
- 8 please, the bottom of page 10.
- 9 So this section then, you can see, is titled
- 10 "Post-interview", paragraph 2.15 says:
- 11 "Details of failures in security,
- 12 supervision, procedures and product integrity."
 - It says:

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14 "This must be a comprehensive list of all 15 failures in security, supervision, procedures 16 and product integrity and it must be highlighted 17 bold in the report. Where the investigator

18 concludes that there are no failures a statement 19 to this effect should be made and highlighted in

20

So what did you understand failures in product integrity to include?

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- 23 Α. Well, certainly now, Horizon itself. But at the
- 24 time, it would have been, I guess, our clients
- 25 more than anything, I guess, product integrity,

- 1 need for two separate reports, one which would
- 2 go to the discipline manager, which was known as
- 3 the conduct or discipline report, and a second
- 4 report, known as the offender report, which
- 5 would go to the Legal Services team?
- 6 Α. I do, yes.
- 7 Q. What did you understand the purpose of the
- 8 offender report to be?
- The offender report would be -- how can I say --9 A.
- 10 the whole picture. Everything including any
- 11 exhibits or anything that we referred to during
- 12 the interview, any failings we may have found,
- 13 and I think, at the end, we put a summary if
- 14 there was anything we felt would -- it was like
- 15 a piece in bold that we would write, which was
- 16 to do with anything that may have undermined the
- 17 investigation possibly, something like that.
- 18 Q. You've pre-empted my question.
- 19 A. Sorry.
- 20 Q. Not at all. So the Inquiry also provided you
- 21 with a number of emails, dated 2011, from David
- 22 Posnett, relating to casework compliance. So is
- 23 it right that you remember the introduction of
- 24 compliance checks?
- 25 A. I do, yes.

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- 1 as to whether there was anything that would
- 2 impact on those. But I can't really recall at
- 3 the moment.
- 4 Q. So when you say now that you would appreciate it
- 5 would be Horizon at the time, would you not have
- 6 thought that would have included Horizon issues?
- 7 No, because, again, the message came out that
- 8 there was -- and I don't know where the message
- 9 came from because, again, everyone said the
- 10 same, but line managers, colleagues, senior lead
- 11 team manager, the business, was that we had
- 12 somebody who would give a witness statement from
- 13 Fujitsu that all the cases seemed to suggest
- 14 that there was no product integrity with
- 15 Horizon. I now know that that's not the case.
- 16 Q. Would you have considered it to include
- 17 allegations of problems with Horizon?
- A. Again, it should have done because I should have 18 19
 - taken those a bit more seriously than we did,
- 20 but I can only apologise.
- 21 Q. So I'll move on, then. Another one of the
- 22 attachments to David Posnett's emails is the
- 23 Identification Codes document which you comment
- 24 on at paragraphs 42 and 43 of your witness
- statement. Could we have that on screen, 25

		please, and the reference is FOLOUT 10104. Can		Q.	Could we have FOLOUT 19211 on screen, please.
2		you see that it lists seven identification	2		I think this is an example of an NPA1 form.
3		codes?	3	A.	Yes.
4	A.	I do, yes.	4	Q.	You can see in the top right.
5	Q.	Is it still your position that you don't	5	A.	Yeah.
6		remember ever having seen this document?	6	Q.	This form is from the case of Julian Wilson,
7	A.	I don't. It was in an attachment. I can't deny	7		which is a case we'll come back to in more
8		that it came to me. I think I say in my	8		detail later. But you say at paragraph 80 of
9		statement that, having been when it was	9		your statement that you completed this form
10		circulated, I'd been in the role for probably	10		after Mr Wilson's interview; do you remember
11		a number of years then, it seemed to be more	11		that?
12		that these things were being circulated for more	12	A.	That I think would be normal the normal
13		new members of the team, rather than experienced	13		process. So I can't remember it exactly but I'm
14		members of the team, and I'm not taking that as	14		guessing I did. I think that was the without
15		disrespect to them or blowing my own trumpet but	15		being rude, I think that was the last
16		I'd obviously been using the identification	16		occasion I actually saw Mr Wilson was after the
17		codes for quite a few years.	17		interview, so I think the details were taken
18	Q.	At paragraph 44 of your statement you say that	18		from him at that time.
19		you were requiring to record identification	19	Q.	So on page 2, then, of that form, we can see
20		codes when you notified the police of criminal	20		there are seven boxes for ethnic appearance to
21		proceedings on an NPA1 or NPA2 form; is that	21		be recorded and the boxes are "White European",
22		correct?	22		"Dark European", "Afro-Caribbean", "Asian,
23	A.	I do, but I think I've learnt that it's now	23		"Oriental", "Arab", and "Unknown".
24		an NPA3, or 003 or something. I think it's	24		Can you see that the language used here is
25		different sides of the forms, et cetera. 145	25		different from the language in the 146
1		Identification Codes document.	1	A.	Quite possibly. I it was something I Googled
2	A.	Without a doubt, yes.	2		on when I was doing my statement, to be
3	Q.	So for example, this form refers to "White	3		truthful. I'd always previously used the
4		European", while the Post Office Identification	4		identification on the back of the NPA002/3, on
5		Codes document refers to "White skinned	5		the back where you just showed a moment ago, and
6		European", and gives a list of countries.	6		the whilst you're filling the form in, in
7	A.	Yes.	7		theory, going across from, you know, right
8	Q.	So if I could take you back then to paragraph 80	8		left to right, sorry, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, so
9		of your witness statement, please. Paragraph 80	9		I would just have used that form when I was
10		is on page 25.	10		completing or asked the person I was asking
11		Just down to paragraph 80, please.	11		the questions to, suspect, whatever you want to
12		So you say there that:	12		call it, what they best described themselves as.
13		"It was therefore fairly standard practice	13	Q.	•
14		to complete these Antecedents/NPA forms and was	14		PACE", what are you referring to? You're
15		therefore answers of how the person best	15		referring to the NPA1 form?
16		described their appearance along with all the	16	Α.	No, I'm referring to the fact that, whilst
17		other questions for its completion."	17		I was obviously, I saw Mr Posnett's email,
18		You go on to then say:	18		and hadn't previously seen it, as my
19		"For example an IC1 was stated in PACE as	19		recollection was I hadn't open it and, if I had,
20		White-skinned European: English, Scottish,	20		I think I would have challenged, that I'd seen
21		Welsh, French, German, Swedish, Norwegian,	21		that and was not how can I say entirely
22		Polish, Russia."	22		comfortable with the email that was part of the
23		That language there is the same language as	23		Inquiry, and basically thought "Well, that's not
24		the Post Office Identification Codes document;	24		something not a document I opened or used".
25		do you agree with that?	25		So, in preparation for my statement,

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1 I think, although I'd obviously mentioned --2 I probably should have just left it as "I've 3 gone across the top of the NPA form", would be 4 my normal thing of doing that. And, as I say, 5 after a number of years in the role, you tended 6 to have in idea of what the code -- and 7 pre-dominantly, I think I say in my statement, 8 as well, is that the majority of our people 9 would have been -- or was known or considered 10 themselves an IC1.

- Q. So despite using, in paragraph 80, the same 11 12 language as the Identification Codes document, 13 is your evidence that actually what you were 14 referring to were the boxes on the NPA forms?
- A. Yes, yes, I used the NPA form. 15

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16 Q. I'd like to move on then to ask you some 17 questions about the involvement of Post Office 18 Investigators, following the identification of 19 an apparent shortfall at audit.

> So you explain in your statement that an Investigator would sometimes attend an audit if they had instigated or requested it. Can you explain the circumstances in which you would have requested an audit.

A. A couple of reasons. One going back to pension

hypothetically they said that they had £50,000 in the branch, but the Post Office knew that their outgoings for the customers that are on a regular basis coming in was £20,000, they may request for some cash to be returned to the central cash centre, if you like.

They would make a phone call, the cash centre, and say, "Could you return that cash?" And if it came back, great. They may then make another phone call saying, "You didn't send that cash back, can you sent some £20,000/£30,000 back?" et cetera, et cetera. And eventually the money never came, so there would be a suspicion possibly that that money wasn't actually held at the branch so it may, on the enquiry of the investigation, instigate an audit to be requested.

Q. Then in respect of Crown Offices, if we could have your statement up again at page 8, please, paragraph 19. You say that the same approach was taken in respect of both Crown Offices and subpostmasters who were under investigation. You then go on to say, if we could just go --

> "The only thing that changed in my opinion 151

and allowance frauds that were apparent. If we had one case where we had a complaint that we understood that these pension allowance fraud -the suspect, I shall say, was looking in the obituaries to find out when someone had passed away -- and it was when we were going back to the old pension book scenario -- and they would look in the drawer to find their pension book and subsequently think "Unfortunately, they've passed away, we'll steal that book because they won't be coming in to collect it", and systematically cash the dockets, et cetera. So things like that we would have obviously instigated an audit.

I think I had another occasion where -- and I think that's part of the evidence here -where a holiday relief had contacted the Post Office to say that they believed that there would be a shortage at an office, and the other thing we had was cash -- Overnight Cash Holding.

A lot of times there was -- when Horizon came in, there was occasions where they would do their daily cash declarations or they would show their cash declarations at the end of day, end of week, end of trading period and, let's say,

1 was the actual number of audits carried out at 2 the Crown Offices. It seemed to reduce over the 3 years as the staffing numbers reduced within 4 Audits, as it had also done with the Security 5 Team." 6

You go on to say that that was because of cutbacks.

The last sentence there where you say: "The Post Office's focus on Crown Office losses for branch managers was another factor that meant the Security Team had to prioritise their enquiries around the offices with the consistently worst or highest losses to the business, including the worst Crown Offices."

15 Can you just help us with what you mean by 16 that?

17 A. Sorry, it's a bit ambiguous, isn't it? 18 Basically, when I joined the Security Team there was about, let's say, 50 of us working to seven 20 team leaders. When I left, there was two team leaders and maybe 15 or 16 of us working. In 22 the same way, the Audit Teams had similar 23 numbers. There would be fairly regular audits 24 of sub offices, Crown Offices, you know, at

various periods. With the reduction in staffing

numbers, obviously the frequency of audits at any particular branch reduced quite dramatically.

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There was also very much a focus, because I was a Crown Office branch manager myself, on ensuring that you maintained losses to a minimum, as much as you possibly could, and that you undertook, as a branch manager, spot checks on tills, on particular stocks, if there was obviously a clerk that was balancing not as well as the others, you obviously tried to assist them with additional training or find out to try to get to the reasons why. So there was more of a focus within the branch office network away from the audits section, if you like.

Q. Moving on, then, to interviews. You explained in your statement that you conducted both voluntary interviews and interviews at police stations. At paragraph 7 of your statement, if we can just go back to page 4, please. At the end of that paragraph, you say that, even if it was at a police station, you would have been involved, as:

"... we were a well-known recognised interviewing authority with the police ..." 153

1 the suspect at interview. So whether it be 2 Horizon printouts or personnel printouts or

3 anything that we'd done prior to the

4 investigation, anything on the day, audit

result, any signed confession or -- "confession"

6 is probably not the right word but, if the

7 auditor had written out a statement if someone

8 had made --

9 Q. An admission?

A. An admission. Sorry, that's the right word, 10 11 yeah.

What about in circumstances where the individual 12 Q. 13 you're interviewing was unrepresented? What 14

would you do in terms of giving disclosure? A. I'll be perfectly honest, I don't remember that 15 16 we did, if I'm honest.

17 You don't remember interviewing someone that was Q.

18 unrepresented or you don't remember giving disclosure to someone who was unrepresented? 19

A. I don't necessarily remember giving disclosure 20

21 to someone. I think it may just have been part 22 of the interview. I may be wrong.

23 Q. Was there a reason for the difference in 24 approach?

25 A. No, I've no idea.

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1 Did you understand that to be a technical 2 term?

3 A. It was something I think when I joined that --4 I don't know whether it came from Geoff Hall or 5 came from my team leader, or whatever, at the

6 time but, as far as I was led to believe, that

7 we were a similar organisation, a bit like the

8 DWP, who had their own investigatory people

9 involved, and that the police were aware of Post

10 Office and DWP investigation teams, and that,

11 obviously, we were recognised as that if we

should call and speak to anyone. 12

13 So you'd heard someone else refer to the Post 14 Office Security Team as a well-known recognised 15 interviewing authority?

16 A. I had, yes, and that's the only place I got it 17 from, if you like, but, yes.

18 Q. Moving down to paragraph 8, please. You explain 19 then that you would always give disclosure to

20 any legal representative who was present in

21 either suspected criminal or voluntary

22 interviews. What would this disclosure

23 typically include?

24 I guess everything, as far as I could be aware, 25 that was available that we were going to put to 154

1 Q. After you completed the interview, would you 2 typically carry out further investigation before

3 completing the discipline and offender report?

4 A. If something was brought up during the 5 interview, then, yes, generally, I would go and try and corroborate what was said.

7 Q. Is it right that then, following the initial 8 investigation, the case papers, including the 9 offender report, would be forwarded on to the

10 Legal team, who would advise whether prosecution

11 was appropriate?

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12 Yes, that would -- it would go generally through 13 the Casework Manager for the compliance checks 14 to be made, and for obviously a score to be

15 given to us on each particular case that went

16 through them. Sometimes it may be that the line 17 manager may look at it, if he was coming down

18 for a one-to-one or anything like that, but the

19 ultimate place it was going was the Legal team

20 for advice, basically.

21 Who made the decision to prosecute?

22 Well, the Legal team. They would make

23 a recommendation whether they felt the evidence

24 was sufficient or not to realise a -- whatever

25 prospect, be it a good or bad prospect, of

1	conviction. And, subsequently, that would ther
2	get the authority or rubber stamp, shall we say
3	as it's been disclosed, or I think said, from
4	the Senior Authorising Manager within Security
5	Team, I think, or, prior to that, personnel
6	team. I think it was said

Q. At paragraph 27 of your statement, you say that you have no idea of any tests being applied by those making prosecution or charging decisions. 10 You say:

> "I always believed the decision was only made if there was sufficient evidence to suggest beyond reasonable doubt that a criminal offence had been committed by the individual."

Where did that understanding of the test come from?

17 A. Exactly as I said, prior to you reading that, 18 I understood it was a decision -- or any test 19 that was applied was the test was applied by the 20 criminal lawyer that was looking at the case 21 papers.

22 Q. Where did you get that understanding of the 23 test, that it was beyond reasonable doubt? 24 I would suggest, possibly again, through mentor, A.

25 line manager, somewhere like that.

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1 A. Yes.

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2 Q. If we could go to page 6 of that document, 3 please, and if we just scroll down. So we see 4 there that the title is "Behaviour and 5 Competency 1 Information", and the name is "Post 6 Office -- I challenge to make things better". 7 Was that one of your personal objectives at

the time in the Security Team?

9 A. I would probably have said so, yes.

Q. If we could go over to the next page, then, please, and scroll down towards the bottom. At paragraph 6, then, you -- I understand this to be your entry:

"During November 2009 Mr Jarnail Singh Criminal Law Team suggested 5 theft charges in a case of mine against ... I challenged these charges as I had previously advised Mr Singh that there are no Branch Trading Statements available. Not only did I challenge the suggested charges but I also suggest that an appropriate charge under the Fraud Act 2006 should be considered."

So is it the case, then, that you would have input into some of these decisions as to appropriate charges? 159

Q. Did you have any involvement in the decision to 1 2 prosecute someone?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you ever involved in recommending appropriate charges? 5

6 A. As I recall towards the latter years, I'll say, 7 of my time in Security, I think there may have 8 been a suggestion or an idea that we may put 9 something within the papers but I can't recall 10 whether I ever did. because I'm not sure I was 11 ever that confident of what I would be 12 recommending would be correct.

13 I think it was tying to give us a bit 14 more -- I don't know, knowledge base, perhaps, 15 of "This is a theft charge" or "This is 16 a false" -- I mean, I probably would know but 17 I wouldn't know what Act it was under or 18 anything like that. So no, it was probably 19 something that may have been suggested me might 20 wish to, but I don't remember actually doing it. 21 Q. So can I take you to a document with the

22 reference POL00166128, please. So we can see 23 that this is your "2009 to 2010 Full Year 24 Review", and, at the time, your manager was 25 Jason Collins.

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Not that I recall, no. Obviously, I have 2 written this. As I said, under what Act or not,

3 the only thing I can say is that I've challenged

4 Mr Singh because he was suggesting possibly 5 a false accounting charge but there was no

6 branch trading statements available. So I've

7 made that challenge. Where I've managed to get

8 the next bit from, of suggesting an appropriate

9 charge, maybe I was digging from friends,

10 colleagues, or management or something, but it's 11 nothing I can definitely say or recall.

12 So when you refer to digging from friends,

13 colleagues or management, do you mean in respect

14 of what the appropriate charge might be?

15 A. Probably, yes, yes.

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Q. Was it common for you, as an Investigator, to 16 17 challenge the Post Office lawyers in respect of

18 the appropriate charges?

A. No, not at all. Well, certainly not the 19

majority. Maybe more so towards Mr Singh than 20 21 any of the others, if I'm honest, but I'm not

22 saying anything specifically there, but I can't

23 answer that.

24 Q. Why do you say in respect of Mr Singh more than 25 the others?

1	A.	He and, again, it's my own perception, he	1		"The purpose of the policy is to ensure that
2		didn't perhaps come over quite as competent as	2		Security Managers know and understand the
3		Debbie Helszajn and I can't remember what her	3		Investigation Procedures in relation to the
4		new married name was but she was Helszajn	4		Disclosure of Unused Material, as described in
5	Q.	Stapel?	5		the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act
6	A.	Debbie Stapel, Rob Wilson, Juliet McFarlane,	6		1996 Codes of Practice."
7		they all seemed to have, in my opinion a high	7		Do you recognise this document?
8		level of competency.	8	A.	Not specifically but I'm sure I have seen it or
9	Q.	So would it have been the case then that	9		would have seen it.
10		primarily it would have been Mr Singh you would	10	Q.	If we look down, then, at section 3. At 3.2, in
11		have challenged but not the other	11		the first bullet point, it describes
12	A.	I would have thought so I wouldn't have	12		an investigator as:
13		thought well, I may be wrong, you may prove	13		" a person involved in the conduct of
14		me wrong that there was ever a challenge to	14		a criminal investigation involving Consignia.
15		any of the others I would have thought.	15		All Investigators have a responsibility for
16	Q.	Thank you, that can come down.	16		carrying out the duties imposed on them under
17		So I want to turn, then, to ask you some	17		this Code, including in particular recording
18		questions about the obligations on	18		information, and retaining records of
19		an Investigator, and one of the policies listed	19		information and other material."
20		in your statement is the Disclosure of Unused	20		So do you agree that the point of advising
21		Material Criminal Procedure and Investigations	21		whether a prosecution test was met, the Legal
22		Act 1996, Codes of Practice policy. That's	22		Services team would have been reliant on you a
23		dated May 2001. Can we have that on screen,	23		the Investigator to provide them with all the
24		please. The reference is POL00104762.	24		relevant material?
25		If we just look at section 1, then:	25	A.	Yes, I do.
		161			162
1	Q.	Is it correct that, once the decision had been	1		evidence should be sought from third parties wh
2		made to proceed with the prosecution, that the	2		might hold relevant evidence and, in particular,
3		decision would then be relayed back to you,	3		Fujitsu, where shortfalls were identified in
4		along with an Advice on further evidence, which	4		branch was often through discussions with the
5		was considered to be necessary?	5		Legal Team/Casework Manager and Line Mana
6	Α.	It would, yes.	6		(Team Leader), was that any requests for Fujits
7	Q.	Was it your responsibility to then obtain this	7		data was only when this became available to us
8		further evidence?	8		"
9	Α.	Yes, it was.	9		What do you mean by that, "when it becam
10	Q.	Were you conscious that there was an obligation	10		available to us"?
11		on you as an Investigator to pursue all	11	A.	I'm not sure in the very early days that and
12		reasonable lines of inquiry, whether these	12		I'm saying probably on the introduction of
13		pointed towards or away from a suspect?	13		Horizon 2000 to 2001/2, et cetera, that I have
14	Α.	I was, yes.	14		any recollection of us having any kind of
15	Q.	Were you aware that this obligation extended to	15		contact whatsoever with Fujitsu. I may be wrong
16	٠.	material held in the hands of third parties,	16		but, certainly, from my level or point of view.
17		such as Fujitsu?	17		Then it gradually came to I think fruition that
18	Α.	Yes.	18		there was two as I vaguely recall, and I may
19	Q.	Can we, please, have your witness statement back	19		be completely wrong, but there was two ways th
20	⋖.	on screen at page 12, paragraph 32, please. So	20		you could look at the Horizon data, which was
21		starting at "My recollection", which is about	21		either by requesting Fujitsu an ARQ data, and
22		a third of the way down that paragraph, it says:	22		I've got something that in the back of my
23		"My recollection of [the point] above [which	23		mind, whether this was later in the day or
		, 1000110110110110101010101011011	20		micaro and maciator in the day of

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refers to disclosure in the hands of third

parties] as to whether and in what circumstances

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ld have been reliant on you as provide them with all the 162 sought from third parties who evidence and, in particular, tfalls were identified in rough discussions with the ork Manager and Line Manager s that any requests for Fujitsu this became available to us nean by that, "when it became ery early days that -- and on the introduction of 01/2, et cetera, that I have us having any kind of with Fujitsu. I may be wrong my level or point of view. ame to I think fruition that I vaguely recall, and I may g, but there was two ways that e Horizon data, which was g Fujitsu -- an ARQ data, and that -- in the back of my mind, whether this was later in the day or 23 24 before, that we had a thing called Credence that 25 we could go on to as well. 164

1		And I think the point I was trying to get	1		I believe now was the Casework Manager, which
2		across here is that, when I would have spoken	2		later on became in my statement I mentioned
3		with, let's say initially, my line manager or	3		a guy called Mark Dinsdale and a lady called
4		Casework Manager, depending on where the	4		Jane Owen and I wasn't sure if there was a form
5		investigation was or what type of investigation	5		we completed or an email they would sent and
6		it was, et cetera, I would have probably been	6		then they would complete a form and then
7		looking for some guidance as to what we should	7		subsequently order the ARQ request.
8		be doing or shouldn't be doing with regards to	8	Q.	
9		that, and there was obviously a restricted	9	ų.	from Fujitsu when you were aware this was
10		number of ARQ requests we could make so should	10		available?
11		we look at Credence and try to find what we were	11	Α.	I'm struggling to remember exactly when, because
12		looking for, for the postmaster or against the	12	Α.	all the ARQ data, and that's I've sort of
					•
13	_	postmaster?	13		I think yesterday, it actually came out, shall
14	Q.	So when you say that at some point you became	14		we say, and I think it was something that
15		aware that you could request data from Fujitsu,	15		I added to my statement today, at the start of
16		at what point, what year; can you remember?	16		today, and although I added it because I sent
17	A.	I can't remember. I know we would have to	17		the email on Monday about adding to my
18		request it and, again, it's in my statement,	18		statement, before I learnt yesterday, was that
19		it's a certain part that we would not have	19		the ARQ data that I had in whatever case, or
20		direct contact with Fujitsu, and I think I put	20		however many cases from obviously analysing
21		in my statement again, I couldn't be 100 per	21		it or looking at it, I'd never personally found
22		cent but I think again it was so they didn't	22		any of these bugs, errors or defects.
23		get inundated with loads of people contacting	23	Q.	So the question was a little bit different?
24		them and not knowing who it was.	24	A.	Sorry.
25		There was a single point of contact, which 165	25	Q.	The question was: in what circumstances would 166

2 for example, ARQ data? 3 A. I think if there was, again, a timespan of 4 an audit or if there was an allegation that 5 there was something wrong, or, you know, that we 6 were trying to, if you like, prove that what had 7 happened at the audit was correct or, if you 8 like, to try to corroborate our evidence, 9 I guess.

you decide to make your requests to Fujitsu for,

10 Q. Would you ever request data from Fujitsu to try
11 to confirm what a subpostmaster had said in
12 interview?

13 A. Yes, I had, yes, I'm sure I had.

14 Q. What types of data were you aware of that couldbe requested from Fujitsu?

16 A. Well, I only knew that there was one.

17 **Q.** Is that ARQ data?

18 **A.** Yeah.

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19 Q. So you then go on to say in your statement at20 paragraph 32 that:

"Requests were not necessarily made in every case as they were not always deemed necessary if admissions were made ..."

24 So is it your position that, where 25 a subpostmaster made admissions in interview, 167 that you wouldn't have requested evidence fromFujitsu?

A. I think I would have taken the advice, again,
 from the Casework and Legal Team, in my report,

5 to, if you like, take a guidance or a direction,

6 wrongly, I know now, wrongly, because, again, as

7 I -- the last sentence is: I had no reason to

8 confirm that any of these -- I had no knowledge

9 of any of these things. So if we'd had

10 an admission, we'd had the evidence, the audit

11 was showing shortages, there was -- we'd looked

12 at the Credence possibly and all those things,

13 I'm not sure that I would have, in all cases,

14 no.

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15 Q. Then moving to paragraph 55 of your statement at
 16 page 17, please -- paragraph 55, just further
 17 down the page. You say:

"I never recall any of my cases suggesting where a shortfall had been identified and the relevant SPM/SPMs manager(s) or assistant(s)/Crown Office employee(s) attributed the shortfall to problems with Horizon, that ARQ data requested from Fujitsu was requested as a matter of course."

This was the case at Astwood Bank, which was 168

the case of Julian Wilson? 1 1 did but it was more costly or whatever, I don't 2 2 A. Yes. know. 3 Q. 3 You go on to say: But I think because Mr Wilson raised that 4 4 "It was my belief and that of my colleagues, there was -- you know, he had no explanation, 5 I would guess, that shortfalls could not 5 et cetera, then, yes, I wish I had have 6 actually be attributed to Horizon ..." 6 requested it. 7 Is that the reason, then, why you didn't 7 Q. So in cases where there was an allegation that 8 8 request the ARQ data? there was problems with Horizon, would you take 9 Α. Yes 9 the same approach? 10 10 A. I would, but the frustration for me is that, had Q. Looking back now, can you see any problem with 11 I done that, I'm still not sure that I would 11 that approach? Massive, yes. have found any problems within there, which is 12 Α. 12 13 Q. What problem is it that --13 hard for me to -- I wish I had, on every single A. Well, whilst I -- I say massive, because of the 14 case. But I'm frustrated in the fact that, had 14 fact that I now am aware that there were bugs, 15 I done it, which I didn't in Mr Wilson's case, 15 16 errors and defects, which at that time, and up 16 whether I would have found anything different. 17 until not that long ago, I actually still felt 17 Q. So you mentioned that you recall a limit on the number of ARQ requests which could be provided 18 the same -- wrongly, I hasten to add. Although, 18 19 if I had have requested that data, now, learning 19 by Fujitsu. Do you ever recall being told that 20 yesterday that there was more than one form of 20 you couldn't have ARQ data because of these 21 21 limits? ARQ data that could have been requested -- now 22 I don't know whose -- and I'm not trying to 22 A. I do. I'm not so sure about being told I could 23 ascertain blame here, but who knew that there 23 never have them but I certainly recall being 24 was more than one, or whether that Fujitsu knew 24 told that we'd hit the monthly limit and that 25 but the Post Office didn't or the Post Office 25 they may have to fall over into the following 169 1 months, month or months, to come. 1 later days, I think there was more than one 2 person that would supply the ARQ data. One Q. So is it the position that you could have it but 2 3 at a later date? 3 I remember was Penny Thomas. It would 4 A. Yes, generally, yes. 4 sometimes, within her witness statement, 5 Q. Do you ever remember a case where someone came 5 I think, set out the columns, for use of 6 back to you and said, "No, we've reached the 6 a better word, of -- the first column might be 7 limit, you can't have it on this case"? 7 the log-on of the clerk, the next might be the 8 A. Not specifically, no. Whether they would have 8 transaction, whether it was a serve customer or 9 said, "Do you really need this data?" or raised 9 a transfer or cash in or cash declaration, and 10 10 a question, or, how can I say, a query in my it was specifically in there. And, obviously, 11 mind whether I needed it or not, I don't know. 11 it was a bit like an Excel spreadsheet that you 12 But I can't specifically say no, it was 12 were able to sort and filter it into amounts or 13 declined. 13 log-on codes, et cetera. 14 Q. You go on to say in your statement that, where 14 So it was, as far as I remember, pretty much 15 ARQ data was available to you, then you would 15 16 have spent time reviewing it to look for Q. So what would you be looking for when you're 16 17 potential issues. Did you receive any training 17 looking for potential issues? 18 on how to interpret ARQ data? A. Well, if, for example, there was a -- shall we 18 A. No. It was basically part of the -- I think the 19 say, a high increase in a cash declaration, from 19 20 statement that we received that we ended up 20 a Tuesday to a Wednesday, so on a Tuesday it was 21 becoming I think fairly -- pretty much, from 21 saying £10,000 and on a Wednesday it was saying 22 what I can gather, self-taught. 22 £30,000, there's obviously been an increase in 23 Q. When you refer to a statement, sorry, what are 23 £20,000, and I would be looking to see if they'd 24 you referring to? 24 received any cash in or I would be looking to 25 25 see if there'd been any high levels of business I think if we got ARQ data in the early days or Α.

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deposits that would obviously, how can I say, equate for why that cash that gone up by £20,000.

Or if all the transactions were, "I've sold a stamp, I've paid out £10 here or £100 there", ups and downs, et cetera, it would probably say well I can't -- there is no reason why that's gone up by that amount or the cash declaration has changed by such a large amount.

- 10 Q. Do you think that it's adequate that you were
 11 left to be self-taught on how to interpret ARQ
 12 data?
- 13 A. No, not at all.

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- 14 Q. Did you ever ask for any help on how to15 interpret ARQ data?
- 16 A. I can't recall that I did, no. I think it was
 17 just considered that that was it. But I should
 18 have asked.
- 19 Q. Further on in your statement you say that you
 20 understood that, if ARQ data was obtained, you
 21 assumed it was unlikely to have been provided to
 22 the defence; is that correct?
- 23 A. As far as I -- yeah, I'm not -- I'm not sure.
- 24 I think there was occasions where the -- where
- 25 the defence requested it, whether we copied the 173

policy we looked at earlier in relation to investigators.

On page 2, then, please, at the first bullet point on this page, it explains that:

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

Did you understand that to be the case in the majority of cases you were involved in?

A. It wasn't clear. I would say this is probably

A. It wasn't clear. I would say this is probably
 my least knowledge in the role. I've obviously
 seen and understand that, as the Investigator,
 I was also the Disclosure Officer.

19 The --

- Q. Sorry, just to query, when you say "least
 knowledgeable", do you mean in relation to your
 role as Disclosure Officer?
- A. Disclosure Officer, yes. I was always advised,
 as part of the training coming out, the training
 and being mentored, if you like, in that, that
 175

1 disks or there was a way of doing that, I can't

2 be 100 per cent, but -- or if it was just

3 extracts that we took from the ARQ data, if

4 there was something that, if you like, raised

5 a query or -- and it became part of the evidence

as, from ARQ data, 1, 2, 3, I have extracted

7 this particular day and it is now as part of my

8 exhibit GRT1, or whatever.

9 $\,$ Q. So in circumstances where it hasn't been

10 requested by the defence but you've requested it

11 as the Investigator, is it your understanding

12 that it wouldn't have been provided to the

13 defence in those situations?

14 A. I don't know because, of course, it would have15 gone up to the Criminal Law Team and, if it was

16 part of the defence, if you like, I would have

17 expected it that it would have been given to the

defence. I'm not saying whether it was or it

19 wasn't, but I would have expected it to be, if

20 it was within evidence.

Q. So I want to move on, then, to ask you somequestions about the role of the Disclosure

23 Officer. Could we have the "Disclosure of

24 Unused Material" policy back on screen, please.

The reference is POL00104762, and this the 174

you had to retain everything and everything had
 a place, if that makes sense.

3 Whether it was in the right place, I often 4 would assist -- ask for some assistance whether 5 it was on the right schedule, was it unused, was 6 it used, was it disclosable, et cetera, but 7 I always was aware that everything was retained. 8 As I recall, it was put on to the schedules of 9 CS or GS, or whatever it was at the time, 006Cs, 10 Ds and Es, and put as part of the casework file,

if you like.**Q.** Sorry, just to clarify, the 6C, 6D and 6E, is

that the Schedule of Unused Material --

14 **A.** The --

15 Q. -- the non-sensitive unused --

16 **A.** Yes.

17 Q. -- then the next one was sensitive unused
 18 material and then the last one was Disclosure
 19 Officer's report; is that correct?

20 A. I believe so, yes.

Q. Okay. When you said that you would ask forassistance on where to record things, who would

you ask for that assistance from?

A. I think it would have been either the criminal
 law -- the criminal law person -- lawyer, or my

- line manager at the time. 1
- 2 Q. But do you now accept that, having seen the
- 3 documents provided to you by the Inquiry, that
- 4 you were the Disclosure Officer in a number of
- 5 cases that you were investigating?
- 6 A. I accept that now, yes.
- 7 Q. Did you understand that where you were the
- 8 Disclosure Officer, you had a duty to draw
- 9 material to the attention of the prosecutor,
- 10 where you were in any doubt as to whether it
- 11 might undermine the prosecution case or assist
- 12 the defence?
- 13 A. Again, I believe so, because I was told you had
- 14 to -- you know, everything had a place, if that
- 15 makes sense.
- 16 Q. When we were talking earlier, then, about having
- 17 requested the ARQ data, would you understand
- that that would also have to be retained, if you 18
- 19 were the Disclosure Officer?
- 20 A. Yes, yes.
- 21 Q. Where would you have recorded, then, the things
- 22 that you'd considered during the course of
- 23 an investigation?
- 24 A. Well, I'm saying would it not have been part of
- 25 the case papers that were submitted, if there
 - 177
- 1 Based on the papers available from the criminal
- 2 proceedings, there is nothing to suggest any ARQ
- 3 data was obtained, the Post Office did not
- 4 investigate any of the criticisms of Horizon
 - made by Mr Wilson historically and during his
- 6 detailed interview. There is no evidence to
- 7 corroborate the Horizon evidence, there is no
 - proof of an actual loss as opposed to
- 9 a Horizon-generated shortage."
- 10 The Post Office, at paragraph 178, conceded
 - that the prosecution was unfair but the court
 - also concluded that his prosecution was
 - an affront to justice, and his convictions were
- 14 quashed.

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- Is it correct, then, that you were the Lead
- 16 Investigator in this case?
- 17 A. I was, yes.
- Q. You explain in your statement that you became 18
- 19 involved in the case after an audit, which took
- 20 place on the 11 September 2008, identified
- 21 an apparent shortfall.
- 22 A. Yes, that's right.
- 23 Q. Is it right, then, that you spoke to the
- 24 auditor, Mr David Patrick, while he was at the

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branch on the day the audit took place? 25

- 1 was ARQ data because it would have been
- 2 an exhibit of Penny Thomas'?
- 3 Q. Say that it wasn't an exhibit, it hadn't been
- 4 exhibited by anyone in Fujitsu: you just
- considered it? 5
- 6 A. Then yes, I guess it -- if it -- so I've ordered
- 7 ARQ data, it's not in evidence and it's should
- 8 be on the schedule?
- Q. Yes. 9

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- 10 A. Yes. I agree.
- 11 So I would like then to turn now, please to your
 - involvement in the investigation of Mr Julian
- 13 Wilson who was the subpostmaster at Astwood Bank
- 14 Post Office. Could we please have the judgment
- 15 in Hamilton and Others on the screen, our
- 16 reference is POL00113278, and it's page 43.
- 17 Thank you. If we just go down the page
- 18 a little bit.
- 19 So his appeal was brought posthumously by 20 his widow, Mrs Karen Wilson, and his convictions
- 21 were quashed by the Court of Appeal in 2021. At
- 22 paragraph 177, the court observed that:
- 23 "[The Post Office accepted] that this was
- 24 an unexplained shortfall case and that evidence 25
 - from Horizon was essential to Mr Wilson's case.
 - 178
 - I can't recall but quite possible. It may --
- 2 I'm not sure if it was myself or it would have
- 3 been my team leader at the time and then the
- 4 case was raised from the report because,
- 5 generally, if there was an audit -- obviously,
- 6 if I was aware of an audit I may well have been
- 7 in attendance or I may have been aware an audit
- 8 was taking place and they may have contacted me.
- 9 On this occasion, again, it was, I think,
- 10 outside of my normal area, and it may well have
- 11 been that the auditor had informed the Contracts
- 12 Manager, who in turned would have informed
- 13 Jason Collins, if that was my line manager at
- 14 the time, and subsequently then would have come 15 to me. I can't be 100 per cent whether I would
- 16
- have spoken to David Patrick or not.
- 17 Q. Can you remember asking the auditors to obtain
- 18 a signed statement from Mr Wilson?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Could we then just go to the offender report,
- 21 and it is the reference is POL00044803, and
- 22 could we go to the third page of that report, at
- 23 the bottom. So we can see that the offender
- 24 report was completed by you on 2 December.
- 25 A. Yes.

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1	Q.	If we go back to the bottom of the first page,
2		please. At the bottom paragraph, you say:
3		"Upon confirmation of the shortage by the
4		auditor the postmaster was advised that he was
5		precautionary suspended on the authority of
6		Mr Glenn Chester I was also contacted at
7		this time and I asked the auditors to obtain
8		a signed statement confirming these facts from
9		the postmaster"
10		So do you accept, then
11	A.	I accept that then, yes, yeah. I don't know who
12		he would have spoken to first, maybe Glenn
13		Chester and then myself, but I accept that, yes,
14		that that was the case then.
15	Q.	Do you remember asking any questions about the
16		circumstances in which Mr Wilson made this
17		statement to the auditors?
18	A.	Not that I can recall, no.
19	Q.	Did you give any consideration to the
20		possibility that the auditors may have said or
21		done something that may have made both the
22		written note unreliable?
23	A.	I didn't, no.
24	MS	MILLAR: Sir, if that would be a convenient
25		moment to have a short break of ten minutes?
		181
4		Yes
1	A. Q.	is that correct?
3	Q.	So can we have the first part of the
3		·
5		reference is POL00050140. Just at the top,
		•
6 7		then, we can see the interviewing officers were you and Mr Brander, and the other persons
		present were Mr Wilson's solicitor and Donna
8 9		Evans, who was the branch secretary of the
10		Federation of SubPostmasters.
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	If we go down the page to the bottom of page 1,
13	⋖.	then, please. So at 10.40 minutes into the
14		interview, we can see that Mr Wilson was asked
15		for his version of events.
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	The second line up from the bottom, he explains:
18	⋖.	"When I balanced, I balance every Wednesday
		TTION I balancea, I balance every Wearlesday

as required by Post Office Limited, some weeks

transactions as to what was up and down during,

it was up, some weeks it was down ..."

"... and I kept a record of all those

you know, my period as postmaster. I at one

time had a manager who's the line manager in 183

Over the page, please:

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5	(3.34 pm)
6	(A short break)
7	(3.45 pm)
8	MS MILLAR: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and
9	hear us?
10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you, yes.
11	MS MILLAR: Mr Thomas, we've been just speaking
12	about the audit that had taken place in
13	Mr Wilson's case. So, moving on, is it correct
14	that you attended Mr Wilson's home address with
15	Graham Brander on 15 September 2008?
16	A. Yes, I did.
17	Q. Was that to conduct a voluntary search?
18	A. Yes, so I think, as I recall, I'd spoken to
19	Mr Wilson on the telephone and had asked him if
20	he was happy to allow us to do a voluntary
21	search, and he agreed, and we went to his home
22	address prior to going to his solicitor's office
23	to conduct the interview.
24	Q. You conducted an interview later that same
25	day
	182
1	those days, I think they were called Paul
2	Vantoosy, and I raised the question of
3	misbalances with him and I'd been keeping
4	a record."
5	Can you see that immediately he raised the
6	fact that he had been having problems with
7	Horizon?
8	A. With misbalancing, yeah.
9	Q. He said to Mr Vantoosy:
10	"Could the system be wrong, or are we doing,
11	he said 'no the system cannot be wrong, there's
12	nothing wrong with the system'."
13	So he was told by that manager that the
14	system couldn't cause his misbalances.
15	A. Clearly, yes.
16	Q. He then goes on to say:
17	"Perhaps 2 years ago we had a letter sent
18	round from the Federation as to whether anybody
19	was experiencing misbalances. I said that
20	I had, and I actually then was asked to submit
21	to the Federation copies of Trading Reports"
22	So he's then explained that he's also
23	reported problems to the Federation of
24	SubPostmasters.
25	A . Yes.
	107

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, by all means.

MS MILLAR: Yes, thank you very much.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So we'll start again at 3.45?

MS MILLAR: Thank you.

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Then going down to 13.10 in, the middle of the Q. second line, he said:

"I also then had a BDM [a manager] called and his name was Keith Bridges. I also raised the fact that I was having these problems with balancing and I had noticed that when I declared the cash each night, on a Saturday, Friday/Saturday when you declared the cash there was never -- never balanced exactly ... and I noticed on Monday the discrepancy had increased."

So he's then explaining he's reported problems to a third person; is that correct?

- 14 A. That's correct, yes.
- If we then turn over the page to page 4, please, 15 Q. 16 and just down at 22 minutes in, we see your 17 initials there --
- Yes. 18 A.

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19 Q. -- and you then say:

> "Well, obviously in respect of the Horizon system obviously it's been in for quite a number of years now, we've had shall we say instances or allegations by postmasters who have claimed that the system's not perhaps working correctly which may have triggered off your letters

they'd been up to no good."

Are you referring there to Donna Evans? A. I'm referring to Donna Evans, in that I think he had spoken to her or that he said, I think, that he'd heard from the Federation, and she was obviously from the Federation, and I say -wrongly now -- the allegations or the ones that the people that were saying there was something wrong with the Horizon system, as far as I was aware, concerned or whatever, was that there hadn't been any evidence to corroborate what a number of people -- I say a number -- some people were now saying about the system.

13 14 Q. So do you see there that it seems like you're 15 going one step further and you're saying, 16 actually, people had been up to no good and they 17 were alleging that it was the system at fault?

Yes, so I was completely wrong. 18 Α.

- 19 **Q.** And --20 A. I was believing, because -- sorry to -- I was 21 believing -- because I believed and I thought 22 the whole business believed, and that Fujitsu 23 were giving evidence to say there was nothing 24 wrong with the Horizon system, that clearly that 25 people had been up to no good. I know that's

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originally out from the Federation."

Can you explain what you meant by that? A. Well, again, I think it was -- it perhaps became that it was -- I don't know, 2008, something like that, that a few people had now started to cite the Horizon as a reason, possibly, for the losses. I was still of the impression, and I believe the majority of my colleagues were, as well, that there wasn't anything wrong with the Horizon system and I think, in the actual taped summary, as I think at some point I may have mentioned, when he said about saying to the two managers that had visited his office, had he explained to them how much he was out or what was the loss, or was it a general question of "Could there be anything wrong with Horizon?"

And I think -- I may be -- stand corrected but I think he just said he hadn't mentioned the exact amounts but he was just asking if something could be wrong with Horizon.

Q. You go on to say:

"I think possibly speaking to Donna since that some of those things that have been generated by those questions from postmasters weren't founded in the Horizon system in that 186

1 not the case now and I, you know, apologise for 2 the wording in there as part of that interview.

- 3 Q. Do you accept that, even if that had been the 4 case, that that had been an inappropriate thing 5 to say in his interview?
- 6 A. Yes, I do, yes.
- 7 Can we look then at the second part of the 8 interview transcript and the reference is POL00050128. 9

So we can see the interview continued later on in the same day and the same people were present. At 6.57 in, at the bottom of the page, it's you speaking again, and you say:

"At what stage do you think you would have been in a position or you're going to get in a position to repay the Post Office the money that was clearly missing?"

18 So are you asking Mr Wilson to pay the 19 shortfall at that stage?

A. Not at all, no. What I was in inferencing the fact that -- well, his suggestion was that he'd been changing the accounts for a period of around five years, which he says as part of the interview and, obviously, on the thing that he'd spoken to the auditor about, which I wasn't

there, so I don't know how accurate that was or
not. But I think my concern was that what -when was he going to be in a position -- because
if this audit hadn't taken place, and we'd gone
to six years or seven years or whatever, rightly
or wrongly, under the terms of his contract, he
was going to have a responsibility to repay the
money.

So I think what I was saying was at what stage did he think he was going to be in a position to make good, as under the terms of his contract, that money? I wasn't actually asking him "Can you give me the money now?" sort of thing.

- 15 Q. But was that your responsibility as16 an Investigator or was that a contractual
- 17 matter?

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- 18 A. It depended. If it was a non-criminal enquiry
 19 it would be a contractual matter. If it was
 20 a criminal enquiry, then, if it went to court,
- 21 then we would always say that, under the
- terms -- as an Investigator, under the terms of
- 23 your contract, you have an obligation to repay
- 24 the money. It wasn't "You have to repay the
- 25 money" because he may not have been in 189
- 1 A. Yes, quite possibly, then.
- Q. So can we then go to what happened after this
 interview, then and can that interview
 transcript come down, please.

So you say in your statement that you didn't think any references made by Mr Wilson to Horizon or documents circulated by the Federation of SubPostmasters had any significance, as you had no doubts about Horizon. Was that correct? That was your position?

- 12 A. That is correct at the time, yes.
- Q. You also referred a moment ago to trying to make
 some enquiries with people that Mr Wilson may
 have had contact with.
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. What enquiries do you remember making?
- 18 **A.** I can't exactly, but I do -- in refreshing
- 19 myself with the papers of the taped transcripts,
- which I think I also said, I'm not even surethat I transcribed them personally, in the way
- 22 that they're laid out, but I've got no reason to
- doubt what's in the transcripts at all.
 But I'm sure, in the back of my mir

But I'm sure, in the back of my mind, I have recollection of trying to contact -- and I think
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- 1 a position to do so.
- 2 Q. Given the issues that Mr Wilson had explained to
- 3 you that he was having with the Horizon system,
- 4 why did you think it was appropriate to ask that
- 5 question at that point?
- 6 A. I think it was just the fact that perhaps, if
 - the audit had taken place at year 2, it would
- 8 have been a lot less and, if it was at year 7,
- it would have been a lot more. It was just
 ask -- I guess I was asking -- he'd raised it
- 11 with the a couple of Area Managers that had come
- in to his branch and, rightly or wrongly,
- 13 I don't know what they did. I'm sure after the
- 14 interview I tried to contact them, I've got
- 15 a feeling that one was long gone and -- or --
- and got it hold of one, and he had no
- 17 recollection, or something, I don't know. But
- 18 I was unsure as to -- I think what I was trying
- 19 to get at was how long was it -- it was not
- 20 going to get better, by the look of it.
- 21 Q. At this point you are at the very start of the
- criminal investigation, so you aren't even sure
- 23 whether this is an actual loss or not. Do you
- think it's appropriate to ask him whether he's
- in a position to repay at that stage?

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- 1 I may have even said to Mr Wilson my plan was to
- 2 try to see if -- because I think I asked him
- 3 were they still -- because, obviously, he said
- 4 one was an Area Manager and then it was replaced
- 5 by another one, which was perhaps no different
- 6 than perhaps in the Security Team then going on
- 7 to different roles, et cetera. But because
- 8 I was out of area, all those three gentlemen's
- 9 names that he brought up, they weren't known to
- me. So I had to obviously find out who they
- 11 were and if they still worked in the business
- 12 and what was --
- 13 Q. Can I just ask you to slow down a little bit for
- 14 the transcriber.
- 15 **A.** Sorry.
- 16 **Q.** Is it the case that you remember making contact
- 17 or trying to make contact with these --
- 18 A. I do have a vague recollection of trying to make
- 19 contact, yes, and the vague recollection may be
- 20 that -- because I think could get hold of one of
- 21 the three.
- 22 $\,$ Q. So we took you, a moment ago, to the offender
- 23 report. If we could go back to that document,
- 24 please. It's POL00044803, and it was dated
- 25 2 December 2008. So that was around 11 weeks,

- then, after the interview. You explain in your statement, and a moment ago, that you thought there was maybe a period where you were absent
- 4 from work and there was a delay?
- 5 A. Mm.

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- Q. So when you were writing this report, would you
 have refreshed your memory of the case before
 drafting it?
- 9 A. I would have obviously referred to the taped
 10 summaries very much and, obviously, the case
 11 papers that I had -- the jacketed case papers,
 12 as well. What I'm unsure is -- and probably
 13 I would probably have been marked down on
 14 compliance here, is the delay, which I found
 15 unusual.

I'd like to say that I did all the necessary enquiries during that period of time but I do remember speaking to the -- or trying to contact those gentlemen but I don't know why it was such a long time.

- Q. Do you remember trying to contact them beforeyou wrote the offender report?
- 23 A. I would have said so, yes.
- Q. At the bottom of page 2 of the offender report,you summarise the interview that you had with

1 please, you put in bold there:

"There did not appear to be any further failings in security, procedures or product integrity that directly affect this case."

Do you think that that's a fair reflection, given what Mr Wilson said to you in his interview?

- 8 **A.** No.
- 9 Q. Why do you think you positively put that10 assertion in the report?
- A. Because I should have put in there, regarding
 what was raised with the Federation, and the
 document that I think that they referred to
 about postmasters raising issues, and the only
 reason I can say that I didn't was because of my
 own personal beliefs that there wasn't anything
 wrong with Horizon, and that's not an acceptable
- wrong with Horizon, and that's not an acceptableanswer, probably, but that's all I can offer.
- 19 Q. Do you also accept that you don't provide any20 details of conducting further enquiries in that
- 21 report?
- 22 A. Yeah, I accept that.
- Q. Why is that the case, if you said that you hadcontacted his managers?
- 25 A. I don't know. That's completely wrong.

1 Mr Wilson and, just at the bottom of that 2 paragraph, you say:

3 "Mr Wilson explained how this had been 4 common practice for the past five years or so. 5 He was asked if he had considered theft by his 6 employees, given the fact it appeared the 7 shortages were a regular occurrence with no 8 explanation or corresponding errors ever q appearing apparent. He said he had not believed 10 this to be the case."

11 You don't include there the allegations that 12 he made about the Horizon system; do you accept 13 that?

- 14 A. I accept that, yes.
- 15 Q. Why did you not include those details in yoursummary of the interview?
- 17 A. I don't know, and I think I also said -- I'm not
 going to say I didn't write this report, because
- 19 I believe I probably did. But I don't recall
- doing the taped summaries but, yeah, I accept
- that it's not in there.
- Q. The end of this report that we looked at hasyour signature --
- 24 A. Then it's my report. Then it's my report.
- 25 **Q.** Then, if we can go down to the bottom of page 3, 194
- Q. Could it because you didn't conduct thoseenquiries?
- A. No, no, I definitely, I'm sure, I did speak to
 at least one of the three gentlemen but, to
- recall the actual conversation, I can't recall
 that. But --
- Q. So later in December, the Post Office applied
 for a restraint order against Mr Wilson. Did
- you have any involvement in the financialinvestigation side or the subsequent
- 11 confiscation proceedings?
- 12 $\,$ **A.** No, no, we just -- we'd done the report as
- you've just described, and it obviously went
 through the Casework Team to the Legal Tea
- through the Casework Team to the Legal Team and then back and then through the court process and
- then it was during the court process, I believe,
- 17 that the Financial Investigation Unit got
- involved, dependent on whether any payment had
- 19 been made or seen to be made or not.
- 20 $\,$ **Q.** Moving on in time, then, you were cc'd into
- 21 a memo from Jarnail Singh, dated 6 January 2009,
- 22 and the reference for this document is
- 23 POL00044806, if we could have it on screen,
- 24 please.
- 25 So it's to the Fraud Team, and we can see 196

1		that you're cc'd. If we go to the bottom of	1		prepared the committal bundle in this case?
2		that page, please, Jarnail Singh says there:	2	A.	I believe so, yes.
3		"If the defendant should elect trial or if	3	Q.	As part of this bundle, I think you provided
4		the Magistrates refuse jurisdiction or if a Not	4		a witness statement on 12 March 2009. Could we
5		Guilty plea is entered, the Investigation	5		have POL00044778 on screen, please. So we can
6		Manager should obtain and associate all	6		see that this is dated 12 March 2009. This is
7		necessary statements and exhibits."	7		some period of time after you've conducted the
8		He lists a number of statements which appear	8		interview.
9		to be necessary but also says the Investigation	9	A.	Yeah.
10		Manager should also consider whether there are	10	Q.	Would you have referred back to the interview
11		any other areas which can usefully be covered.	11		summaries to compile your witness statement?
12		Was it your responsibility, then, to conduct	12	A.	I would have thought so, yes.
13		those further enquiries or consider if anything	13	Q.	So going over the page at page 2, then, please.
14		else was necessary?	14		Going down the page, please. So at the bottom
15	A.	I guess it was, yes.	15		of that page, again, you summarise the interview
16	Q.	Did you consider whether anything was necessary	16		with Mr Wilson. You say:
17		at that point?	17		"During the interview I showed Mr Wilson
18	A.	I'll be honest, no, I didn't.	18		a selection of Branch Trading Statements for the
19	Q.	Did you read this memo from Jarnail Singh?	19		Astwood Bank Post Office that Mr Wilson
20	A.	I would have done, yes. I think a copy would	20		confirmed were all false accounts."
21		have probably been within the case papers as	21		Then going over the page:
22		well.	22		"He confirmed that all accounts produced by
23	Q.	Mr Wilson subsequently appeared at Redditch	23		him over the past 5 years would also have been
24		Magistrates Court and pleaded not guilty on	24		false accounts as he deliberately inflated
25		4 March 2009. Is it correct that you then	25		cash-on-hand figure."
		197			198
		Very many division than the many distribution and	4		mathin who displace 0
1		You produce those trading statements.	1		nothing to disclose?
2		Do you accept, again, that you don't include	2	Α.	I didn't, no.
3		the mention of problems with Horizon?	3	Q.	You subsequently went on to then complete
4	Α.	Yes, I haven't mentioned it, no.	4		a Disclosure Officers report, in which you state
5	Q.	You don't then go on to explain whether any	5		there was nothing to disclose. Do you remember
6		further enquiries have been made in his case?	6		that?
7	Α.	No.	7	Α.	No.
8	Q.	Is there any reason that you haven't provided	8	Q.	,
9		any more detail in your witness statement?	9	Α.	,, , ,
10	A.	No.	10		and subsequently
11	Q.	Can we then move to POL00119090 on screen,	11		You did?
12		please. I think this is you forwarding on the	12	A.	Jarnail Singh must have asked. Okay. All
13		committal bundle to the Casework Manager,	13		right.
14		Croydon. So you say you provided a list of	14	Q.	Could we then please have POL00051720 on screen,
15		documents and then, under that list, you say:	15		please. We can see this is dated 28 May 2009
16		"Please note I have not forwarded a GS006D	16		and, again, you're cc'd in. Jarnail Singh says:
17		or GS006E as there is no sensitive material and	17		"I now enclose a copy of counsel's advice
18		nothing to undermine the case or assist the	18		and would be grateful if you could make further
19		defence."	19		enquiries and deal with the matters set out in
20		So are we referring there to the schedule of	20		counsel's advice."
21		sensitive material and the Disclosure Officer's	21		Did you understand that to be your
22		report?	22		responsibility?

23 A. Yes.

24 25 Q. Did you appreciate that these documents needed

to be completed in any event, even if there's

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gone into the Casework Team, I believe. But if
 there was any further enquiries to be dealt
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A. I'm not sure because, obviously, this would have

1		with, then I'm sure they would have advised what	1		really.
2		they were, or it would have been within	2	Q.	Is that because of his role as an Auditor?
3		counsel's advice within the case papers for me	3	A.	Yeah, but he wouldn't know that the computer was
4		to do that.	4		working appropriately at all times.
5	Q.	Do you remember seeing a copy of counsel's	5	Q.	Going further down that page, then, at
6		advice in this case?	6		paragraph 5(a), it states that:
7	A.	Not specifically but, if it was in the case	7		"Dependent upon what occurs at the PCMH
8		papers then, yes, because I would have obviously	8		[which is short for the Plea and Case Managemen
9		had to have looked at doing that.	9		Hearing] it may be necessary to obtain
10	Q.	Could we bring that up, please. It's	10		statements from Paul Vantoosy and Keith Bridges
11		POL00044751. So this advice is written by	11		"
12		Anthony Vines, and it's dated 22 May 2009. On	12		Then, going over on to the next page: and
13		paragraph 4 of page 1, just further down the	13		Donna Evans.
14		page, he lists a number of items that should be	14		So those would be the three people that
15		obtained and served. Over the page, then, at	15		would be able to speak to what Mr Wilson was
16		paragraph (c)(iv), he says that:	16		raising in his interview; do you accept that?
17		"A further statement from Mr Patrick [the	17	A.	Yes.
18		Auditor] should	18	Q.	Do you accept that, if counsel is asking for it,
19		"State that at all material times the	19		it's because counsel hasn't seen any evidence
20		computer was working appropriately and that	20		that that has been done to date?
21		there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the	21	A.	I agree, yes.
22		information received"	22	Q.	Then at paragraph 7 of his advice, just further
23		Did you consider that at the time?	23		down the page, he makes reference to a letter,
24	A.	I can't recall but it seems a bit I don't	24		dated 14 May 2009, and:
25		know how Mr Patrick would be able to do that, 201	25		" the Defendant's solicitors apparently 202
1		seeks information as to the number and location	1		obtain this further evidence?
2		of other Royal Mail prosecutions."	2	A.	I don't know what kind of I don't know
3		Were you aware of that letter?	3		whether it was a plea and case management
4	A.	Not that I can recall, no.	4		hearing
5	Q.	Halfway down that paragraph he says:	5	Q.	It was.
6		"I personally am not aware that Horizon has	6	A.	on 15 June, and whether I was waiting what
7		been found to be faulty in any respects but	7		date was this? Oh, it was four days before the
8		I would be grateful to have this point	8		hearing. I can only assume that I was waiting
9		clarified."	9		to see, from the plea and case management, as to
10		Do you remember speaking to counsel or Post	10		whether well, necessity for getting the
11		Office lawyers about that point?	11		further evidence, I guess. With
12	A.	I don't, no.	12	Q.	Do you mean
13	Q.	Do you remember considering this advice at all?	13	A.	If it had been a longer period of time then
14	A.	I don't, no. I'm sorry, I don't.	14		I probably was thinking, you know, I would have
15	Q.	If we could turn, then, to an email and the	15		needed to have got that, but I'm not saying it.
16		reference is POL00051803, please. This is	16		It wasn't probably the only case I was dealing
17		an email from you to Jarnail Singh, dated	17		with, and I'm not saying rightly or wrongly
18		11 June 2009, and you say, the third paragraph	18		here, but I've probably several other cases
19		down:	19		being chased in different manners and, wrongly,
20		"I have noted the further advice requested	20		I've probably said that I'll wait for the
21		from Counsel and will await the outcome on	21		outcome on 15 June. So, yeah, I'm sorry.
22		15 June 2009 as to the necessity of this further	22	Q.	
23		evidence."	23		if Mr Wilson would plead guilty?
24		Why did you think that the hearing on	24	Α.	I guess so, yes.
25		15 June would affect whether it was necessary to 203	25	Q.	Do you think that, looking back, that's in 204

of -- he felt it was one of those two but -appropriate way to conduct --1 1 2 A. No, not at all. Not at all. 2 Q. Were you concerned that he'd said that the 3 Q. So Mr Wilson did plead guilty at that hearing on losses might have been due to systemic errors? 3 15 June 2009 were you present at court during 4 A. Yes, but then that wasn't anything that he 4 5 hadn't said before, I think, possibly. that hearing? 5 6 A. No, I wasn't. 6 Q. Looking back now, do you have any reflections in 7 Q. Did you have any involvement in agreeing his 7 respect of how this investigation was conducted? 8 basis of plea? 8 A. Yes, it was poor. 9 A. No. 9 Q. So I want to move on, then, to discuss the case 10 Q. Do you remember being made aware of his basis of 10 of Ms Lynette Hutchings and she was the subpostmaster at Rowlands Castle sub post office 11 11 Later, yes, after the -- I think it was agreed 12 branch. Is it correct that your role was as 12 Α. 13 with probably Jarnail Singh, Mr Anthony Vines 13 Second Officer at the interview during this 14 and, obviously, between the defence as well. So 14 15 I was made aware, obviously later, because I was 15 A. From the papers I received, yes. 16 the officer in the case but, again, it was 16 **Q**. Can we please bring up the transcript from that 17 unusual for me to be that far away from 17 interview, it's POL00056417. So we can see 18 Bournemouth, and I didn't attend, there was 18 there that you were the interviewing officer 19 I think a local guy, Mr Dove, who was attending 19 with Mr Brander and, if we just go down a little 20 and I was at the end of a telephone, basically. 20 bit, that Issy Hogg was the solicitor 21 21 Q. In his basis he stated that the losses occurred representing Mrs Hutchings. 22 as a result of staff or systemic errors. So 22 A. 23 what was your view of that basis, when you were 23 Q. Were you familiar with Issy Hogg before this 24 made aware of it? 24 interview? 25 Α. Either of those two, I guess. It had to be one 25 I believe I'd met her once before, at another 1 interview. 1 I think it was because we'd had a prepared 2 statement and, recalling back to the occasion Q. Were you aware that Ms Hogg had represented 2 3 other subpostmasters who'd raised problems with 3 I had met Issy Hogg, I'm not -- can't be 100 per 4 Horizon? 4 cent but I had a feeling we had a prepared 5 5 A. I wasn't at that time but I am now. statement and the prepared statement read out 6 Q. So over the page at page 2, at the start of the 6 that the person, Lynette somebody, that she --7 interview, Mrs Hutchings read a prepared 7 Q. Hutchings. A. Hutchings, sorry, Lynette Hutchings had 8 statement and she blamed the losses at her 8 9 branch on Horizon. She says, at the second 9 struggled to get hold of people to raise the 10 10 line: issues, et cetera, et cetera and, as 11 "We migrated to Horizon Online in 11 an investigating officer, I was feeling that 12 12 approximately May/June 2010. At the time of this was her opportunity to, if you like, tell 13 migration all accounts balanced. Ever since we 13 us exactly what was going wrong or what was --14 have been with HOL [Horizon Online] the balances 14 and I know -- I think I said that she -- it's 15 have been wrong." 15 her obligation to do a prepared statement, but 16 If we could then go to page 8, please, and 16 I was tying to, if you like, say "Look, are 17 we can see your initials on the left side, and 17 you -- have you got Issy Hogg today, because, 18 you know, she's told you to give a prepared you say: 18 19 19 statement", which as a solicitor, that's what

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22 Q.

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"Okay, in respect of obviously we have Issy today and you have prepared a statement, etc, is there any reason I could ask you why you have actually got Issy Hogg as your Solicitor and not somebody from (indistinct) do you have not have any solicitors locally."

Why did you ask that question? 207

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her role is to do. But there was no other

Why were you asking if she didn't have any

solicitors locally? Why would that have been

specific reason than that, really.

25 A. I guess that because I'd come across Issy

1		before, that I was just thinking, well, it	1	Α.	Correct, yeah.
2		seemed a bit how can I say? Unusual for	2	Q.	
3		to be in another interview. I think I was the	3	۳.	case, other than the interview?
4		first officer with the previous case with Issy	4	A.	
5		Hogg and, on this occasion, I was the second	5	۸.	officer statement, if it was required. I can't
6		officer and it was Issy Hogg and I think	6		remember, but yeah.
7		possibly that, as I say, there'd been two	7	Q.	
8		instances of a prepared statement and no comment	8	Q.	is about your knowledge of errors in Horizon.
9		and, from the first interview, I think	9		
10		Issy Hogg, off memory lived around the Guildford	10		Throughout your statement, and again today,
11		, 66	11		you've emphasised that you were not aware of any
		area, or somewhere like that, but I might be	12		bugs, errors or defects in Horizon while you
12	^	mistaken.			were an Investigator. But do you accept that,
13	Q.	Do you think it's an appropriate question to ask	13		during your time as an Investigator, you'd been
14		in interview?	14		told by multiple subpostmasters that they were
15	Α.	No, no.	15		having problems with Horizon?
16	Q.	Is it right that, with the exception of the	16	Α.	
17		interview, you didn't have any other involvement	17	Q.	
18		in this case?	18	Α.	., .
19	Α.	No.	19		that there's more.
20	Q.	Moving on very briefly to the case of Mrs Susan	20	Q.	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
21		Rudkin, who was the subpostmaster at Ibstock	21		This is a suspect offender report in the case of
22		Post Office, is it correct that you were also	22		Tracey Merritt. We can see that it's sent by
23		the second investigating officer in this case?	23		you on 10 November 2011. Then if we look at
24	Α.	I was, yes.	24		page 3 of that report, please. You give a brief
25	Q.	You were assisting Mike Wilcox? 209	25		summary of admissions or denials made at the 210
1		interview. You say:	1		a bit more, thank you. We see that you reply
2		"On commencement of the interview PM	2		saying:
3		produced documentation from Computer Weekly with	3		"I am pleased to advise you that I still
4		regards to the enquiry Justice for	4		have the electronic documents relating to [two
5		Subpostmasters being undertaken by Shoosmiths	5		cases including Mr Wilson's]."
6		stating that 11,500 postmasters were saying the	6		If we go up the page again, please, and we
7		system was at fault."	7		then see an email from Graham Ward asking:
8		Do you accept that, by this time, you were	8		"Why are you pleased"
9		aware that a significant number of	9		If we go up to the top of the page, please.
10		subpostmasters were raising errors with Horizon?	10		So this is an email sent by you to Mr Ward on
11	A.	I'm not sure 11,500. That would probably be	11		the 21 April 2015. You say:
12		everybody but	12		"Because I want to prove that there is
13	Q.	But that's your summary.	13		FFFFiiinnn no 'Case for the Justice of Thieving
14	A.	Yeah. She's obviously produced a document by	14		Subpostmasters' and that we were the best
15		the look of it, yes.	15		Investigators they ever had and they were all
16	Q.	I just want to take you now to an email chain	16		crooks!!"
17		dated April 2015, and the reference is	17		Can you explain what you meant by that?
18		POL00176521, please. If we start at the middle	18	A.	Absolutely disgraceful. It's the thing that
19		of page 2. So it starts with an email from Dave	19		I received last night at about 6.00 and I'm
20		Posnett, April 2015, and he's asking for files	20		appalled. I've no explanation other than you'll
21		in cases where you and others were Criminal	21		see the time of the email being sent.
22		Investigator and Financial Investigator because	22	Q.	4.10.
23		they're being subject to the review by the	23	A.	I think it oh, I thought it was 11.40 pm.
24		Criminal Case Review Commission.	24		I think it's 4.11 in the afternoon.
25		If we go up the page, then, please, and up	25	A.	Okay. Then I have no
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- Was that your view at the time, that these 1 2 people were guilty?
- 3 A. The only thing I can say about this email and 4 the only -- well, the two things I can say about
- 5 this email -- other than say it's an absolute
- 6 disgrace and it's something that I wouldn't have
- 7
- wanted to be part of the Inquiry and I can only
- 8 apologise to absolutely everybody, because I've 9 labelled absolutely everybody, so I can't defend
- 10 it -- is that on the 21 April 2015, I still,
- replying to no one else other than a colleague, 11
- 12 a friend within the Post Office Security Team,
- 13 that I still believed that Horizon was still
- 14 nothing wrong with it, and I wasn't aware of any
- 15 bugs, errors or defects.
 - So my inference here, that everybody was guilty, is wrong and I'm embarrassed, is all
- 18 I can say.

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- 19 Q. Can we move on, then, to an email that you sent 20 in 2021 addressed to Nick Read please. The
- 21 reference is POL00113304, and it's on page 5.
- 22 This was your email, addressed to Nick Read. 23 Why did you decide to write to Nick Read in
- 24 2021?
- 25 A. I think this was a couple of weeks after

cent correct ..."

- Who were you told that by in the Post 3
- 4 A. Again, it's -- it was in my opinion -- and,
- 5 again, it was a wrong opinion -- was the
- 6 message, and I don't know where this message
- 7 comes from or whatever this belief is, that, as
- 8 far as I was aware, all my colleagues and
- 9 myself, yes, we'd had challenges, yes, we'd had
- 10 people saying that we've got this document or 11 that document but, as I say, I've been through
- 12 I don't know how many ARQ data things, and
- 13 nothing had come to light to me to say, "That's
- 14 a bit suspicious". 15

okay.

And I'm not saying I was an expert because I'd already I was self-taught, I didn't accept the training. But what I will say is that I couldn't, myself, corroborate it. He's been used in previous evidence that I've watched, as an expert, whether he was an expert or a lay witness, as far as I was concerned, Mr Jenkins was given a statement to say that everything was

The more I've listened is now maybe that

wasn't the case because he wasn't being asked 215

- 1 Mr Wilson was acquitted and, for the first time,
- 2 I now knew that there was some kind of
- 3 knowledge, possibly within the Post Office at
- 4 board level, senior team of investigations or
- 5 whatever, and it was an email of anger. I'm
- 6 angry with myself for the one we looked at
- 7 before this, I hasten to add, and this is my
- 8 frustration that the business, in my opinion,
- 9 for all the justices of postmasters, given what
- 10 I'd said previously, should have been listened
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- I was angry that, after 32 years of being pleased for working for the Post Office and actually felt proud to work for them, I was no longer proud to work for them, that if anybody knew something, they certainly didn't tell me. If they didn't tell all my colleagues or people made out they didn't, I don't know. The level of my email before this one and this one,
- 20 hopefully will reiterate that that was exactly
- 21 my feelings, is -- that I had no knowledge,
- 22 which I do now have.
 - Q. So your paragraph 3 of that email, you say:
 - "We were informed by Post Office Limited that the Horizon Computer System was 100 per 214

1 the correct questions to put in his statement 2 and, likewise, I've now learnt that ARQ data, 3 there was more than one option to request. So 4 all of these things are now bringing to a head, 5 to me, in this email, my anger and frustration.

> And I'd like to -- and it's not a question, but what I'd like Sir Wyn to be able to do is to find all the evidence and all the solution -you know, everything here, and this isn't painting a picture wrongly, Sir Wyn, in -- what I don't know about these bugs, errors and defects is the subpostmasters that have been brought before here and have been found innocent, is they're all reference to losses.

15 Now, under the terms of the contract --

- 16 Q. That is something that the Inquiry will be 17 investigating.
- 18 Yeah, investigating as well. Okay. A.
- 19 Q. If I could just take you back, then, to your 20 email, and two paragraphs below, that's the 21 fifth paragraph down, in the middle of that
- 22 paragraph, you say:

"In fact my yearly objectives that were bonus worthy at the time were based on numbers of successful prosecutions and recovery amounts

1		of money to the business."
2		So is it the case, then, that your personal
3		objectives, for which you received bonuses,
4		depended on those two things?
5	Α.	I can't be 100 per cent sure, if I'm honest.
6		There was bonus objectives. I don't know if
7		they were individual, team based, but there was
8		some kind of bonus worthy, dependent, as far as
9		I can recall, on percentage amounts recovered
10		for the business, something along those lines.
11		So please accept this is an anger statement
12		to the Chairman of the Post Office, and I'm not
13		saying that I spent a lot of time researching
14		what I put in there. Maybe I should have. And
15	_	I'm not
16	Q.	I'm actually just going to take you to another
17		back to that document we looked at earlier,
18		which was your 2009 to 2010 full year review,
19		and the reference is POL00166128, please. Just
20		the bottom of that first page, where we see
21		"Objective 1 Information". The title of that is
22		"40% Loss Recovery".
23		Is that what you're referring to in terms of
24		the loss recovery objective?
25	A.	Yes, and reading it here now, I think the last
		217
1		a postmaster's contract with the Contracts
2		Manager. It was, rightly or wrongly, within the
3		contact that they were responsible for making
4		good losses. So, yeah.
5	Q.	Just, finally, then, if we could go back to your
6		email addressed to Nick Read, the reference is
7		POL00113304, on page 5, at the bottom of that
8		page. In the penultimate paragraph of your
9		letter, you say:
10		"Whilst compensation is being correctly
11		awarded now to the subpostmasters, I feel the
12		employees instructed to conduct these
13		prosecutions, arrests and searches have been
14		completely overlooked."
15		Can you explain what you meant by that part
16		of your letter?
17	A.	Well, I think there is part of the chain,
18		I won't go into it too much, but I think they
19		think I was looking for compensation when all
20		I was really looking for was an apology that
21		they'd never actually brought any of this
22		attention to myself and my colleagues, if there

was any knowledge -- and I say if there was any

knowledge -- whoever had that knowledge, that it

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was never -- so I -- they've overlooked, where

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1	word on there is "team", so recovery of
2	40 per cent of monies from investigations
3	conducted to have a positive return rate against
4	investigation element of teams. So I'm guessing
5	that wasn't specifically towards me.
6	Q. It was a team objective, rather than personal
7	objective?
8	A. A team objective. But I knew there was some
9	kind of, if you like, in that email chain, some
10	kind of link, because I'd been in the
11	Investigation Team for a number of years and
12	I remember there was some kind of percentage
13	against recovery that they were the business
14	was looking for.
15	Q. Were you aware of any benefit that you
16	personally received, if you achieved that
17	benefit?
18	A. Only if there was a team-based element to it,
19	I guess.
20	Q. Did that objective influence the way in which
21	you acted as an Investigator?
22	A. I'd probably be lying if I said no because
23	I probably you know, it was part of the
24	business, the culture of the business of
25	recoveries or even under the terms of
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1	we are today.
2	Q. Did you think that it would be appropriate to
3	compensate staff who were involved in these
4	investigations and prosecutions?
5	A. No.
6	MS MILLAR: Thank you very much for your assistance,
7	Mr Thomas, I don't have any questions for you.
8	Sir, do you have any questions before
9	I check whether the Core Participants have any
10	questions?
11	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: No, thank you, no.
12	MS MILLAR: Mr Stein, thank you.
13	Questioned by MR STEIN
14	MR STEIN: Sir, I have five minutes of questions.
15	I have with me Tracey Merritt, who started her
16	day at 4.00 this morning so that she could
17	attend, so that you're aware that she is present
18	with us in the Inquiry room.
19	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Mm-hm.
20	MR STEIN: Mr Thomas, I've got a few questions for
21	you. As I've just indicated to the Chair,
22	I won't be long.
23	I appear on behalf of a very large number of
24	
2-1	subpostmasters and mistresses, who are the victims of this scandal. Can we just quickly go

back, please, to the time you've spoken about with the barrister that's just been asking you questions today, Ms Millar.

You were talking about the time at around 2008 where there was a growing awareness of subpostmasters saying there were problems with the Horizon system, okay? You said in your evidence that "a message came out", were your words earlier. That was, I think, at about 2.20/2.25 this afternoon.

The message came out, it seems you were saying, from the Post Office, that there wasn't a problem with the Horizon system. Is that what you were trying to say?

15 **A.** Yes.

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- 16 Q. Okay. So we know from other evidence that you17 probably have seen and heard in this Inquiry,
- 18 that Computer Weekly, a publication dealing with
- 19 computers and their issues, had started
- an investigation in relation to the Horizon
- 21 system. Were you aware of that, around that
- 22 time?
- 23 A. I can't be sure exactly when. I am aware now,
- 24 yes.
- 25 **Q.** Yes, well, considering that you and your
- 1 $\,$ Q. Okay. Now, you mention in your statement -- and
- 2 if you can go up on the screen, please, with
- 3 Mr Thomas' statement, paragraph 45, witness
- 4 statement is WITN09160100. Thank you. So
- 5 that's paragraph 45. The copy I have, I'm
- 6 afraid, isn't a paginated statement.
- 7 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: That's okay, I've got8 paragraph 45 there.
- 9 MR STEIN: I'm very grateful.
- 10 It's going to be the previous page to that,
- 11 it looks like.

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- 12 Thank you.
 - If you could highlight paragraph 45. Just make it slightly larger on the screen. So here you're talking about you having held relevant roles within the Security Team. You:
 - "... have no specific examples of analysis being done by Security Team Investigators of Horizon data when an SPM/SPM's manager(s) or assistant(s)/Crown Office employee(s) attributed a shortfall to a problem with Horizon."
- 22 You go on:
 - "But if there were any employees that suggested this was the case, I would have asked them initially what steps they had taken to

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- 1 colleagues were involved in the investigation of
- 2 individuals in relation to the Horizon system.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. I'm sure that this was at least a matter of some5 passing interest?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Yes. Okay. So the message comes out from the
- 8 Post Office that you shouldn't be concerned
- 9 about it, and yet you've also had some questions
- 10 from Ms Millar this afternoon about the fact
- 11 that you were aware that, during your own
- 12 investigations, some subpostmasters and
- 13 mistresses were saying that there were problems
- 14 with the system; is that also right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Right. So there's a growing body of such
- 17 evidence; is that correct?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 Q. You speak about that in relation to your
- 20 statement, where you were involved in
- 21 Mr Wilson's case -- and it's one of those cases,
- 22 again, that was around 2008 -- Mr Wilson's was
- 23 one where Mr Wilson was highlighting the fact of
- 24 his concerns with the Horizon system, yes?
- 25 **A.** Yes.

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- 1 report this fact. What examples they had
- 2 actually discovered on Horizon to claim this and
- 3 had they reported this at their earliest
- 4 opportunity to say the Post Office Helpdesk,
- 5 their Contracts Manager or the possibility of
- 6 requesting some further training assistance or
- 7 even an audit for example."
- 8 So there you're saying in your statement
- 9 that, if, in a matter that you were looking at,
- someone were to say, "Mr Thomas, there seems to
- 11 be a problem with your system", those are the
- sorts of steps that you say you would have
- 13 taken; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. To be fair, looking back in time to what we're
- thinking about, you had that by what, 2008, as
- we mentioned earlier, you were on notice that
- 18 there was a growing body of claims by
- 19 subpostmasters that there were problems in the
- 20 Horizon system, yes?
- 21 **A.** Yes.
- 22 Q. Presumably, what you're saying here, at
- 23 paragraph 45, was that, well, with the knowledge
- 24 that there is this growing body of problems that
- are being made public about the Horizon system,

1	you'd want to operate with care, you'd want to
2	make sure that someone has had the opportunity
3	to raise this within the system; is that right?

4 A Yes

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5 Okay. You go on to say that, the same 6 paragraph:

> "If I had any ARQ Horizon data available to me either before any interview or requested this subsequently after I would have spent time viewing and assessing any such claim they made by looking for any potential issue."

So, again, what you seem to be saying there is, if a subpostmaster or subpostmistress had made such a claim, what you would want to do is to speak to them about what they had tried to do, how they'd raised it, how it had come about; is that right?

- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Also, you'd want to then do the other side of 20 it, from an Investigator's point of view, which 21 is to try to find, within the system, ARQ data, 22 yes?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Trying to analyse what you were doing, 25 therefore, rather than just ignoring

So we can see there that you're one of the interviewing officers of Tracey Merritt, and another person present is Mike Robinson, a solicitor. You're with also Lisa Allen a colleague of yours; is that right?

- 6 A. That's correct, yes.
 - Q. Now, Tracey Merritt, her background was that she was someone that used to work for Social Services, before becoming a subpostmaster or mistress, she was a childcare officer. She had, with her family, gone into the Post Office business, if you like, in order to find a stable income and also to support her family.

She had two post office branches in Dorset, the one at Yetminster and the one at Chetnole. I'm probably saying both of those names very badly but that's where she operated from and had her businesses. So she'd put a lot of effort a lot of time into these businesses, and her background in childcare, working for Social Services, might be said to be something to her credit; do you agree?

- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Yes.

25 Now, what she then says when she's being 227

a subpostmaster or mistress, you'd want to 1 2 actually, you know, look at this thing properly, 3 as an Investigator; is that right?

A. Yes, obviously now, at the time I wasn't aware 4 that Horizon data or ARQ data wouldn't have 5 6 shown me anything but, in writing this 7 statement, that is exactly what I would want to 8

- 9 Q. These are steps, you're saying --
- 10 Yes.
- -- it seems, reading it your statement. 11
- 12 A. Yes. Q.

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Okay, if we can then go, please, to Mrs Tracey Merritt's interview, it's got a slightly odd citation for it, so on the system it's HOCO0000002, and Frankie I think has it

available on the screen. I'm very grateful.

These are the steps you'd want to take?

Sir, the pagination of this isn't very good, it's the top right-hand corner in hand, and so I'm going to be referring to the top right-hand corner pagination as we have it there. If you could just show the first page further down, so that we can see what's going on. The date of interview is 9/11/2011.

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1 asked questions by you, Mr Thomas, we see at the 2 bottom of the page that's on the screen next to 3 303 and then GT, your initials: 4 "Can I ask you to explain to me why there

was that shortage at the branch?"

Tracey Merritt says:

"Because your computers are naff, basically. Because the computers do their own thing ... You go off at night and they're balanced and you come on in the morning and you've got a deficit

Can we go, please, Frankie to page 15, again using the handwritten pagination, top right-hand corner. Now, here we've got a continuation of this interview. You're saying this:

"On the night of the balance on the 28th but this cheque hadn't been entered on the Horizon system had it?

"Why did you not enter it onto the Horizon system then?

"Cos I'd just told you I'd already done all my work done my end of week, realised that the office was throwing up losses again which were, it seems to do, cos I -- your computer system

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does its own thing so I wrote out the cheque. Once I've already done the end of week you can't go back in and do it cos that looks stupid. So first thing in the morning that is the first thing to do but obviously I've never got to that stage because your auditors were there."

So you can see that Tracey Merritt in the interview has said, you know, with pinpoint clarity, that basically the computer system doesn't work properly, it's naff. It is throwing up the wrong numbers. It's fairly clear, isn't it?

13 A. Yes.

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14 Q. Yes, okay. Let's then consider how you dealt with that at this stage and can we go, please, 15 16 to page 24 of the interview, again using the 17 same handwritten pagination, top right-hand 18 corner. Thank you.

> So here we have, against the tape counter times, 29.00, the person speaking, GT, this is you:

"Do you think that it is only your two computers at Chetnole and Yetminster that there is a problem with the Post Office then given that we have I don't know 17,000 post offices 229

have I don't know 17,000 post offices operating on the same system?"

Basically you're saying to Tracey Merritt "What's your problem? Nobody else has got it". You're saying to her that she's an isolated case of a difficulty with two computers that she happens to be running at two branches. That's what you're saying, aren't you, Mr Thomas?

9 A. I think we've not gone through the whole transcript, sir. 10

Q. Well --11

A. I think when you look at the whole transcript 12 13 you may get a better picture of it possibly, 14 rather than the highlighted bits you've just 15 brought out.

Q. Well, let's just stay with what we've got here 16 17 for the moment, Mr Thomas. I went through what you said in your statement about the way you 18 19 would like to deal with these issues when they 20 were raised. You would enquire as to "Well, 21 what's the problem and have you raised this with 22 anybody?" You would want to make sure that 23 you've got the data from the computer system, 24 the ARQ data, and the like. It's hardly the 25 attitude you're displaying here. This is just

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1 operating on the same computer system?" 2

Tracey Merritt says:

"No, I don't, I'm sorry no, I don't cos there's 11,500 of us that are all having problems."

Now, let's work backwards. So the 11,500 mentioned seems to be, if this transcript and this note of what she said is correct, is what she's saying, she's also shown you -- from the other evidence that the Inquiry has seen -- some information that's come from the campaign group,

in relation to Justice for Subpostmasters. 12

13 You're aware of the background in relation to 14 Computer Weekly, all of these things, yes?

15 A. I'm not sure about Computer Weekly but, yes, the 16 one that she showed me.

17 Q. Yes, and you're aware of the background in 18 relation to the issues that have been coming to 19 your attention since 2008, yes?

20 A. A couple, a handful, yes.

21 Q. And you dismiss her. You dismiss her complaint 22 by saying this:

"Do you think it's only your two computers at Chetnole and Yetminster that there is a problem with the Post Office then given we 230

1 you saying, "This is rubbish, you're making it 2 up. Why is it only you that's making this

3 complaint?" You knew it was different to that,

4 didn't you, Mr Thomas?

5 A. No, no, I don't know if it's possible to look at 6 but I only received this information yesterday

7 but I did notice, because, a bit like

8 Ms Merritt, I was up very early this morning,

9 but the evidence I looked at earlier on, I think

10 there's a tab in there, number 30, and it talks

11 about a second interview tape, which I don't

12 think we've got there -- I don't know if it's

13 possible to refer to it at all?

14 Q. Tell us what you want to say about it,

15 Mr Thomas.

A. I think it was to do with -- I don't know if it 16 17 was known as a Helen Rose inquiry, or whatever,

18 but it's the first one on the actual document

19 that came in, as well, at the same time, saying

20 about the brief summaries of recent challenges,

21 Yetminster being one, and on the summary it

22 says -- and obviously I haven't got the second

23 tape:

24 "Six minutes into the second tape Ms Merritt 25 states:

"I'm not trying to blame the Horizon system, I'm saying that my office kept coming up with losses'.

"Towards the end of the second tape transcript Ms Merritt admitted that losses had been accumulating since the end of July 2011 and that she had not been putting the money in for these losses, simply rolling the losses and inflating the cash.

"Gary Thomas, the lead officer in this case, commented at the end of the report:

"It should be noted that this likely to be further challenged towards the integrity of the Horizon system'."

So I hadn't seen the second tape. I haven't seen the second tape. I can only go on what's been written in this Horizon integrity report that I saw this morning at the same time I saw this. So I'm not defending any of my actions, because, as I've said all along, I'm not saying that I shouldn't have raised it and I did raise it, by the look of it, that there was a Horizon integrity issue. But it does say in tape 2, which I have no action to, within there. So that's the only reasonable offer and answer 233

- 1 there have been these problems raised.
- 2 I appreciate where you're coming from. I'll
- 3 check into that"? Why didn't you do that,
- 4 Mr Thomas?
- 5 A. I don't know, and I apologise.
- 6 Q. Now, Mr Thomas, you've said in your statement
- 7 that you're livid about the fact that these
- 8 issues with the Horizon system were kept from
- 9 you?

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- A. Yes. 10
- Q. You say you're very angry. You say that at two 11
- 12 different sections of your statement and you've
- 13 obviously been referred by Ms Millar to the note
- 14 that you wrote to Mr Read, yes?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Have you any idea how Tracey Merritt 16
- feels about your operation, your part in what 17
- 18 happened to her, about the loss of her business?
- 19 The damage to her life? The shock to her
- 20 system? The health deficits that she has felt
- 21 over the years? Have you the slightest idea how
- 22 she feels?
- 23 A. I can imagine a bit like Mrs Wilson, as well.
- 24 And my apologies go to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Merritt,
- 25 and everybody.

1 I can give you.

- 2 Q. It's not what we're asking about, Mr Thomas, is
- 3 it? We're asking about your reaction to --
- 4 well, it's said by Tracey Merritt, she's saying,
- "I've got these two problems with these two 5
- 6 computers at the two branches I operate", and
- 7 your response is "You're the only one, Tracey
- 8 Merritt, you're the only one complaining about
- q this".
- 10 Yet you knew, Mr Thomas -- you knew -- that
- 11 there had been a rise in these issues that had
- 12 been coming forward. So when you said that you
- 13 looked at these things with care, or would do if
- 14 they were ever brought to your attention, in
- 15 your statement, it wasn't true, was it
- 16 Mr Thomas?
- 17 A. I'll agree with you but, as I say, there was
- other things within the tapes including a cheque 18
- 19 that was written out and there wasn't funds in
- 20 the account.
- 21 Q. Well, why didn't you, Mr Thomas, operate with
- 22 a bit more care? With a bit more respect to the
- 23 subpostmaster -- or subpostmistress, I should
- 24 say -- in this case? Why didn't you operate
- 25 with a little more circumspection to say: "Look,

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- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Is that it, Mr Stein?
- 2 MR STEIN: Yes, sir.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Anybody else?
- 4 MS PATRICK: Sir, Ms Patrick here.
 - We'd like to ask one question about one
- 6 document, if there is time.

Questioned by MS PATRICK

- 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, as long as your one
- 9 question is one question, unlike Mr Stein's five
- 10 minutes!

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- MS PATRICK: Sir, I will do my best. 11
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you. 12
- 13 MS PATRICK: Mr Thomas, my name is Ms Patrick.
- 14 I, like Mr Stein, represent a number of
- 15 subpostmasters. The majority of our clients
 - were convicted and have now had their
- 17 convictions overturned.
- 18 I know that you've talked about your
- 19 feelings about the email in 2015. I'd like to
- 20 go back to that document, just very briefly.
- 21 It's POL00176521. If we can just look at the
- 22 first paragraph, please.

23 Before we look at what that says, Ms Millar 24 took you, I just remind you, to the internal

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document looking at targets and I think that you

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1		agreed the target that was set there on 40 per	1	Mrs Merritt, I'm pleased to see you in		
2		cent losses, I think that was about recovery of	2	attendance at the Inquiry and I hope that you		
3		losses up to 40 per cent across the team; is	3	have found the session which you've attended		
4		that fair?	4	informative, and I wish you a good journey home,		
5	A.	I think that's right, yes.	5	if you're going home, if that's going to take		
6	Q.	I just want to put these two together. The	6	6 another long time.		
7		second part of this email, the first paragraph,	7	So thank you all very much. We're not going		
8		we haven't looked at yet. I just want to read	8	to sit tomorrow, as I indicated at the beginning		
9		it, after saying "and they were all crooks!!":	9	of this session, and I'll see everyone on		
10		"Oh and we never hit our [Post Office]	10	Tuesday morning.		
11		Profit targets any more as we stopped getting	11	MS MILLAR: Thank you, sir.		
12		£XX million in recoveries from bloody good	12	(4.57 pm)		
13		financial recoveries through my good friends,	13	(The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on		
14		Ward, Harbinson, Posnett and the like!!"	14	Tuesday, 12 December 2023)		
15		To be fair, I just want to check, the	15			
16		40 per cent target on recoveries, are those the	16			
17		recoveries that you're referencing here in that	17			
18		email?	18			
19	A.	They would be part of it, yes.	19			
20	MS	PATRICK: Thank you. I don't have any other	20			
21		questions, Mr Thomas.	21			
22	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Patrick.	22			
23		Thank you, Mr Thomas, for coming to give	23			
24		evidence and for answering the questions that	24			
25		you have this afternoon.	25			
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