Tuesday, 12 December 2023 Q. On page 27? 1 1 2 27 of 35? (10.00 am) 2 Α. 3 Q. Yes. MR BEER: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear 3 4 Yes, it's just got "GRO" over where I would me? 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you. 5 5 6 MR BEER: May I recall Rob Wilson, please. 6 Q. Okay, do you remember making a witness statement 7 **ROBERT GEORGE WILSON (sworn)** 7 and signing it? 8 Questioned by MR BEER A. I think I was told not to sign it. 8 9 MR BEER: Thank you very much, please do sit down, 9 Q. Slightly odd. 10 Mr Wilson. 10 A. I know, on the first occasion, I did sign the Thank you very much for attending for 11 first statement but, on the second occasion, my 11 12 a second time today to give evidence. We're instructing lawyers said, "Don't sign it, you'll 12 13 very grateful to you. 13 sign it there", I think, was -- but I'm very Thank you also for devoting the time to 14 happy to sign it. 14 15 produce a second witness statement for the 15 Q. The witness statement that's in front of you, 16 Inquiry. If we can look at that, please, it's 16 have you read the contents of it? 17 27 pages long, excluding the index to the 17 A. 18 exhibits. It's dated 15 November 2023 and it 18 Q. Are the contents of it true to the best of your 19 should be at your tab A1 in the bundle. For the 19 knowledge and belief? 20 transcript the URN is WITN04210200. If you turn 20 A. Yes. There's one word wrong, in one of -- I've 21 forgotten the number, but there's one word wrong to the 27th page, please. 21 22 A. Yes, I've got it. 22 where I've put "audit" instead of "office", 23 Q. Is that your signature? 23 I think. 24 A. There isn't a signature there, would you like me 24 Q. Can you remember which paragraph, by chance? 25 to sign it? A. I'll look it up at lunchtime, if that's okay for 1 you? A. Yes. 2 Q. With that correction in mind, the contents of it 2 Q. Can we have on the screen, please, POL00128970. 3 are true to the best of your knowledge and 3 To give you some context, this is a document 4 belief? 4 compiled in 2020 during the course of appeals to 5 A. Yes. 5 the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. 6 Q. Okay. We'll attend to the signature of the 6 A. Yes. 7 witness statement outside the hearing room, if 7 Q. We understand that it was prepared before the 8 you say the contents are true to the best of 8 Court of Appeal Criminal Division gave its 9 judgment and that it was prepared by Peters & your knowledge and belief? 9 Peters, who were the solicitors acting on behalf 10 A. Yes, they are. 10 of the Post Office. In summary, it's inviting Q. Thank you very much. I think you understand the 11 11 questions today are focusing on Phase 4 of the the Post Office to essentially report lawyers, 12 12 including you, to the Solicitors Regulation 13 Inquiry, the investigation and prosecution of 13 14 subpostmasters for criminal offences? 14 Authority? 15 15 A. A. Q. In particular, three case studies, Seema Misra, Q. You can see that in the first paragraph, it 16 16 Allison Henderson and Khayyam Ishaq. 17 17 savs: 18 "Counsel has advised that the conduct of 18 Α. We addressed your professional background and 19 Jarnail Singh, Rob Wilson and Juliet McFarlane, 19 Q. 20 your career on the last occasion that you gave 20 three senior lawyers in the [Post Office/Royal 21 evidence, 12 October this year, and I'm not 21 Mail Group's] Criminal Law Team between 1999 and 22 going to ask you about it again. However, 22 2013 (collectively 'the Three Lawyers') is 23 I have got one question about your employment 23 capable of amounting to a serious breach of the

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[Solicitors Regulation Authority's] regulatory

arrangements, having regard to the nature and

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status with the Post Office. If I can just ask

you about that, please.

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number of cases referred for appeal and the issues identified through a review of material in the [Post-Conviction Disclosure Exercise] and Project Brisbane."

We can just see, if we turn to page 3, please, and look at the second paragraph, a summary of what was being said:

"Counsel has advised that material identified in the course of [those two exercises I've just mentioned] identifies potential misconduct (whether by individual instance or cumulatively) is capable of amounting to a serious breach. In particular:

- a failure to pursue all reasonable lines of inquiry whether they pointed towards or away from the guilt of the defendant and to establish that an actual financial loss had occurred in theft cases:
- "b. Material non-disclosure, in particular about the reliability of Horizon, in breach of CPIA duties;
- "c. Inadequate, negligent or improper decision making in relation to charging offences and determining whether to drop charges or

"vi. Making the acceptance of pleas conditional on the defendant not making any explicit criticism of the Horizon system."

So they were the issues that have been identified in a potential report to the SRA. If we just go back to page 2, please, and we're going to explore some of those things today. If we look at page 2, and if we look at the bottom part of the document under "Other relevant issues" -- the lawyers have raised above that, I should say, the pros and cons the benefits and the risks of making a report to the SRA, the pluses and the minuses.

Then under "Other relevant issues", it says, under paragraph 2:

"However, only one of the Three Lawyers ..."

You remember that was a defined phrase at the beginning of the document --

A. Yes.

20 Q. -- you, Jarnail Singh, and Juliet McFarlane:

"... was ever employed directly by [Post Office Limited]. He is no longer an employee."

Were you employed directly by Post Office

24 Limited?

A. I think probably when I started in 1986 but then

accept lesser/partial ones, for example:

"i. Misunderstanding or misapplying the Full Code Test;

"ii. Misunderstanding or misapplying the burden of proof by requiring defendants to prove they were not responsible for the loss suggested by Horizon rather than by proving that there was a loss and that the [subpostmaster] must have been responsible for it;

"iii. Attaching improper weight in decision making to the financial/commercial interests of [the Post Office], particularly in terms of using criminal prosecution as a means of recovering losses and/or bringing charges as a means of pressuring [subpostmasters] to make good losses that they were not necessarily liable for ...

"iv. Failure, in false accounting cases, to have any regard to the cause of the underlying shortfall that was being covered up by the SPM;

"v. Adding theft charges in circumstances where the elements of the offence were not made out and/or potentially with a view to pressuring defendants to plead guilty to lesser charges (in particular, false accounting);

1 I moved in 2012 into Royal Mail Group.

- 2 Q. So do you think, between '86 and 2012, you were
- 3 employed directly by Post Office Limited?
- **A.** I think they called themselves Post Office
- 6 to have representation, because I'd received the

Limited. Having said that, when I first applied

- 7 Section 9 statement, POL couldn't find me on
- 2 Section 6 Statement, 1 62 Section 1 manne
- 8 their lists and it took them -- I don't know
- 10 eventually deciding that I could have legal
- 11 advice and I'm not sure whether they ever came

whether it's three or four days, before

- 12 back to me and said, "Yes, you were a POL
- 13 employee". But something like that happened.
- **Q.** What about Jarnail Singh? Was he, to your
- 15 knowledge, ever directly employed by Post Office
- 16 Limited?
- 17 A. Well, he will have been directly employed by
- them from 2012 onwards and he would have
- 19 probably -- he'd have been in the same position
- as I would have been prior to that.
- 21 Q. What about Juliet McFarlane?
- **A.** Similarly with Juliet McFarlane, she would have
- 23 been in the same position as I was, until 2012
- 24 when she moved across into Royal Mail Group.
- 25 Q. So the reference there to only of the Three

- 1 Lawyers being employed directly by Post Office
- 2 Limited, out of the three of you, who do you
- 3 think that's referring to?
- 4 A. That's probably Mr Singh, on the basis that he
- 5 was continuously employed by them and never by
- 6 Royal Mail Group.
- 7 Q. What accounted for the difference in your
- 8 relative employment status or the identity of
- 9 your employer?
- A. As far as I was concerned, it was just 10
- continuous. I didn't significantly look at the 11
- change from Post Office to Royal Mail, other 12
- 13 than I was no longer doing Post Office Limited
- 14 prosecution work.
- Q. So if, from 2000 onwards, you had to describe 15
- 16 the employer of you, Mr Singh and Ms McFarlane,
- 17 how would you describe it?
- 18 A. I always thought of it as Royal Mail. In my
- 19 brain, I was -- mainly because most of my work
- 20 was Royal Mail and only -- I put in my statement
- 21 less than 15 per cent was Post Office Limited
- 22 work, and my director, Andrew Wilson, when
- 23 I first was promoted, I'm pretty sure he was
- 24 Royal Mail.
- 25 Q. That brings me to my next set of questions.

- 1 their names.
- 2 Q. What was the link between you in your position
- 3 and that company secretary?
- 4 A. There was no link between me and him or her. My
- 5 link was to Andrew Wilson.
- 6 Q. What was the link between Andrew Wilson and the
- 7 company secretary?
- 8 A. I think a direct link. I think he reported to
- 9 the secretary.
- 10 Q. Did you ever have any direct communications with
- 11 the company secretary about criminal
- 12 prosecutions?
- 13 Α. No. I remember once getting a telephone call
- 14 from him because a lawyer had contacted him, and
- 15 I took details of the lawyer's number and I rang
- 16 the lawyer and dealt with the problem, and that
- 17 was probably the extent that -- the extent of my
- 18
- How did the Criminal Law Team, with you as its 19 Q.
- 20 head, report on its work to the board?
- It would be via Andrew Wilson. 21 Α.
- 22 Q. How did you report on the work of the Criminal
- 23 Law Team to Andrew Wilson?
- 24 Α. Well, each report on a case, we collated at the
- end of the month and I sent those reports both 25

1 That can come down, thank you.

2 Did the different employment status or

- 3 employer affect lines of reporting?
- 4 A. My line of reporting was -- initially when I was
- 5 promoted, was to Catherine Churchard, who was
- 6 General Counsel.
- 7 Q. Yes, GC, yes?
- A. Then, when Andrew Wilson took the team, as he 8
- 9 did five or six years into my employment as
- 10 a Criminal Law Team Leader, I had a dotted line
- 11 to a lawyer in the Legal Team, and I worked
- directly to Andrew Wilson. 12
- 13 Q. If you were asked, from 2000 onwards, and if
- 14 there's any change in the answer from 2000
- 15 until, say, 2012, who at board level was
- 16 responsible for the conduct of criminal
- 17 prosecutions, what would your answer have been?
- 18 The answer would be the current secretary.
- 19 So whoever was occupying the role of current
- 20 secretary --
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. -- year on year?
- 23 A. Yes, and I think there were probably two,
- 24 possibly even three, while I was there, and, for
- 25 the life of me, at the moment I can't remember

- 1 to Andrew Wilson and to the person that I had
 - a dotted line to in Legal Services.
- 3 When you say the reports on each case, was that
- 4 whether they had reached a conclusion or not,
- 5

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- 6 A. I think it was wider than that. I don't think
- 7 it was just final reports; I think it was
- 8 current cases that -- I had an office manager
- 9 who would add up the current cases that we had,
- 10 he would collate the reports that we had on
- 11 finalised cases that month and he would add up
- 12
- the new cases that had come in to the team. So
- 13 I think it was a statement that I did once
- 14 a month, at the end of the month, and it went to
- 15 Andrew Wilson and the dotted line person.
- Q. Did you understand that that was going to the 16
- 17 board, either from Andrew Wilson and the dotted
- 18 line person?
- Probably. Although I'm not 100 per cent sure. 19
- 20 Q. Did you ever get anything back from the board by
- 21 way of direction or suggestion?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Was there any communication that you can
- 24 remember, say between 2000 and 2012, back from
- 25 the board about the work of the Criminal Law

3 4 Q. Were there any key performance indicators for

of my responsibilities, but I can't remember

the work of the Criminal Law Team?

A. KPIs ring a bell. I probably had some, as part

		The Po
1		Team?
2	A.	No.
3	Q.	Did you ever attend any board meetings?
4	A.	No.
5	Q.	Did you ever prepare anything for Andrew Wilson
6		or the dotted line person for their attendance
7		at a board, that you can recall?
8	A.	I don't think I prepared anything. I may well
9		have been a sounding board in relation to
10		something that he wanted to propose to the board
11		but I didn't prepare anything myself. He did
12		that.
13	Q.	What was the purpose of the preparation of the
14		monthly reports on current cases and cases
15		concluded?
16	A.	It was to show them the overall picture of what
17		we were doing, in terms of both results, so
18		whether we were successful, and in terms of the
19		numbers that we were processing.
20	Q.	Did include figures on recoveries by way of
21		confiscation?
22	A.	No, I don't think so.
23	Q.	Was there any performance measure of the work of
24		the Criminal Law Team?
25	A.	No.
		13
1		prosecutions.
2		Were you aware of the scope of the
3		contractual responsibility of Fujitsu to support
4		litigation against subpostmasters?
5	Α.	No.
6	Q.	Did you ever see the contract between the Post
7		Office and Fujitsu to see what the latter,
8		Fujitsu, had promised to the Post Office by way
9		of support in criminal prosecutions?
10 11	A. Q.	No, I didn't. Can you recall it ever being mentioned,
12	Q.	ie "There's a contract that regulates the
13		support that our supplier must give us in
14		criminal prosecutions"?
15	Α.	Yes, I can recall that, yes.
16	Q.	Given that you can recall that, as the Head of
17	٠.	the Criminal Law Team, is there a reason you
18		didn't see the contractual arrangements that
19		actually mapped that out?

Probably, because it was dealt with before

afterwards, I didn't -- I never asked to see it.

I mean, I heard, from time to time, that there

were problems in relation to obtaining ARQ data,

and I have seen, from some of the documents that

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I became the Head of the Criminal Law Team and,

20 **A**.

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5 what they were. 6 Q. Was the outcome of criminal proceedings linked 7 in any way to the remuneration of any members of the Criminal Law Team? 8 9 A. No. 10 Q. Were there any bonuses paid? 11 Α. What were they paid for? 12 Q. 13 A. They were paid for -- largely, I think it was 14 the performance of the business and I think, if you got a good grade in your appraisal, then you 15 16 might have got some sort of enhancement. 17 But they were not linked to the percentage of 18 successful prosecutions --19 A. No. 20 Q. -- or the like? Thank you. 21 Can we move on to the next topic, please, 22 which is obtaining evidence in support of 23 prosecutions and, to start with, the contractual 24 arrangements and the approach by Post Office to 25 Fujitsu for obtaining evidence in criminal have been supplied to me, some references to 2 Mr Jenkins running out of time and not being 3 able to do any extra work. I saw those sort 4 of -- I must have seen those sorts of things but 5 I didn't have any involvement with the contract 6 at all. 7 Q. What's your view, if you hold one, as 8 a prosecutor, about the wisdom of a prosecutor entering into a contract that regulates the 9 extent to which a third party must supply 10 11 evidence and cooperate in the provision of evidence to a prosecutor? 12 13 Well, my view is that it's not a good idea. 14 Q. Could you explain why, please, Mr Wilson? 15 Well, I think that -- I never was particularly interested in what a case was going to cost and 16 17 I was never particularly interested in anyone trying to truncate the work that we were 18 required to do, particularly in disclosure. 19 20 I remember seeing an email which I'd forgotten 21 about amongst the papers here, from I think it 22 was a Mark Dinsdale, who was complaining about 23 the amount of data that he was having to supply 24 because he had a new team. 25 Q. We're going to come to that a little later. 16

- A. Okay. So I think my view was, if you want to 1 2 prosecute these cases, you have to pay for them, 3 and, if you want to do it properly, we have to
- 4 have access to all the information that we 5
- 6 Q. Did you have any understanding of who had been
- 7 involved in the agreement of the contract 8 between Post Office and Fujitsu that did
- 9 regulate the nature and extent of the evidence
- 10 that they were obliged to supply?
- A. My understanding now comes from listening to 11
- 12 Teresa -- I think it was Williamson -- I knew
- 13 her as Teresa Berridge --
- Q. Yes. 14
- 15 A. -- who said that she had prepared an open-ended
- 16 part of the contract because she was conscious
- 17 that the people dealing with the contract --
- 18 I believe this is what she was saying -- were
- 19 not appreciating that we were doing this from
- 20 a criminal point of view and it wasn't simply
- 21 a contractual issue. And I think she did --
- 22 said that she did that in 2000 and I wouldn't
- 23 have been around in the team at that time.
- 24 Q. During your time in your role as Head of
- 25 Criminal Law, were you ever involved in or aware
- 1 understanding of Fujitsu's obligations under the 2 contract?
- 3 A. I know, again from what I've read in the papers
- 4 you've supplied me with, that, at some stage,
- 5 there was difficulty over our expert meeting
- 6 another expert and Jarnail Singh must have come
- 7 to me and said, "Look, Rob, what can we do?" and
- 8 I emailed and said, basically, "If we can't have
- 9 this, we will need somebody in court in
- 10 [whatever timespan it was] to explain from
- 11 Fujitsu why we can't deal with this".
- 12 Q. So, on an individual case basis, you can
- 13 remember becoming involved but nothing more
- 14 strategic or higher level: "Look, Security Team,
- 15 this what the contract says. This is how we're
- 16 going to carry it into effect. This is how it
- 17 works"?
- A. I remember when the Court of Appeal made their 18
- 19 decision -- which I have to say that I was
- 20 mortified at and felt ashamed, and I couldn't
- 21 begin to understand how the subpostmistresses
- 22 and subpostmasters must have felt, together with
- 23 their families, having -- and for which
- 24 I clearly apologise for, profusely. I remember
- 25 discussing with Dave Posnett the judgment and he

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- 1 of any discussions with Fujitsu over the scope
- 2 of the requirements under the contract?
- 3 A. I was aware that there were problems but
 - I wasn't aware about discussions going on. It's
- 5 not something that my role touched.
- 6 Q. But you and your team were the people that were
- 7 advising on evidential sufficiency, were laying
- 8 a case before a criminal court as fit to be
- 9 heard by the criminal court and then prosecuting
- 10 it, often to conviction. Does that not mean
- 11 that it was part of your role to get involved
- with a key supplier of evidence and a contract 12
- 13 that regulated the extent to which they supplied
- 14 such evidence?
- 15 A. I never had the impression when we were
- 16 prosecuting that we were not getting what we
- 17 wanted in terms of ARQ data. Yes, I heard that
- 18 there were -- there was, for want of a better
- 19 word, whingeing about the amount that was being
- 20 required, particularly on Seema Misra, which no
- 21 doubt we will discuss shortly. But I never had
- 22 a worry in my head that we weren't getting what
- 23 we should be getting.
- 24 Q. Thank you. Did you ever become involved in
- 25 assisting the Post Office Security Team in their

- 1 said -- and part of the discussion was about
- backdoors into the system, and he said that he 2
- 3 was at a meeting with me when I'd challenged
- 4 Fujitsu and said "Are there any backdoors to the
 - system?" and they'd categorically said no.
 - I don't know -- but that's what the
- 7 discussion was about but I don't know what the
- 8 meeting was about. I didn't actually recall
- 9 that, he reminded me of it. So I was at
- 10 a meeting with Fujitsu with Dave Posnett but
- 11 I can't remember what the substance of the
- 12 meeting was. It might have been what you're
- 13
 - alluding to but I don't remember that.
- 14 Q. Can you recall whether that was case specific --
- 15 A. All I can --

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- 16 Q. -- ie the issue had arisen in the context of
- 17 an individual case?
- A. It could have been. I honestly don't know. 18
- I hadn't -- I didn't recall the meeting and 19
- 20 I didn't recall asking them the guestion. Dave
- 21 Posnett said to me "I was at that meeting with
- 22 you; you asked the question".
- 23 Q. What was your understanding as to the nature and
- 24 type of data that might be drawn from Horizon in
- 25 order to found the basis for an investigation

1		and/or a criminal prosecution?	1	Q.	Irrespective of the distinction, was it your
2	A.	Well, they had ARQ data, transaction logs,	2		understanding that the data that you were
3		various other logs and information, which	3		getting by way of ARQ data was data which was
4		I can't really recall now. I've seen some of	4		capable of showing whether a transaction was
5		the matters listed in the papers. But, as far	5		initiated and completed by a subpostmaster, on
6		as I was aware, from that data, we should have	6		the one hand, or was a system generated
7		been able to prosecute each case.	7		transaction, on the other?
8	Q.	Had you heard of the expression "Credence data"	8	A.	I thought it was created by the subpostmaster
9		or data obtained from Credence?	9		and, therefore, was quite important, to see what
10	A.	I probably did but I can't recall what it is	10		he'd been doing.
11		now.	11	Q.	It's probably my question that's at fault. Did
12	Q.	You've referred a number of times to ARQ data.	12		you understand from the ARQ data that you were
13	A.	Yes.	13		getting that that data would be able to
14	Q.	Did you understand that there was a difference	14		distinguish between whether a transaction was
15		between the nature and species of ARQ data that	15		carried out by a subpostmaster, on the one hand,
16		could be obtained, perhaps by reference to words	16		or by the system, on the other?
17		such as "standard" or "enhanced" ARQ data?	17	A.	I understood it to be the postmaster. Have
18	A.	Again, I've seen those in the papers. I thought	18		I misunderstood your question?
19		ARQ data, looking back, was data which	19	Q.	Yes. Did you understand that all transactions
20		effectively you could see who was detailing each	20		were subpostmaster initiated and completed?
21		individual transaction that had taken place.	21	A.	Yes.
22		I may have got that wrong. But I thought that's	22	Q.	You didn't understand that some transactions
23		what ARQ data was. I can't remember whether	23		could be created by the system itself?
24		I knew about enhanced data or the standard data.	24	A.	I didn't understand that, no.
25		I probably did but I honestly can't remember. 21	25	Q.	Okay. When you were conducting your evidentia 22
1		review for the purposes of advising whether the	1		we made the decision. We didn't I can't ever
2		evidence met the Code for Crown Prosecutors'	2		remember going for ARQ data prior to actually
3		standard, which documents concerning the Horizon	3		having a decision being made whether to
4		system would you expect habitually to review?	4		prosecute or not.
5	A.	I would expect to see transaction logs, the	5	Q.	On the last occasion, I asked you:
6		audit report.	6		"Would you expect it to be a necessary
7	Q.	So the audit report, meaning the auditors that	7		element of an investigation to establish the
8		attended the branch	8		reliability of the data on which
9	A.	Yes.	9		an investigation and then a prosecution was
10	Q.	and conducted a shortfall analysis?	10		founded?"
11	A.	Yes.	11		You said, "Yes".
12	Q.	Yes.	12	A.	Yes.
13	A.	Transaction logs, audit report.	13	Q.	I asked:
14	Q.	Yes?	14		"Why would you think that was necessary,
15	A.	I don't think we ever got ARQ data at an early	15		that it was an ordinary part of the
16		stage. I think ARQ data was sought once we knew	16		investigation?"
17		that we were going to be involved in either	17		You said:
18		a not guilty or disclosure had been requested.	18		"Well, because if they couldn't establish
19	Q.	Why was that?	19		that the system was working properly, the
20	A.	Sorry?	20		evidence had no value."
21	Q.	Why was that?	21		I asked:
22		It just the way the investigators prepared	22		"So the reliability of the data was
	Α.				•
23	Α.		23		a fundamental or an essential part of any
23 24	A.	their papers for us, just generated not every	23 24		a fundamental or an essential part of any investigation founded upon such data?"
	A.				a fundamental or an essential part of any investigation founded upon such data?" You said, "Absolutely".

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1		Given those three answers, why wasn't ARQ
2		data routinely part of the investigation and the
3		evidence that was submitted for the purposes of
4		deciding on charge?
5	A.	Because it wasn't sought by the investigator at
6		that stage.
7	Q.	That's not really a complete answer, I think
8		you'll recognise, won't you, Mr Wilson?
9	A.	I'm trying to think, to reconcile what you're
10		saying to me and to actually think back to what

actually happened then, and I'm having

difficulty.

I think, in an ideal world we should have got ARQ data right at the beginning and I may have convinced myself that that's what we did do. But, thinking about it from your first question, I can't remember ever seeing ARQ data straight away. I may be wrong.

19 Q. You said in part of the answer that you gave
20 that you would, I think, essentially, wait to
21 see whether it was a guilty or not guilty plea?

22 A. Mm.

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Q. If, as you said last time, that it wasan essential element of a prosecution case --

25 A. Yes.

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1 stolen money, we wouldn't have been chasing ARQ 2 data. So, yes, I think you're probably right. 3 Q. Can we look, please, at FUJ00000071. This is 4 one of the contracts between the Post Office and 5 Fujitsu and, if we scroll down, we can see this 6 the codified agreement, thank you, which 7 regulates a high number of issues between the 8 Post Office and Fujitsu. Can we just look at 9 page 97, please.

Scroll down, please, to 4.1.9. Thank you. If we just scroll up a little bit, so we can see the context. Thank you.

Can you see two requirements here under the heading "Prosecution support", 4.1.8 and 4.1.9. Under 4.1.8:

"The contractor shall ensure that all relevant information produced by the [Post Office Counters Limited] Service Infrastructure at the request of [Post Office Counters Limited] shall be evidentially admissible and capable of certification in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 [and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland and Scotland]."

At 4.1.9:

"At the direction of [Post Office Counters 27

Q. -- to prove the reliability of the data, why
would it only be obtained after plea had been
ascertained?

4 A. I think -- I mean, it may be down to cost.
5 I can't remember ever thinking it's a financial
6 consideration. I can't remember that. My view
7 was it didn't matter how much it cost, you know,
8 get on with it, but I don't know. Maybe that's
9 why Investigators didn't go for it in the first
10 place.

Alternatively, I think from the papers, some Investigators had to slow their cases down because they couldn't get hold of ARQ data and maybe that was a factor.

15 Q. I think you're there talking about cases where
 16 an accused person or a suspect in interview had
 17 raised an issue about the reliability of Horizon
 18 and, as a consequence of that, enquiries were
 19 made about obtaining ARQ data.

Was it the case that the system was that the Post Office waited until a suspect or an accused person raised an issue about the reliability of Horizon before undertaking this enquiry?

A. Yes, I think you're probably right. I think, if
 somebody had unequivocally admitted that they'd

Limited], audit trail and other information
necessary to support live investigations and
prosecutions shall be retained for the duration
of the investigation and prosecution
irrespective of the normal retention period of
that information."

This is, I think, amongst the contractual material that you didn't see at the time; is that right?

10 A. I don't think I've ever seen this document11 before. I don't even think it's with my papers.

12 Q. I think it is but let's just --

13 A. I'm not being critical.

14 Q. No, okay. Let's just proceed on the basis that
15 it's just these two paragraphs I'm asking you to
16 look at, Mr Wilson.

17 **A.** Right.

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18 Q. The first requirement under 4.1.8, did you know
19 that, initially at least, there was
20 a contractual requirement placed on Fujitsu to
21 ensure that evidence shall be evidentially

22 admissible and capable of certification in

23 accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence

25 accordance with the Police and Chiminal Evidence

24 Act?

25 A. I didn't know there was a clause like that, no.

- Q. Does it follow that, when there was an amendment 1
- 2 to this contract, after the repeal of the
- 3 relevant provision in Section 69 of the Police
- 4 and Criminal Evidence Act, you weren't aware of
- 5 that change?
- 6 Α. No, I wasn't aware.
- 7 Q. Was there any change in practice in the Criminal
- 8 Law Team, as between the period before
- 9 certification under Section 69 of PACE was
- 10 required and after the repeal of Section 69 of
- PACE? 11
- 12 A. I assume that the standard clause that went in
- 13 the witness statement, towards the end of the
- witness statement, was omitted after the change 14
- but that's the only thing I can think of. 15
- 16 Q. Were you or others in the Criminal Law Team, to
- 17 your knowledge, involved in the provision of
- 18 advice as to what happens now after Section 69
- 19 is repealed? What are the evidential
- 20 requirements on computer-based evidence in
- 21 a criminal prosecution in the courts of England
- 22 and Wales?
- 23 A. Well, if I was in charge -- and I know we've
- 24 been down this street before -- I would have
- 25 sought counsel's advice and it would have been
- 1 needed to.
- 2 Q. Or, indeed, the other way round: that lots of
- 3 witness statements continued to contain the
- 4 Section 69 --
- 5 A. Well, yes --
- 6 Q. -- formulation, even though they were not
- 7 required?
- 8 A. Yes, that's a real possibility.
- 9 Q. Do you consider that you and others in the
- Criminal Law Team had an adequate understanding 10
- at the time of the technical operation of 11
- 12 Horizon?
- 13 Α. Looking back now, I don't think we did, no.
- 14 Q. What about an adequate understanding of the Post
- Office's estate systems and processes --15
- Probably --16 Α.
- 17 Q. -- including -- I'm sorry?
- A. I was just going to say: probably not as well. 18
- Looking back, I don't think we involved 19
- 20 ourselves on the technical side enough.
- Including, for example, the operation of 21
- 22 transaction corrections?
- 23 Α. I'm not sure what a transaction correction is.
- 24 Maybe that proves the point.
- 25 A. Right.

- 1 the counsel that I referred to before, which
- 2 I erroneously included in my first bundle. But
- 3 I think that that change was in about 1997.
- 4 Q. I think the repeal was in '99 and came into
- 5 effect in about 2000?
- 6 A. Right, okay. So I wouldn't have been around in
- 7 the team at that time then.
- 8 Q. After you became involved in the team, can you
- 9 recall any standing advice, any instruction or
- 10 guidance, as to what was required to adduce
- 11 evidence that was computer based in a criminal
- prosecution in England and Wales, because what 12
- 13 happened was the statutory provision was
- 14 repealed and the common law sprang up?
- 15 A.
- 16 Q. Was there any guidance on what does the common
- 17 law now require?
- 18 If there wasn't a general guidance from counsel, A.
- 19 which I would have put my money on, then I think
- 20 counsel, on a case-by-case basis, would have
- 21 advised us "This doesn't comply" or "You need to
- 22 do this", but I can't remember that happening.
- 23 I can't remember seeing an Advice from counsel
- 24 where they were critical of a witness statement
- 25 because it didn't follow the format that it

- 1 Wasn't such an understanding necessary of the
- 2 operation of Horizon and the way the Post
- 3 Office's estate systems and its processes
- 4 worked, in order to be able to apply a critical
- 5 eye to the evidence that an Investigator was
- 6 sending you to advise on charge?
- 7 I mean, that's very logical now. At the time,
- 8 I think it was generally assumed that what the
- 9 Investigator was getting was appropriate and
- 10 sufficient for the purposes we required it. But
- 11 I agree with you that we did not know enough
- about the Fujitsu data and the POL information, 12
- 13 with hindsight, yeah.
- 14 Q. Thank you. That document can come down.
- 15 Was there any written guidance or policy or
- 16 procedure on the obtaining of expert evidence 17 for the purposes of a criminal investigation or
- 18 prosecution?
- 19 Α. No.
- 20 Q. Why was that?
- A. Um ... I think -- I think it was -- yeah. I'm 21
- 22 having -- I think it was probably because we'd
- 23 never dealt with an expert witness before and
- 24 didn't perceive it, because of that lack of
- 25 knowledge, to be different in the way that you

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1		cross-examined me in the first day, I think that
2		was the reason, that it didn't strike me at the
3		time that through lack of understanding, that
4		the expert was to be treated in a completely
5		different way.
6	Q.	Can we look, please, at POL00097100. Can w
7		look please at page 9 to start with. This is

Q. Can we look, please, at POL00097100. Can we look, please, at page 9 to start with. This is an email chain that you're not copied into, I should stress, but I want to ask you some questions about some of what it says. It is all about Mr Jenkins, Gareth Jenkins, and the treatment of him.

If we just look at the emails before the relevant ones, to give you a bit of context, you can see here an email from Sharron Jennings, a Security Manager, to a range of people, some inside Fujitsu, some inside the Post Office, about the case of Patel:

"The case due for trial on Monday at Peterborough Crown Court has been put back to 14 January 2013 and is listed for a 7 day trial. [Diary, please]."

Then if we scroll up, please. Mr Jenkins said:

"Sorry, I'm not aware of this case or what

1 happening."

Then some other details.

You'll see there that Sharron Jennings referred to Mr Jenkins as having produced an expert report --

6 A. Yes.

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Q. -- and Mr Jenkins himself refers to whether he
 needs to be an expert witness in a particular
 case.

10 **A.** Yes.

11 Q. In your time as the Head of Criminal Law, did
12 you understand that as his status, namely as
13 a person who gave expert evidence?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. From where did you gain that understanding?

16 A. From the nature of his work and evidence.

17 Q. What do you mean by that, please?

A. Well, because he, I think, put together a lot of 18 19 the Fujitsu, I guess, software, and was regarded 20 as an expert by his team, from documents again 21 that you've supplied to me, to the point where 22 he had a support person, Penny Thomas, I think 23 her name was. So I viewed him as an expert in 24 the system, and the person who probably knew 25 more about the system than anybody else on the

35

might be required of me ...

"I'm not aware of any outstanding cases which I might be involved in."

Then scroll up.

"Hi Gareth

"This is the one that you supplied the expert report and witness statement for the week before last. Apologies for not explaining that properly in the previous email, it was a blanket email for all witnesses! It is unclear at this stage who will be required as witnesses and which evidence will be accepted without the need for attendance. I just thought if I let everyone know", et cetera.

Then if we scroll up, please. We can see Mr Jenkins' reply:

17 "Thanks for the clarification. I had not understood that that related to a specific case, 18 19 I thought that was a general statement. If I am 20 required to go to court for that, I think I need 21 to have some more background on the specific 22 case and exactly what is being alleged. 23 I appreciate that it is not covered by my 24 statement, but if I need to be an expert 25 witness, I need to understand what is

1 planet. So that was my belief.

2 Q. Can we distinguish three things, please?

3 A. Yes

4 Q. One, a person with expertise in an issue or5 discipline --

6 A. Mm.

7 Q. -- secondly, a person who gives expert evidence8 as an expert witness in a court --

9 **A.** Mm-hm.

10 Q. -- and, thirdly, a person who is instructed by
11 a solicitor or an Investigator formally to give
12 expert evidence by way of written instruction.

Looking at the third category that I just
 erected there, were you aware of Mr Jenkins ever
 being formally instructed in that way?

16 **A.** No.

Q. Out of the remaining two, how did you view
Mr Jenkins, ie as a person with expertise in
an issue or discipline, who happened to be
giving evidence in court, or, formally, as
an expert witness in court?

22 A. Your first scenario.

Q. So he was a person simply with expertise ina system?

25 **A.** Yes.

Q.	Just for the moment, just by way of short				
	excursion, in paragraph 15.1 of your witness				
	statement I wonder whether we could turn it				
	up, please, it's on page 12 you say:				

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"I do not know how Penny Thomas and Gareth Jenkins came to be involved in these proceedings against Seema Misra. I believe that Gareth Jenkins was identified as an expert on the Horizon system at the inception of the computer system and had agreed to assist the Post Office in relation to its role when conducting private prosecutions. This was probably in 1999, prior to myself becoming Head of the Criminal Law Team."

Just stopping there. We have documentary material, Mr Wilson, that suggests that Mr Jenkins first provided, to use a neutral word, assistance in prosecution in 2005, in the case of the Post Office v Teja. From where did you get your understanding that he had a role, probably in 1999, prior to you becoming Head of the Criminal Law Team.

23 A. I just think it was from looking back, that 24 I assumed he'd been on board right from the 25 beginning. I can't point to any documents or

> "There appears to have been some sort of confusion regarding the trail of emails below. Gareth was asked to supply an expert report on Horizon integrity by the Legal Team and I was asked to input this onto a Section 9 witness statement in order to produce it in court. Gareth was not aware that this related to a specific case and was also not aware that he would be required in court. [Gareth] is happy to attend but as explained below it is over and above the usual [Business As Usual] arrangements that we have with Fujitsu so some extra arrangements are required in order to cover extra costs and time etc. This email is to request that please."

Were you aware of expert reports being rewritten into witness statements?

A. I don't think so. 18

19 What would you say about the practice, if you 20 had been aware of it, ie a person with 21 expertise, giving opinion evidence, provides 22 a report or a written document and that's 23 rewritten by an Investigator or 24 an Investigations Manager into a Section 9

25 witness statement?

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1 anything. It was just what I believed to be the 2 position.

3 Q. So are you extrapolating, essentially, the date 4 of inception of Horizon --

5 Α.

6 Q. -- of late '99/early 2000, and thinking he must 7 have been involved from inception?

8 Α.

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Q. As you've said, you haven't identified any 9 10 documents that establish such actual involvement?

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12 A. No, I haven't.

13 Q. Thank you. Can we go back to, after that little 14 excursion, to POL00097100, and to page 6. This 15 is the Patel chain of emails, page 6, please.

Scroll down, please.

You remember that there'd been an exchange, Jennings and Jenkins, over attendance at a trial involving Patel, and the trial date being put back to January 2013. Mr Jenkins saying:

"I thought I'd given a generic statement. If I'm to be an expert witness in this case, specific to this case, something more will be required."

You will see Ms Jennings says:

Well, it's odd, and then one or other of the 2 documents is going to have to be disclosed. So 3 it's an odd way of going about it.

4 Q. Why is it odd?

5 A. Well, because he is, effectively, giving two 6 sets of what might not necessarily be the same 7 thing. So it's a dangerous practice to 8 undertake something of that nature.

9 Q. Were you aware of what's referred to in the 10 second part of this email, namely that the

11 provision of evidence by Gareth Jenkins was

12 outside usual business as usual arrangements 13 and, therefore, to provide evidence in this way

14 required some special arrangements?

15 Well, that's slightly odd as well because, in

2012, he must have been involved in a number of 16 17 our cases. I don't know why they're saying that

it's outside the usual business arrangements 18

because as I say, he'd been, for want of 19

20 a better word, our expert for a number of years.

21 You're saying from 2005.

22 **Q.** '05.

23 A. So it's, again, a strange, strange email.

24 Q. If we go up to page 3, please, and then scroll 25 down, please -- thank you -- we can see that

1 Jane Owen -- do you remember her --2 A. No. 3 Q. -- a Security Manager within Post Office -emails Mark Dinsdale and says, "Please see 4 5 below", and that's essentially the chain. I've 6 skipped a number of pages but there was some 7 inconsequential chatter: 8 "Please see below -- in a nutshell Gareth is 9 required as an expert witness and we have no 10 money in the pot for him. I remember this happening before and am sure you dealt with it? 11 12 Can you remember?" 13

Then if we scroll up, please. Mr Dinsdale's reply:

"... I raised a request earlier this year which has not been used, so they could use a [Post Office] number ... however might be worth touching base with Andy/Rob if this is a Horizon Integrity case, because they may want to challenge why [the Post Office] would pay Fujitsu to justify the system."

Then, if we look, please, further up the page -- just a little in further -- we can see that the "Rob" referred to seems to be Rob King, rather than you, because now copied in are Andy

- 1 Q. You moved I think in April of this year?
- 2 A. Yeah, in 2012, yeah.

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- 3 Q. Would the chain have ended with a discussion
- 4 with Jarnail, then -- Jarnail Singh? It
- wouldn't have come over to you in your new role? 5
- 6 A. No, it wouldn't have come over to me at all.
- 7 I had no dealings with POL once we'd transferred
- 8 the cases across that they took over. So it
- 9 ended in April 2012.
- 10 Q. If we scroll back down, please.

Mark Dinsdale says to Jane Owen that the Post Office might want to challenge "why [the Post Office] would pay Fujitsu to justify the system".

In your time, did the Post Office see it as part of Fujitsu's contractual responsibility to "justify the system", in the words of this

- 18 email?
- 19 Α.
- 20 Q. That may be a relatively loaded phrase: "justify 21 the system".
- 22 **A**. Yes.
- 23 You're saying that that's how it was seen at the
- 24
- 25 A. Well, I think they had to -- yeah, they had to

1 Haywood and Rob King. Ms Owen says:

2 "Hi both. Please see Mark's response to the 3 string of emails below.

4 "... please advise how you wish me to 5 proceed."

6 Then scroll up to see Mr Hayward's reply:

7 "Need to understand the costs in the first 8 instance, please. Then suggest we discuss with Jarnail ..." 9

10 I think that's Jarnail. Would you

11 understand that to be a reference to Jarnail

rather than "Jamail"? Maybe it's just the way 12

13 its printed:

14 "... Jarnail as he is the legal link in to 15 the wider Horizon integrity."

16 So looking at that email as a whole --

17 It is "Jarnail" though. I think there is a gap.

There's a gap in between, thank you. 18

19 Yes. I think there is, yes.

20 Q. So that's likely Jarnail Singh?

21 A. I think it's almost certainly Jarnail Singh.

22 Q. Also the "Rob" referred is to likely Rob King,

23 rather than you?

24 A. It wouldn't be me because I wasn't in POL at 25 that time

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- 1 give us evidence that the system was working
- 2 properly.
- 3 Q. Oughtn't they just to have given evidence as to
- 4 how the system was working and whether it was
- 5 working properly?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 That's a more neutral way of expressing it?
- 8
- The way that an independent prosecutor would 9
- look at it, with an open mind? 10
- A. Yeah, I don't disagree with you. 11
- 12 Q. Was there a mindset or a view that it was for
- 13 the Post Office to pay for Fujitsu to justify
- 14 its system?
- A. I didn't deal with the finances between Post 15
- Office and Fujitsu. I had no dealings with that 16
- side of things. 17
- Q. Was it what the Post Office expected when it 18
- instructed Mr Jenkins to give evidence or asked 19
- 20 Mr Jenkins to give evidence, namely to justify
- the system? 21
- 22 A. Well, that would be part of his
- 23 responsibilities, I imagine, yes.
- 24 Q. Would that be an appropriate role or instruction
- 25 for an expert witness to justify something?

- A. Well, I agree with your change of wording, that,
 actually, it's not really justifying the system;
 it's saying that the system was working properly
 at the time that we're concentrating on in
 relation to the suspicious activity.
 - Q. Thank you. That can come down.

To what extent was the Criminal Law Team involved, in your time, in editing or tailoring statements from Fujitsu employees?

- 10 A. Well, I can honestly say that I don't believe
- 11 that I ever got involved with editing
- 12 statements. I've seen again in the papers
- 13 Ms McFarlane, who was suggesting wording on one
- 14 of her cases, to -- I believe it was Gareth
- 15 Jenkins, it might have been Penny Thomas, I'm
- 16 not sure. But I can't ever remember attempting
- to change or add to, or whatever, a witness's
- 18 statement.

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My view was that that was the Investigator's
job and my job was to consider what the
statement said and, if I needed anything else,
I would ask the Investigator.

- 23 Q. So let's deal with your personal practice first.
- 24 A. Yes.

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25 **Q.** Why wouldn't you, a prosecutor, get involved in

Q. Were you aware of any members of your team, at

- the time that you were Head of Criminal Law,engaging in the process of editing or tailoring
- 4 witness statements from Fujitsu?
- 5 A. Well, I've seen the email from Ms McFarlane,
- 6 where she is tailoring the witness statement.
- 7 I can't remember whether I was copied into that
- 8 but, if I was, I think I would have been
- 9 mentioning "This is a dangerous practice, you
- 10 need to be very careful what you're doing and,
- 11 potentially, desist from it".
- 12 Q. Would your answers be any different if the
- 13 individual concerned, the person that was making
- 14 the witness statement, was giving expert
- 15 evidence?
- 16 A. I'd be even more careful because I'm not17 an expert.
- 18 Q. In your mind, was there any different approach
- 19 that was permissible in liaison with a lay
- witness, on the one hand, and an expert witness,
- on another, as to a solicitor or barrister,
- 22 a lawyer, making suggestions for changes to the
- 23 evidence?
- 24 A. Well, I do understand that lawyers do take
- 25 statements from potential witnesses but, if 47

1 the editing of witness statements or the

- 2 suggestion of changes to a witness of their
- 3 witness statement?
- 4 A. Because it is almost telling the witness what
- 5 you want them to say, as opposed to them giving
- 6 you their views on what they're seeing or the
- 7 factual position. I wouldn't want to engage
- 8 with a witness where I was maybe not forcing
- 9 them into a corner but, certainly, giving them
- my view as to what I thought they should be
- 11 saying. That would have been inappropriate.
- 12 Q. Would you regard it as improper?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Would you include, amongst the risks that are
- 15 involved, that you yourself may end up becoming
- 16 a witness?
- 17 A. Absolutely. Well, if you're telling somebody
- 18 what to do -- I mean, I've seen it in these
- 19 papers, in the Henderson papers, where
- 20 Mrs Henderson makes comments about what her
- 21 lawyers have told her, and I would never want to
- be in that position for somebody to turn around
- to me and say, "I was told by Mr Wilson I had to
- do this". So I wouldn't be involved with that,
- 25 no.

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- 1 you're trying to make somebody change their
- 2 statement or change their evidence, presumably
- 3 you'd have to have some sort of factual basis or
- 4 document that you would be putting to that
- 5 witness, in order to get them to change or add
- 6 to what they're saying. So I think it would
- 7 depend on whether they had some other evidence
- 8 in front of them.
- 9 Q. The Inquiry has seen numerous statements from
- 10 employees at Fujitsu who have given evidence in
- 11 support of Post Office prosecutions over
- 12 a period of many, many years, including when you
- 13 were the Head of Criminal Law and, in
- 14 particular, statements from Andy Dunks, from
- 15 Penny Thomas, from Beatrice Lowther and from
 - William Mitchell.

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- 17 What was the process for obtaining such
- 18 witness statements? I'm leaving out of account
- 19 Mr Jenkins for the moment.
- 20 A. Well, if we needed a statement to covering
- 21 a particular area, the Investigator would be
- tasked to obtain it and he, presumably, would
- 23 know who to contact for the type of evidence we
- were asking for.
- 25 Q. So it was the Investigator's function, is that

1		right to obtain the statements from Fullitau	1		Sir, it's just coming up to 11.15. I wonder
1		right, to obtain the statements from Fujitsu	2		whether that would be an appropriate moment to
2	A.	employees? Yes.	3		
		Was there any special process involved in		en	take the morning break until 11.30. R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course.
4	Q.	• • •	4	Sir	,
5		obtaining statements which addressed technical	5		Sorry, I've got a frog in my throat. Of
6		data outside the expertise of the Investigator?	6		course.
7	Α.	I think I recall from Dave Posnett's evidence	7		R BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
8		that there was some sort of liaison person	8	(1	1.14 am)
9		involved, who presumably was appointed because	9	/4 4	(A short break)
10		they knew more about the Fujitsu expertise and	10	•	1.30 am)
11		individuals who could provide that expertise and	11	IVIF	R BEER: Good morning, sir, can you continue to see
12		I imagine that the Investigator went via the	12	011	and hear us?
13	•	liaison point.	13		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.
14	Q.	Was the Criminal Law Team involved in drafting	14	IVIF	R BEER: Mr Wilson, can we turn, please, to
15		or amending template statements or boilerplate	15		POL00156485. I'm continuing to explore the
16		statements from Fujitsu employees?	16		issue of CLT members, Criminal Law Team members'
17	Α.	Not that I'm aware of, no.	17		involvement in amending or altering witness
18	Q.	Were you aware of a template or boilerplate	18		statements. Can we turn to page 2, please, and
19		statement from	19		look at the bottom of page 2 and the top of
20	A.	I've seen several of them in the papers. At the	20		page 3.
21	_	time, I'm not so sure. I might have been.	21		Can we see here an email exchange of June
22	Q.	Do you know how they came to be initially	22		2011 between Mr Whitaker, the Security Manager
23		drafted?	23		within Security Operations in Midlands, and Andy
24	A.	No.	24		Dunks of Fujitsu, and it's the case of Mackrill.
25	MR	BEER: Thank you very much.	25		The Investigator says:
		49			50
1		"The majority of the statement appears to be	1		Then Mr Dunks replies.
2		okay Andy. However, if you can insert 'Further	2		If we scroll down to the bottom of page 2,
3		to my previous statement' at the top as your	3		top of page 3, we can see that the Investigator
4		other witness statement and call your new item	4		says that he'd spoken to you, who says that this
5		APD/03 not APD/02 as APD/02 has already been	5		should be okay; can you see that?
6		submitted to the defence. I have spoken to Rob	6	A.	Yes.
7		Wilson of our Legal Team who says that this	7	Q.	Would you be involved in issues like this?
8		should be okay if we let the defence know what	8	A.	·
9		has gone off (the spreadsheet information itself	9		if an Investigator telephoned me up and said,
10		is not a deal-breaker as it were in respect of	10		"Look we've got a problem, will this be okay?",
11		the case).	11		I would try and help him out as much as I could.
12		" sign and send it on to me ASAP bearing	12	Q.	I mean, this looks like it involved the
13		in mind the trial starts two weeks today",	13		provision of a spreadsheet
14		et cetera.	14	Α.	Yes.
15		If we go up to page 1 please and just scroll	15		shortly before the trial was due to commence.
16		down a little bit. It looks like that wasn't	16		Yes?
17		done immediately in June, because we're into	17	A.	
18		July now. Mr Whitaker says:	18	Q.	
19		"See attached statement.	19	٦.	statement. You're giving approval, as is
20		"The content of the statement is fine	20		recorded here, to the Investigator's approach,
21		however I have changed the date and added the	21		yes?
22		words 'Further to my previous statement' at		Δ	Yes.

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the beginning to reflect that this is additional

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evidence to your first statement.

"... send it to [my house]."

23 $\,$ Q. Would that be how you did things, sort of arm's

length, rather than getting involved yourself?

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25 A. I mean, there may have been occasions when I got

1	nvolved with something directly myself but
2	can't recall them. I think my general view

3 would have been, yes, to have the Investigator

- as the person who was the buffer between me and the witness
- 6 Q. Can we turn, please, to POL00017328. Thank you.
- 7 This is an exchange unrelated to the exchange
- 8 we've just looked at. It's about the case of
- 9 McQue. It's an email from one of your lawyers,
- 10 Juliet McFarlane, to, I think, an Investigator:
 - "Jason

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"Gareth Jenkins Fujitsu is our expert in the case of McQue due for trial on 28 February. Could you please consider his comments below.

"Another potential issue is Commercial cover for my time. At the moment I've run out of the time that the Post Office have committed for me to work on such cases and this needs to be extended before I can do any more. Penny is trying to sort this out with [Post Office], but I thought you should be aware and may be able to influence things'."

So this is another exchange, copied to you, this time, concerning Mr Jenkins, referred to as "our expert in the case of McQue", concerning

1 copying me in to it.

- 2 Q. That was my next line of questions. Why were 3 you becoming involved in this? Why were you 4 brought into it?
- 5 A. I don't know. Juliet McFarlane, when she was
- 6 promoted to principal lawyer, it wasn't simply
- 7 a case of her carrying on doing the same sort of
- 8 work, necessarily, that she'd done before.
- 9 I gave her the role of heading up the counties
- 10 cases and she had a meeting, I think, once
- a month in Old Street with other Post Office 11
- 12 Limited lawyers, plus other staff from Post
- 13 Office, and she would report back to me, as and
- 14 when, if I needed to know some information. So
- 15 she sort of headed up, in the team, the POL side
- 16 of work, and I would have thought that this was
- 17 something that, within her role, she could have
- 18 dealt with the other Post Office Limited
- 19 lawyers.

25

20 21

22 Q. 23 supervision over the lawyers beneath you in 24

I don't know why she copied it to me. It may be she just wanted me to know about it. Did you ever give any guidance of exercise any

relation to their professional duties concerning expert evidence?

payment by POL, Post Office, yes? 1

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. By this time, January 2011, would you have known
- 4 that this was a role that he, Mr Jenkins, was
- performing in multiple cases, many cases on 5
- 6 behalf of the Post Office?
- 7 A. I think so, yes.
- 8 Q. By this time, did you know that there were, or
- 9 continued to be, commercial issues over payment
- 10 for his time by the Post Office, outside the
- 11 contract?
- A. Well, from this email, yes. 12
- 13 Q. This is referring to Mr Jenkins as "our expert"
- 14 in the case of McQue. What steps, if any, did
- 15 you take to ascertain how Mr Jenkins had been
- 16 instructed?
- 17 A. I don't recall taking any steps.
- 18 Q. Can you recall taking any steps to ascertain
- 19 whether the evidence that he was providing as
- 20 an expert was properly constituted as expert
- 21 evidence?
- 22 A. No, I don't think I'd have taken any steps.
- 23 Q. Why would that be?
- 24 A. Well, effectively, I think it was Juliet
- 25 McFarlane's case and I'm not sure why she's

- A. No.
- Why was that? 2
- 3 A. I thought we were doing it properly. I don't
- 4 think I was alive to the problems that you've
- 5 pointed out to me.
- 6 Q. When you say "alive to the problems", ie the
- 7 difference of approach that's needed when you
- 8 instruct somebody to give expert evidence as
- 9 a witness in court proceedings?
- 10 A. Exactly.
- 11 Q. Does it follow that that topic, the instruction
- 12 of expert witnesses, was never something that
- 13 arose in a continuing professional development
- 14 context for any of your direct reports?
- 15 A. No, unless they specifically requested to go on 16
 - a course that directly involved experts.
- 17 Q. Or an audit of the skills that they had or which
- 18 they needed to have?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Nor, presumably, in any annual review process
- 21 for, for example, Ms McFarlane or Mr Singh, that
- 22 you can recall?
- 23 A. No, I can't recall at all.
- 24 Q. And, presumably, not an issue that arose, to
- 25 your memory, in any one-to-one reviews?

	_	
1	Α.	No.
2	Q.	Thank you. That can come down.
3		Can I turn to the fourth topic, please,
4		which is bugs, errors and defects, and your
5		knowledge of them. Can we start, please, by
6		looking at POL00070166. Can we look at the
7		bottom of page 1 and on to the top of page 2,
8		please. Can we see here we're in 2006, an email
9		to you from Stephen Dilley. Do you remember
10		Mr Dilley?
11	A.	No.
12	Q.	A solicitor at an outside firm?
13	A.	No.
14	Q.	Bond Pearce or Bond Dickinson?
15	A.	They will have been civil litigators.
16	Q.	Yes. In any event, this is an email from
17		Mr Dilley to you about Post Office v Castleton,
18		and he says:
19		"Dear Mr Wilson,
20		"Mandy Talbot may already have spoken to you
21		about this matter. The Post Office is claiming
22		just under 26k from this former subpostmaster
23		for failing to make good unauthorised losses
24		that occurred in January to March 2004 at the
25		Marine Drive branch, Bridlington. The trial
		57
1	Q.	Why would you be informed about a civil case?
2	Α.	Because I think one of the witnesses on the
3	۸.	civil cases we had prosecuted but had to offer
4		no evidence in relation to the prosecution
5		because a large number of pension or allowance
6		orders had disappeared and, from enquiries, the
7		Investigator I think it was actually my
8		case the Investigator told me that the DWP
9		had removed the pension allowance orders from
9 10		the file because it was a joint investigation,
11		and were investigating another matter, and they
12		had now been lost and, therefore, we had offered
13		no evidence. I believe, and he wanted me to come
14		to court to give that factual account.
15	^	Is that what the cross-reference is to the Singh
16	Q.	case?
10 17	A.	Yes, I think so.
1 <i>1</i> 18	Q.	So you're being contacted, not simply because
19	⋖.	you're Head of Criminal Law but because you have
20		knowledge of this other case?
20 21	A.	I certainly had knowledge of the case, yes.
22	Q.	Before this email, which refers to various
		·

1 starts tomorrow at the Royal Courts of Justice, 2 London and will probably last until the end of 3 next week. 4 "Mr Castleton asserts the losses are entirely fictitious caused by problems with 5 6 Horizon. He has called various other 7 [subpostmasters] who say they have had computer problems to give evidence." 8 q I think that probably means he has called 10 various other subpostmasters to give evidence 11 who say they have had computer problems: "If necessary, would you be able to attend 12 13 court to give evidence of what happened in the 14 Singh case? I doubt it will be [necessary] but 15 it would be helpful if we could call you if 16 needed. 17 "... we will have a better idea on Thursday 18 how things are going to pan out." 19 Can you help us, looking at that email now, 20 were you being told about this in your capacity 21 as Head of Criminal Law or because you were 22 a potential witness that might need to be 23 called? I think I was being contacted because I was Head 24 A. 25 of the Criminal Law Team. 2006, I don't think I was. In 2006, Mandy 2 Talbot emailed me and, again, I've seen the 3 email in the papers, to ask me had Juliet

4 flagged up any issues with Horizon to me, and 5 I replied, if I can quote it accurately, "No, 6 Juliet hasn't. What do you mean by issues with 7 Horizon?" and I'm not sure I ever got a reply. 8 Certainly, there was no follow-up email on -- in your papers, and I think that was 2006 as well. 9 Q. So this is December 2006, and this would be the 10 11 first time, then, that you would be aware of 12 subpostmasters alleging problems with Horizon? 13 Yes, via this email here. 14 Q. Yes Did --15 16 17

A. Well, it might not have been. We may have had -- I mean you've mentioned Gareth Jenkins in 2005 being called on a case. So I may have been 18 aware of issues then. It wasn't -- we did get defendants saying "We have issues with Horizon". 19 20 Q. Did you hear about the production of any expert

21 evidence in this case, the Castleton case? 22 A. No. I don't think I knew -- I don't think I was

23 given any details on the case. I was simply 24 asked about the case that I may well myself have 25 been prosecuting at the time. I certainly 60

problems with Horizon, were you aware of any

subpostmasters saying that they have had

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24

1		remember the pension allowance orders being
2		mentioned to me as being missing. That was
3		fairly significant. So it may have been my
4		case.
5	Q.	Did you ever have sight of any expert report or
6		draft expert report prepared in the Castleton

- 7 case? Not that I'm aware of, no.
- 9 Q. Can we move on, please, to POL00157980. Look 10 at page 2, please. Thank you.

Can we see an email from Mandy Talbot to 11 a range of individuals there? 12

13 Α.

A.

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- 14 Q. You're, I think, the third of them; can you see that? 15
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Ms Talbot says, again in the case of Castleton:

"This is just to let you know we have been completely successful in defending all the allegations made by Mr Castleton. You will recall that he contended that no genuine losses occurred whilst he was a postmaster and that any losses were manufactured by the Horizon system.

24 The judgment has entirely vindicated the Horizon

25 system."

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1 That it could be used when, I don't know, 2 interviewing a suspect, when talking to 3 a defendant or a defence solicitor? 4 A. Cases are individual. We wouldn't have been

5 referring to another case to try to persuade

6 somebody to plead guilty or whatever, in

7 an entirely different case. No.

So you wouldn't seek to cross-deploy the outcome 8 Q. 9 of a case in another case?

10 A. No.

Q. Can you help us to identify the other recipients 11 12 of the email: Clare Wardle?

A. Clare Wardle was a senior person, I believe, 13

14 in -- I thought she was Intellectual Property

15 but she may well have been a Head of the Civil

16 Litigation Team at that timetable. I'm not

17 sure

Biddy Wyles? 18 Q.

Biddy Wyles, as I understand it, was a civil 19

20 litigator.

- Q. In Mandy Talbot's team? 21
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. If we go up, please, and a little bit more,
- 24 thank you. We can see Rod Ismay's reply, and

25 you're on this copy list too.

1 Did you know at this time, late 2006/early 2 2007, that the case, the Castleton case, was 3 regarded within the Post Office as an important

A. I don't think I did, no. 5

one?

6 Q. A vehicle to seek to vindicate the reputation of 7 the Horizon system?

8 A. No, it was a civil case. I wouldn't have been 9 privy to details of the case at all.

10 Q. You were on Mandy Talbot's list of people to give this news to, yes? 11

Yes, I imagine she sent it to me because I'd 12

13 been involved because, as you say, Bond -- was

it Pearce? 14

Q. Yes, I can't remember whether they were Bond 15 16 Pearce or Bond Dickinson.

17 A. Yes -- had wanted me to go and give evidence,

and I said I would. So I assume I was added in 18 19 there, plus she probably wanted to tell me that

20 Horizon had been vindicated.

Q. Would that because the outcome of the 21 22 proceedings might be deployed in criminal 23 proceedings?

24 A. No. How do you mean, deployed in criminal 25 proceedings?

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Yes.

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Can you see that? 2

3 A. Yes, I can.

4 "Thanks Mandy -- great news. And thanks to 5 everyone in this email and in your teams as 6 I know you have had to do a lot of work in 7 supporting the defence case here. Like you, my 8 team faced a stack of witness interviews and 9 court attendances at one time so the progress 10 and conclusion here is great news.

> "What can we do on a proactive comms front here? We've watched the various inflammatory letters in the SubPostmaster letters page, and wanted to be able to assure branches and clients that they can rely on the integrity of Horizon.

16 "We've had some good articles in the 17 SubPostmaster about NBSC, Online Service and 18 Cash In Transit. I am planning briefs on what 19 P&BA does.

"Any thoughts on comms following this case?" So Mr Ismay has expressed a desire for proactive communications to make the most of the judgment, agreed?

24 A.

25 The distribution list includes Keith Baines, is Q.

				_	
1		that right, the Head of Commercial?	1	Α.	Well, it certainly seems that way from Rod
2	Α.	I didn't know Keith Baines.	2	۸.	Ismay's email, yes.
3	Q.	David X Smith, the Head of IT?	3	Q.	Was that a consistent message, in your time as
4	Α.	I didn't know him either.	4	Ψ.	Head of the Criminal Law Team, that was cascaded
5	Q.	And other people from security across the	5		down to you?
6	Q.	business; can you see that?	6	Δ	I don't think I think these were fairly rare.
7	Α.	I can see Tony Utting, I recognise his name, and	7		I think there were one or two of them around,
8	۸.	I think he is Graham Ward, I think he was	8		but they weren't consistently.
9		an Investigator; Doug Evans was actually	9	Q.	
10		a solicitor to the Post Office; and Clare	10	Ψ.	members of your team?
11		Wardle, Biddy Wyles and Mandy Talbot are the	11	A.	Probably not.
12		only other ones I know.	12		Why not?
13	Q.	Clare Wardle, general counsel?			Well, like I said before, I mean, our cases were
14	Α.	No, Clare Wardle Doug Evans was General	14	۸.	individual cases and so Civil Litigation had won
15	Λ.	Counsel.	15		this case and, clearly, Rod Ismay was delighted
16	Q.	Sorry, my mistake.	16		with that, but it doesn't make any difference to
17	A.	Clare Wardle, I think, probably headed up Civil	17		what we were doing and it adds no value, in
18	Λ.	Litigation at that time, although, initially,	18		a sense, to us because it's not something we
19		she was an intellectual property lawyer.	19		could use.
20	Q.	Would you agree that, by this point in time,	20	Q.	
21	Q.	early 2007, it was clear to you that the	21	Œ.	from 2006/7 to 2008 now, and this is a Post
22		business, the Post Office business, regarded it	22		Office and Fujitsu joint Product and Branch
23		as important to defeat any person that alleged	23		Accounting workshop. You're not listed as
24		that Horizon was in any way defective in the	24		present there but I want to pick up something
25		courts?	25		that's referred to in these action points. You
20		65	20		66
1		can see, just if you take a moment, who is	1	Q.	If this sort of action was raised, "Get advice
2		present from both the organisations: three from	2		from Post Office Legal Team", would it come to
3		Fujitsu, including Mr Jenkins; and the rest from	3		you as the Head of Criminal Law to allocate?
4		the Post Office, including Mr Ismay and Andrew	4	Α.	No. I think that's directed towards Civil
5		Winn. If we scroll down to the foot of page 1,	5		Litigation.
6		please. In the penultimate box, there's	6	Q.	Why do you think it's directed towards Civil
7		an action to:	7		Litigation?
8		"Get advice from the [Post Office] Legal	8	A.	
9		Team in relation to conversations and	9		seen from these documents, involved Mandy Talbot
10		communications to subpostmasters following	10		in a lot of work and they both communicated with
11		software issues that impact upon the branch	11		one another and, secondly, you were critical of
12		accounts."	12		one of my emails where I've effectively gone
13		Can you see that?	13		close to losing my temper about being excluded
14	A.	Yes.	14		from a meeting, where I'd said the first line
15	Q.	Just take your time to digest that. So software	15		was something like it was imperative that if
16		issues that impact on branch accounts. At this	16		there was a problem that it was dealt with.
17		time so this is August 2008 were you aware	17		And I don't think I was involved yes,
18		of any software issues that impacted upon branch	18		I wasn't involved on the list of people here and
19		accounts?	19		I wasn't involved with that meeting, until Dave
20	A.	No, I don't believe I was at all, no.	20		Posnett interjected and said "We ought to be
21	Q.	Were you involved subsequently in any	21		telling Rob Wilson these things".
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			Jg

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communications to subpostmasters about software

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issues that impacted on branch accounts?

A. No, I never made any communications to

subpostmasters, of any sort.

telling Rob Wilson these things".

So I don't think I was in any sort of loop
or conversation with anybody particularly senior
and Rod Ismay, as far as I'm aware, the first
contact I had with him was prior to him doing

1		his report, and I've forgotten the year 2010,	1		Criminal Law Team consulted in relation to
2		I think it was.	2		communications to subpostmasters about software
3	Q.	August 2010 it was concluded, yes.	3		issues impacting upon branch accounts?
4	A.	So my I believe my first contact with him,	4	A.	I don't believe anybody was. I'm pretty sure,
5		because I hadn't come across him before and	5		if anybody had been contacted, they would have
6		I did see his YouTube cross-examination by	6		told me.
7		yourself, and I didn't recognise him at all. So	7	Q.	Would you agree that one of the reasons why the
8		I don't think that I was in the loop for these	8		Criminal Law Team should have been involved, if
9		types of communications.	9		it had been identified that there were software
10	Q.	Should the Criminal Law Team have been in the	10		issues that impacted upon the branch accounts,
11		loop, if there were software issues that	11		would be so that the prosecutor could discharge
12		impacted upon the branch accounts?	12		his or her duties of disclosure in criminal
13	A.	Absolutely. That's why I lost my temper or	13		proceedings
14		close to losing my temper with the email that	14	A.	Yes.
15		you rightly questioned me about.	15	Q.	so that they could bring such knowledge into
16	Q.	Why should, on this issue, the Criminal Law Team	16		account when considering the evidential
17		have been in the loop?	17		sufficiency in a particular case
18	A.	Well, because we didn't know that there were	18	A.	Yes.
19		software issues. It's something that we should	19	Q.	and when considering the propriety of
20		have known. I would want to know what they	20		continuing prosecutions?
21		were.	21	A.	Yes.
22	Q.	Were you aware of this or similar workshops	22	Q.	Can we move on, please, to 2009, FUJ00155399.
23		taking place?	23		If we scroll down and look at the bottom half of
24	A.	I had no idea that this took place, no.	24		the page, please in fact, if we just look at
25	Q.	To the best of your knowledge, were any of the 69	25		the top half first. Do you see that there's 70
1		some handwriting next to the words "Kind	1		short-term impacts. In summary the issue is as
2		regards, Penny"?	2		follows:
3	A.	Yes.	3		"In December 2007 an occurrence was reported
4	Q.	It appears to read "Roy Wilson, (Legal)"	4		in one office where a stock unit rollover
5	A.	Yes.	5		coincided with the end of day process running.
6	Q.	can you see that which I think is probably	6		This led to a previously unseen database lock
7		a reference to you?	7		where an administrative balancing transaction
8	Α.	I'm sure it is.	8		failed to be written to the local message store
9	Q.	The next series of questions I'm going to ask	9		database. This generated a generic and
10		you concern the extent to which the information	10		non-specific software error which went
11		in these emails was brought to your attention.	11		unnoticed in the monitoring of events.
12		So if we look firstly at the bottom half of the	12		A financial imbalance was evident and was
13		page, please, this is an email chain that	13		subject to Fujitsu's Service Support Centre and
14		doesn't include you. It's from Wendy Warham	14		Post Office Limited. The financial imbalance
15		and, if we scroll to the foot of the page,	15		has been resolved.
16		please, I think it's just over the page, you can	16		"A software correction was applied across
17		see who she is: an Operations Director within	17		the estate in early 2008 to ensure that such
18		Fujitsu, as part of the Royal Mail Account, yes?	18		event generated would be monitored."
19	A.	Yes.	19		I think that's "such events generated would
20	Q.	If we just scroll back up, please. She says to	20		be monitored":
21		Sue Lowther and David X Gray, so Post Office	21		"Testing of that correction has established
22		employees:	22		that the unmonitored error does not occur
23		"Sue I have left you a voicemail as I need	23		elsewhere in the system.
		· ·			
24		to update you on a recent issue that has	24		"Impact

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occurred and been resolved but does have some

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"We need to work with the Post Office to

1		recheck the ARQs and reconfirm the data	1		side, we think this is written by Penny Thomas
2		integrity during the period of May '07 to	2		and is referring to two conversations that she
3		November '08 Penny will do this.	3		had with David Posnett?
4		"We need to discuss how we disclose the	4	A.	Yes.
5		issue on the witness statements and we have some	5	Q.	The first one on the 7th:
6		words which may be appropriate both need to	6		"Spoke to [David Posnett] he will liaise
7		discuss and agree the words.	7		with his Legal Team and advise requirements and
8		"Identify which witness statement we have	8		comments for [witness statements]."
9		supplied and are still awaiting court to confirm	9		Then another conversation with David
10		whether or not the data provided was May '07 to	10		Posnett:
11		November '08 to (a) ensure events have been	11		"Spoke to DP [later that day]. He had
12		checked and (b) to recall and replace witness	12		liaised with Legal they need the checks for
13		statements [Post Office]/Penny."	13		the 400,000 ARQs to be made and results
14		Then under "Further Action", second line:	14		returned. Their brief will need to contact
15		"Education to ensure that this type of	15		counsel in the event that we find any anomalies.
16		incident is raised as a Major Incident in the	16		"Discuss witness statement will review
17		security stack so that we can communicate and	17		and talk again at a later date."
18		manage this in accordance with incident	18		Putting all of that information together,
19		timescales."	19		the content of the email, the handwritten notes
20		Going up to the top of the page, you'll see	20		on the right-hand side, and your name being
21		your name written on there, in so many words.	21		written on there, do you think you were
22		Was this incident, security incident,	22		contacted, perhaps by David Posnett, about this
23		communicated to you orally?	23		issue?
24	A.	Yes, it could have been.	24	A.	Yes.
25	Q.	If you look at the handwriting on the right-hand 73	25	Q.	Looking at the information contained in the 74
1		amail, doos it course you concern?	1		scroll to the end of the chain. You'll see that
1	٨	email, does it cause you concern?	1 2		
2	Α.		3		he doesn't, in fact, include the email that we've looked at.
3	Q.	Because there was a bug which had been	4	A.	
4 5	Α.	_	5		If we scroll up, please. Although the subject
_		identified a year before, albeit it was isolated at one office.		Q.	line is forwarding the "Security Incident",
6	^		6 7		
7	Q.	Why is that of concern? Well, because it was a bug.			which was the title of the previous email, it's in fact not included here. Let's see what he
8 9	Α.	· ·	8		does tell you:
10	Q.	Now, can you recall what advice you gave, if	10		"Rob, in relation to the standard witness
	۸	any?	11		·
11	Α.	I gave very poor advice.	12		statement Fujitsu provide"
12	Q.	What was the poor advice you gave?			We'll ignore the first one:
13	Α.	I think it was the words to the effect that, if	13		"2) The following additional paragraphs
14		it only impacted one office, then there's	14		have been inserted (page 7). I personally do
15	_	probably nothing to disclose.	15		not see the need for these if there are no
16	Q.	I think you're referring to a later email chain	16		problems identified with the data relating to
17		on this point, aren't you?	17		the case in question. Why inform anyone about
18	Α.	Yes, I am.	18		a problem we've had within the network, but
19	Q.		19		possibly only at one branch, if it bears no
20		If we look at the bottom of page 2, on to the	20		relation or relevance."
21		top of page 3., can we see an email later that	21		Then there's those two paragraphs that we
22		day at 3.54 on 7 January from David Posnett to	22		did see from the earlier witness statement

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you?

Q. It's about the security incident. If we just

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A. Yes.

stion. Why inform anyone about e had within the network, but one branch, if it bears no ance." 's those two paragraphs that we did see from the earlier witness statement --A. Yes. Q. -- the earlier email, which have been cut in. The beginning of the email starts: 76

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"In relation to the standard witness
 statement Fujitsu provide ..."

Were you aware, by at least 2009, of a standard witness statement?

- A. I imagine I must have been, yes.
- Q. You were being told here that there had been at
 least one missed or unnoticed or unseen error
- r least one missed or unnoticed or unseen error
- 8 causing a financial imbalance, which had not
- 9 initially been picked up by Fujitsu systems
- 10 intended to pick up such issues, correct?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- 12 Q. On reflection, I think, now you would agree that
- this was a considerable cause for concern?
- 14 A. Yes
- 15 Q. Would you include within the causes for concern
- 16 that the issue had been reported in December
- 17 2007, afflicted data that went back to May 2007
- and that the fix had not been introduced, it was
- 19 said, until November 2008 --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- and that the Post Office were being told
- 22 about it in January 2009?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Are you aware whether the Post Office undertook
- 25 any independent testing or required Fujitsu to
 - //
- 1 system missed the event or is it saying the
- 2 operatives did not notice the event?
- 3 Q. The line is "This generated a generic and
- 4 non-specific error event which went unnoticed in
- 5 the monitoring of events"; that's the line
- 6 you're referring to?
- 7 A. Yes, so the unnoticed bit, you're saying, is the
- 8 Fujitsu back-up, as opposed to an operative who
- 9 is viewing the data.
- 10 Q. You've rightly said that you're not sure if this
- 11 affects the quality of the decision that was
- 12 made?
- 13 **A.** No, the quality of the decision was very poor.
- 14 Q. But, in any event, whether it's a system failing
- 15 to identify the previously unseen database lock
- or the system identifying it but a human not
- 17 taking action, it having been identified, the
- problem or the concern is the same?
- 19 A. Yeah, the concern is the same, albeit it would
- 20 be more worrying if the system itself had not --
- 21 if it was designed to pick up the problem, had
- 22 not picked up the problem. You can understand
- 23 human error but, if the system was -- if I'd
- 24 read it as the system being bad, in my view that
- 25 would have been worse.
- 70

- 1 provide the results of any testing of the fix
- 2 applied in 2008?
- 3 A. Did that not come later, about a week later?
- 4 Q. I don't think we've seen evidence of the success
- 5 of the fix. I think we've got an email from
- 6 Fujitsu which said it's all all right. I'm
- 7 talking about some sort of independent testing
- 8 or did that kind of thing just not happen?
- 9 A. I don't think POL would have independently
- 10 tested Fujitsu data, no.
- 11 Q. What about when this happened? We're going to
- 12 see that it happened more than once where a bug
- 13 is disclosed and Fujitsu say a fix has been
- 14 applied and it works. What was the process, to
- 15 your knowledge, of checking to see whether what
- 16 the contractor was saying was correct?
- 17 A. I'm not sure POL had any ability to check the
- 18 Fujitsu system.
- 19 Q. Would you agree that what's disclosed here
- 20 suggested, fix or not, that other errors might
- 21 have been missed or, in the words of the email,
- "unnoticed" or "unseen", ie the safety net
- that's meant to pick things up was not working?
- 24 A. I don't want to excuse anything because this was
- a bad decision by me, but is it saying that the
 - 7
 - Q. So the concern would be greater, in fact?
- 2 A. Yes, the concern would have been greater.
- 3 Q. On this email, you can't tell which?
- 4 A. Not on this. I'm not sure that I recall the
- 5 discussion I had with Dave Posnett either, so
- 6 I couldn't say one way or the other.
- 7 Q. If we can scroll, then, to the bottom of page 2,
- 8 we can see your advice, given just after 4.00
- 9 the same day. You say, "Thank you for both of
- 10 your emails". Do you think that the first email
- 11 that we looked at, the one with your name
- written in hand on it, was in fact forwarded to
- 10
- 13 you?
- 14 A. Probably. Possibly.
- 15 Q. Because the email that's part of this chain
- 16 doesn't give you much context, does it --
- 17 **A.** No.
- 18 Q. -- whereas the longer email from Fujitsu
- 19 themselves does?
- 20 **A**. Yes
- 21 Q. So that might explain the reference to "both of
- 22 your emails" --
 - 23 **A.** Yes.
 - 24 $\,$ **Q.** -- the other one and the one that's underneath
- 25 this chain here.

1		You say:
2		"So far as the addition is concerned"
3		The addition is the two paragraphs under
4		paragraph 2 that aren't in bold, if they can
5		just be highlighted. Thank you, that's the
6		addition, the proposed addition.
7		Let's scroll back up, please.
8		"So far as the addition is concerned my view
9		is that if we are sure that there are no
10		incidents then there is nothing undermining that
11		will need to be flagged up to the defence. The
12		incident will have no relevance to our cases and
13		as such could only lead to fishing expeditions
14		if we added anything into the standard
15		statement.
16		"As soon as we know what the position is
17		I will advise further."
18		You've said candidly today that you regard
19		that advice as poor or very poor. Why is that,
20		Mr Wilson?
21	A.	Well, it was they'd already prepared the
22		witness statements to add in this. I don't know
23		why I didn't decide to just rely on that and
24		then I then I compound the mistake by adding
25		that it could only lead to very fishing
		81
1		a true one-off; do you agree?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	But would you agree that, even the existence of
4		a one-off, undetected error may be relevant to
5		undermine any assertion by Fujitsu witnesses
6		and, in turn, the Post Office that the figures
7		produced by the Horizon system were robust and
8		reliable?
9	A.	Yeah, I agree with you now. At the time,
10		clearly I didn't address that in the proper way.
11	Q.	Put another way: if you were being prosecuted,
12		would you consider this information undermining
13		of a Post Office case or beneficial to the
14		defence case, based on a lack of integrity in
15		Horizon?
16	A.	Yes, I probably would.
17	Q.	The advice is only forward looking, ie "What
18		shall we do in future cases", in the inclusion
19		or exclusion of the two paragraphs in the
20		witness statement; do you agree?
21	A.	Yes.
22	Q.	Did you consider whether there was a continuing

1		expeditions, which was a crass thing to say.
2	Q.	Was this being sent in an environment which
3		explains why you did it, namely that it was
4		important to defend the integrity of Horizon?
5	A.	No, I've said before, I wasn't in the loop in
6		relation to the people who were being contacted
7		in relation to the civil litigation matters that
8		were going on.
9	Q.	What explains your poor advice, then?
10	A.	I'd had a very bad day. I'm not wishing to be
11		facetious but I made completely the wrong
12		decision.
13	Q.	If we scroll up, please. Mr Posnett
14		communicates that to Fujitsu, to Penny Thomas:
15		"To note emails below.
16		"I would say Business As Usual re the
17		witness statements, ie don't include the two
18		additional paragraphs on the last page.
19		"If any issues materialise in due course, we
20		can address then suggest the ARQs for these 4
21		cases are assessed first."
22		The view which you took could only be
23		a legitimate one, on your view of the facts, if
24		the position was absolutely certain that the
25		incident could never happen again, ie it was 82
		02
1		view that one office was impacted and,
2	_	therefore, didn't consider that, no.
3	Q.	Do you consider, Mr Wilson, with the benefit of
4		hindsight, in respect of this exchange, that, as
5		the serious incident referred to raised
6		questions about the reliability of Horizon data,
7		there was a responsibility on you to ensure that
8		past prosecutions, if relevant, had disclosure
9		made to convicted defendants?
10	Α.	Yes.
11 12	Q.	If we just scroll back down to the advice that
13		you did give, you say: " if we are sure that there are no
14		incidents then there is nothing undermining
15		"As soon as we know what the position is
16		I will advise further."
17		Did you consider what the position was
18		further?
19	Α.	As I understand it, there was an email about
20	۲٦.	a week later, which said that they'd conducted
21		the exercise and it was all clear.
22	Q.	
23	٠.	some questions about the integrity of Horizon?
24	Α.	I fully accept what you've said and I fully

accept that I made the wrong decision.

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duty of disclosure in respect of prior

convictions based on Horizon data?

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Q. Thank you. Can we move on. POL00053723. If we
 scroll down, please. Thank you.

An email from Mr Dinsdale to you of 11 December 2009. I think this is the email you were referring to right at the beginning of your evidence --

7 A. Yes, I think it is, yeah.

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8 Q. -- when I said we'd come back to it. In the
9 case of Seema Misra -- and we're going to look
10 at that in more detail, I think, probably after
11 lunch -- he says:

"Rob, I am looking for a bit of guidance on this request for Jon Longman in respect of Seema Misra -- West Byfleet.

"This is a huge piece of work which could potentially wrap my team up for weeks, and then only to be asked for more questions of a similar nature. I also have concerns over the types of questions that are being asked and whether we can actually provide the information (two of the cases are still ongoing).

"We are a new team and would really appreciate your guidance on this on how to move this one forward. Are these questions that yourselves need to answer from a legal

accounting as a result of alleged losses on the Horizon system."

If we go back to the start of that email, please -- and scroll up, and scroll down, thank you -- would you agree that these proceedings, the Seema Misra proceedings, involved for the Post Office perhaps an unusual disclosure exercise focusing on challenging Horizon integrity.

- 10 **A.** Yes.
- 11 Q. Why were you being contacted?
- 12 A. I have no idea. Probably because I was simply
 13 the head of the team, maybe he didn't know that
 14 the case was being dealt with by Jarnail Singh.
- 15 Q. Or would it be that Mr Singh was absent at this16 time?
- 17 A. Possibly. I don't know.
- 18 Q. If we scroll up, please, we'll see that somehow19 Mr Singh has got the email.
- A. I think I sent it to him along with my reply toMark Dinsdale.
- 22 Q. He has forwarded it to Warwick Tatford --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- asking for advice on the parameters ofdisclosure?

perspective. Clearly some of these questions are so unspecified, that we could be dragging up Horizon reports for almost every branch over a ten-year period for every single week in operation."

Then if we just scroll down, you can see the questions from the defence request have been cut into the email.

Scroll down a little bit further. Then scroll a little further.

11 Under the new number (1) there:

"The prosecution has always maintained there is no problem with the Horizon system ... given the impression that the defendant's defence of raising issue with the system has no merit.

[We] raise the following cases. Others are in the pipeline."

McDonald, Hosi, then over the page:
"In light of the information ... please now
provide details of:

- "a) All post offices, past and present, that have experienced losses with the Horizon system.
 - "b) All prosecutions, past and present that have been brought for theft and/or false
- A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Not long after this exchange, December 2009,
- 3 ie in March 2010, you wrote your long email,
- 4 which we examined on the last occasion at some
- 5 length, the one where you said you were
- 6 exasperated at not being invited to the
- 7 meeting --
- 8 A. Yes.
- Q. -- concerning the proposal for an independent
 expert examination of the Horizon system. You
- 11 said in the first line, I'm summarising, "If
- there is a genuine issue then, of course, it
- 13 must be investigated", but then suggested
- 14 a series of consequences if that happened.
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 Q. I'm not going to go back to that email again
- 17 today but I think you'll agree that your
- intervention, never mind the motivation for it,
- 19 had the consequence of stopping the independent
- 20 investigation proposed?
- 21 A. Well, after that, Rod Ismay's report was
- 22 prepared.
- 23 Q. He wasn't in any sense independent though, was
- 24 he?
- 25 **A.** No, no --

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- Q. They were talking about, in the exchange, 1 2 getting somebody from outside the organisation 3 involved? 4 A. Yes, that's probably right. 5 Q. Was your intervention in the March email 6 exchange in any way connected with this 7 disclosure request in the Misra case? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Did you take the view that it was necessary to 10 close the proposed independent investigation down and limit disclosure where ever possible? 11 12 I never saw myself as closing the Α. 13 investigation -- independent investigation down. 14
- I mean, Rod Ismay was senior to me and, if 15 he'd -- he and his boss had wanted an 16 independent investigation, I wouldn't have 17 attempted to stop them, if they felt that that 18 was needed, and it seems as though Rod Ismay was 19 in a greater position to understand what was 20 going on than I was. 21

So I didn't see myself as closing that down at all but I can understand why you interpreted it that way.

24 Q. Was there any connection between this 25 significant request for disclosure that went to

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not consider these issues to be disclosable material in the prosecution. I understood that the Seema Misra case was prosecuted under the Horizon system implemented from 1999. The issues raised here I believe related to the new Horizon system which was installed from January to September 2010 and did not have any relevance to the initial system which had now been reimplemented as New Horizon (HNG-X). I now believe that this was the wrong decision and that I should have disclosed this issue in relation to all existing prosecutions."

awareness of two sets of issues there. One is the receipts and payments mismatch bug, that's the two documents that end in 410 and 838, and then, separately, the duplicated records issue,

Can we explore, please, the reasons that you had for not disclosing them. Starting, then, with the receipts and payments mismatch bug.

we look at the bottom of page 1., we can see an email of 8 October 2010 from Alan Simpson,

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1 the fundamental issue of the integrity of

Horizon, and you advising three months later

3 "There will be consequences, adverse

4 consequences, if we get an independent expert in

5 to examine the integrity of Horizon"?

6 A. No, there was no connection at all. The next 7 email in this chain is me effectively saying to 8 Mark Dinsdale, "This is an important case and we 9 need to deal with it thoroughly". I didn't 10 acquiesce to his request, if I can put it that 11 way, to effectively support him in what he was

Q. Thank you. Can we move on to something that you say in your witness statement, please, at page 15.

saying. I was saying "Look, get on with it".

Page 15, please, paragraph 17. I'm asking you a series of questions here, firstly about what's known as the receipts and payments mismatch bug and then, secondly, the duplicated records issue. You say "I have considered" three documents and you give us the numbers. You say:

"At the time I did not consider the issues discussed in the correspondence had a relevance to the Seema Misra case and, accordingly, did

So I want to explore, if I can, your which is the document that ends in 995.

Can we begin by looking at POL00055410. If a member of the Security team, described as the

Security Incident Senior, high importance and confidential, subject "Branch discrepancy issues":

"Rob,

"I am forwarding you the attachments above in relation to a series of incidents, identified by Fujitsu this week, whereby it appears that when posting discrepancies to the local suspense, these amounts simply disappear at branch level and a balance is shown.

"The above includes Fujitsu's initial analysis and proposed solution/s, whilst the other documents the outputs from various meetings held this week. My concern is around the proposed solution/s, one or more of which may have repercussions in any future prosecution cases and on the integrity of the Horizon Online system.

"There is a further dial-in meeting this afternoon at 3.00 pm to 3.30 pm should you wish to attend or failing that, as I know this is very short notice, if there are any comments/questions you would like me to offer on your behalf please drop me a note. The meeting details as follows ..."

1		So he says that what he's enclosing is
2		an initial analysis, correct?
3	A.	Yes.
4	Q.	He says that the solutions proposed may have
5		repercussions for prosecution cases and may have
6		repercussions on the integrity of Horizon
7		Online?
8	A.	For future prosecution cases, yes.
9	Q.	Yes. Yes, future prosecution cases, and on the
10		integrity of Horizon Online. There's
11		an invitation to a telephone conversation. If
12		we just scroll up, please, we see you forwarding
13		that email to Juliet McFarlane and Jarnail
14		Singh, and you say:
15		"Clearly I missed the call as we were at our
16		meeting."
17		So it looks like the invitation to the 3.00
18		to 3.30 call you weren't present on because you
19		yourself were in a meeting with Juliet McFarlane
20		and Jarnail Singh, correct?
21	A.	Yes, I think that's right.
22	Q.	Have I interpreted that correctly?
23	A.	Yes.
24	Q.	Who had responsibility, amongst you,
25		Ms McFarlane and Mr Singh, for deciding what was
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1	Q.	If we look at the attachment, please.
2	Ψ.	POL00028838. So this is the thing that
3		Mr Simpson has sent on to you, yes?
4	Α.	I think there were yes, that's the email.
5		Yes.
6	Q.	Yes, there were two attachments?
7	Α.	There were two attachments to that, yes.
8	Q.	If we scroll on, please, to page 6. That's the
9	α.	second attachment, a report from Mr Jenkins.
10	Α.	Yes.
11	Q.	So back to page 1, please. You'll see that it's
12	α.	either a record of what's happened at a meeting,
13		or a record or a statement of what is to happen
14		at a meeting?
15	Α.	I didn't appreciate the differences but
16	Q.	You'll see as we go through it
17	A.	I'll accept what you say, yes.
18	Q.	there are, I think, four members of Fujitsu
19	w.	staff present: Mike Stewart, John Simpkins,
20		Gareth Jenkins and Mark Wright; and everyone
21		else, including Mr Simpson and Mr Winn, is Post
22	A.	Office? Can you see that? Yes.
23	Α.	1 G3.
24	Q.	There are no lawyers present; is that right?

1 to happen here by way of disclosure in at least 2 the Seema Misra case? 3 A. Well, Mr Singh was allocated the case, so he would have dealt with disclosure. 4 Why were you forwarding the email to both 5 6 Jarnail Singh and Juliet McFarlane? 7 Well, because they both needed to understand 8 what Alan Simpson had said in the first email, which I understand had attachments to it. 9 10 Q. Why did Juliet McFarlane need to understand? A. Well, because she had cases. So she needed to 11 be in the loop. 12 13 Q. Why not all members of the Criminal Law Team? A. They were the people who dealt with the Post 14 Office prosecutions. 15 16 Q. There was no one else other than Ms McFarlane 17 and Mr Singh? 18 No. A. 19 So you're essentially telling the whole of the 20 team there's this issue? 21 A. Yes. You say Mr Singh had responsibility for deciding 22 23 whether to give disclosure of it in Seema Misra's case and Ms McFarlane in her cases? 24 25 A. Yes. 94 1 "What is the issue? 2 "Discrepancies showing at the Horizon 3 counter disappear when the branch follows 4 certain process steps, but will still show 5 within the back end branch account. This is 6 currently impacting around 40 branches since 7 migration on to Horizon Online with an overall 8 cash value of around £20,000 loss. This issue will only occur if a branch cancels the 9 10 completion of the trading period but within the same session continues to roll into a new 11 12 balance period. 13 "At this time we have not communicated with 14 branches affected and we do not believe they are 15 exploiting this bug intentionally. 16 "The problem occurs as part of the process 17 when moving discrepancies on the Horizon system 18 into Local Suspense. "When discrepancies are found during stock 19 20 rollover into a new transaction period then the 21 user is asked if the discrepancy should be moved 22 to Local Suspense. If the branch presses cancel 23 at this point the discrepancy is zeroed on the 24 Horizon system. 25 "Note at this point nothing needs into 96

A. Yes, that's correct.

1		POLSAP and Credence"	1		what was being said here?
2		Did you know what POLSAP and Credence were?	2	A.	I think, broadly speaking, yes.
3	A.	I don't think so.	3	Q.	Would you agree that it's a significant problem
4	Q.	" so in effect the POLSAP and Credence shows	4		in the sense that it directly affects balances?
5		the discrepancy whereas the Horizon system in	5	A.	Yes.
6		the branch doesn't. So the branch will then	6	Q.	It's a significant problem because there is no
7		believe they have balanced.	7		warning or telltale that tells the subpostmaster
8		"If at the next screen the rollover is	8		what has gone on?
9		completely cancelled, no harm is done. However,	9	A.	Yes.
10		if the rollover is reattempted at this point,	10	Q.	It's invisible to them?
11		the rollover will continue without any	11	A.	Yes.
12		discrepancy meaning Horizon doesn't match POLSAP	12	Q.	"Impact
13		or Credence.	13		"The branch appears to have balanced wherea
14		" following consequences:	14		in fact they could have a loss or a gain.
15		"There will be a receipts and payments	15		"Our accounting systems will be out of sync
16		mismatch corresponding to the value of	16		with what is recorded at the branch.
17		discrepancies that were 'lost'.	17		"If widely known it could cause a loss of
18		"Note the branch will not get a prompt from	18		confidence in the Horizon system by branches.
19		the system to say there is a mismatch, therefore	19		"Potential impact on ongoing legal cases
20		the branch will believe they balanced correctly.	20		where branches are disputing the integrity of
21		"When the branch begins the new Branch	21		Horizon data.
22		Trading period the discrepancies will show at	22		"It could provide branches ammunition to
23		zero, however the receipts and payments mismatch	23		blame Horizon for future discrepancies."
24		will carry over on to the next period."	24		In relation to the fourth those bullet
25		Stopping there, would you have understood	25		points, "Potential impact on ongoing legal
		97			98
1		cases", would you have understood that that	1		Horizon Online data, ie prosecutions that were
2		referred to both Horizon Online and Legacy	2		up and running in October 2010, ie had occurred
3		cases?	3		in the relatively short period since Horizon
4	A.	Not necessarily.	4		Online had come online?
5	Q.	Would you have understood that it was	5	A.	Yeah, I can see what you're saying. I wouldn't
6	ų.	restricting the potential impact to only	6	Λ.	have understood I don't think I would have
7		existing prosecutions when Horizon Online data	7		understood that at the time because, as I said
8		was being relied on?	8		before, I understood that the two were separate.
9	Α.	I'm sorry, could you put that again?	9		But I can understand what you're saying from
10	Q.	Yes. Would you have understood the potential	10		that bullet point, yes.
11	ų.	impact to ongoing legal cases, therefore, to be	11	Q.	Under the heading "Identifying the issue and
12		restricted to cases where Horizon Online data	12	Q.	forward resolution", over the page, please:
13		was referred to?	13		"The receipts and payments mismatch will
	٨	What I would have understood it to mean,	14		result in an error code being generated which
14 15	Α.	I think, was it was a fault with the new Horizon	15		will allow the Fujitsu to isolate branches
16		system, if I can put it that way, and it didn't	16		
17		· · ·	17		affected by this problem, although this is not
18		occur in the old Horizon system, is how I believe I understood it.	18		seen by the branches. We have asked Fujitsu why
	^		19		it has taken so long to react to and escalate
19	Q.	How could it impact on ongoing legal cases,			an issue which began in May. They will provide
20	Λ	ie existing cases?	20		feedback in due course."
21 22	Α.	Because they'd migrated onto Horizon Online,	21 22		Again, logically, if the issue only began in
23	Q.	I guess. So the ongoing legal cases, would you have	23		May, ie May 2010, that previous reference to ongoing cases, if you're right that this was
23 24	u.	understood that to have been a reference to	23		a problem that could only afflict Horizon Online
24 25		prosecutions that were based, and only based, on	25		data, could only be a reference to cases where
ر_		proceduone that were based, and only based, on	23		adia, codia offig be a reference to cases where

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1 theft or false accounting had been alleged to 2 have occurred between May 2010 and October 2010 3 and the prosecution had got up and running by 4 then? 5 A. 6 Q. "Fujitsu are writing a code fix which will stop 7 the discrepancy disappearing from Horizon in the 8 future. They're aiming to deliver this into 9 test week commencing 4 October. With live 10 proving at the model office week commencing 11 October. With full rollout to network 11 12 complete by 21 October. We've explored moving 13 this forward and this is the earliest it can be 14 released into live. "The code fix will on stop the issue 15 16 occurring in the future but it will not fix any 17 current mismatch at branch. 18 "Proposal for affect Branches 19 "There are three potential solutions to the 20 impacted branches, the group's recommendation is 21 that solution two should be progressed:

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"ONE -- alter the Horizon branch figure at

the counter to show the discrepancy. Fujitsu

... manually write an entry value to the local

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account.

1 data. Is that not the kind of backdoor or 2 remote access? 3 A. Well, it says "Alter the Horizon branch figure 4 at the counter". I assume that meant at the 5 branch counter. I mean --6 Q. That sounds like backdoor access, doesn't it, 7 remote access: altering figures at the counter 8 without the subpostmaster's knowledge? 9 A. Well, no. It sounds totally dishonest. It's appalling but, as I understood that or as 10 I understand it, it's not a backdoor in the 11 12 sense that it's Fujitsu premises and Fujitsu 13 hardware that's altering the data. It's 14 somebody physically going to the counter in the 15 Post Office to alter the data. And I don't know 16 how they proposed to do that but I didn't read 17 that as being a backdoor. Q. Surely, if you're right that this was physically 18 19 sending individuals out and altering data, the 20 people at the branch would know that was 21 happening, and yet this reads "This would have 22 moral implications of Post Office changed branch 23 data without informing the branch". 24 Well, yeah, they would know something was 25 happening but it depended on what Fujitsu were

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"IMPACT -- When the branch comes to complete next trading period they would have a discrepancy, which they would bring to account.

"RISK -- Significant data integrity concerns

"RISK -- Significant data integrity concerns and could lead to questions of 'tampering' with the branch and could generate questions around how the discrepancy was caused. This solution could have moral implications of Post Office changing branch data without informing the branch."

Just stopping there, reflecting on an answer that you gave earlier when you said that, after the judgment, you spoke to Dave Posnett about remote access --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- and backdoors into Horizon, and he told you
 18 that you had been told at a meeting that there
 19 were no such backdoors or remote access.

20 A. Yes.

Q. This tends to suggest that there was a facility
 for altering figures at the counter by Fujitsu
 manually writing an entry, which would lead to
 questions of tampering and would have moral
 implications of the Post Office changing branch
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going to tell them was happening or -- I mean, it's solution 1 -- well, all the three solutions there are totally unacceptable, which is why I think I emailed both Jarnail and Juliet so quickly on the day that it occurred and tried to phone -- is it Alan Simpson -- to find out more about what was going on and to agree with him, effectively, that these three solutions were pretty outrageous.

The only solution that I saw was to tell each branch individually that we have a problem, and I think the closest that that gets to is Gareth Jenkins' second attachment, which actually does say words similar to that.

But these -- these solutions -- I mean,
I don't know who these people were from Fujitsu.
The only person I know or knew of was Gareth
Jenkins. I don't know how senior these people
were but they were -- but I shared the concerns
of Alan Simpson and just thought this is
ridiculous. And I'm pretty sure I will have
tried to ring him that afternoon and then get -and, if I didn't get hold of him then,
I would've rung him the next day. So I would
have been in contact with him quickly and said,

1		"Look, we need to come up and tell each branch
2		there is a problem. Never mind any of these
3		three solutions, which are pretty appalling".
4	O.	The second solution is:

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"Product and Branch Accounting will journal values from the discrepancy account into the Customer Account and recover/refund via normal provides. This will need to be supported by an approved Post Office communication. Unlike the branch 'POLSAP', remains in balance albeit with an account (discrepancies) that should be cleared

"IMPACT -- Post Office will be required to explain the reason for debt recovery/refund even though there's no discrepancy at the branch.

"RISK -- Could potentially highlight to branches that Horizon can lose data.

"SOLUTION THREE -- It is decided not to correct data in the branches (ie Post Office will prefer to write off the 'lost').

"IMPACT -- Post Office must absorb about a £20,000 loss.

"RISK -- huge moral implications to the integrity of the business, as there are agents that were potentially due a cash gain on their

1 Q. If we go over the page, please. There's 2 a series of action points; can you see that?

3 A.

4 Q. Then over the page, you will see that none of 5 them relates to, I think, disclosure in legal 6 proceedings?

7 A. Yes.

 ${\bf Q.}$ In the email that was sent to you, no solution 8 9 of the three or any other solution is identified, is it?

10

A. What do you mean, no solution? 11

That the paper identified three possible 12 13 solutions --

14 Yes Α.

Q. -- there was a recommendation --15

16 Α. Mm.

17 Q. -- but there was nothing in the paper nor the covering email that said Solution One, Two or 18 Three, or another solution, has been selected by 19

20 the Post Office client?

21 A. No, no, I think this was a -- I think Alan 22 Simpson must have emailed me this very quickly

23 and presumably had been put out by Fujitsu as

24 the discussion point for the meeting. So

25 I don't think POL -- any senior managers -- will 107

1 system."

2 It says here that the group's recommendation 3 is Solution Two; can you see that?

4 Δ Yes.

Would you agree that the thinking here 5 6 discloses, as a significant problem, a solution 7 that reveals to branches that there might be 8 a problem with Horizon's integrity ie in the 9 thinking of those involved, disclosed by this 10 minute, it seems though, "If we do X it's 11 a relevant consideration that it will reveal to 12 subpostmasters that there may be problems with 13 Horizon integrity"?

14 Α.

15 Q. Was there a belief or mindset within the Post 16 Office that that is a bad thing: "If we tell 17 postmasters that there's a problem with Horizon, 18 even if there is, that is generally a bad

19 thina"?

20 A. The more I read these papers, the more I get the 21 impression that, certainly at a senior level, 22 that was the attitude. At my level, we should

23 have been completely upfront and that's what

24 I was agreeing with Alan Simpson: "We need to

25 tell these people".

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1 have had time to consider or say what their 2 views were in relation to this. It was simply 3 Alan Simpson's view, which I agreed with.

4 Q. You tell us in your witness statement that you 5 took the view that the receipts and payments 6 mismatch bug was not disclosable in Seema

7 Misra's case because, in your understanding, the 8 issue only afflicted Horizon Online, and the

Horizon records relied on in her case had been 9

10 generated by Legacy Horizon?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You now, I think, recognise that view to be --13 that advice to be wrong?

14 A. Yes

15 Q. You'd emailed the note of the problem to Jarnail Singh and Juliet McFarlane. Did you 16

17 subsequently discuss what was to be done with

either or both of them? 18

A. I am pretty sure. I mean, we had an office 19 meeting that they were -- both will have been 20 21 at. I'd gone back to my desk, I'd seen the 22 email -- I've forgotten the Investigator's name 23 again.

24 Alan Simpson.

25 I'd seen Alan Simpson's email and, I think,

- 1 within an hour of getting it and reading it, I'd
- 2 emailed it to both of them, and I'm pretty sure
- 3 I will have discussed it -- well, I'm pretty
- 4 sure that the first point of call will have been
- 5 to try to get hold of Alan Simpson. But then,
- 6 I will have discussed it with both of them, and
- 7 I'm sure that they will have been pretty shocked
- 8 at the suggestion -- the three solutions that
- 9 we've just been through. It wasn't something
- 10 that I would not have discussed with them.
- I would have discussed with them, yes. 11
- Just before we break for lunch -- we're going to 12 Q.
- 13 have to come back to this after lunch -- what
- was the outcome of your discussion? 14
- A. That they agreed. 15
- 16 Q. Agreed with what?
- 17 A. What I was saying, that, actually, we need to
- 18 tell these people.
- 19 Q. The "these people" in that sentence is who?
- 20 Is the subpostmasters. Α.
- 21 Q. Which subpostmasters?
- 22 Α. The ones that are affected.
- 23 Q. What about disclosure in criminal cases?
- 24 A. I don't think we ever got in to that topic. At
- 25 that stage, the main concern would have been 109
- 1 Horizon Online being the new?
- 2 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. What steps did you take to ensure that it was so
- 5 disclosed?
- 6 A. I can't recall.
- 7 We've seen no record of a meeting or email in
- which any advice or instruction was given that 8
- 9 it should be disclosed in future cases or
- 10 existing cases that relied on Horizon Online
- data. 11
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Did you discuss the issue with Jarnail Singh or
- 14 Juliet McFarlane?
- A. I certainly discussed the immediate issue that 15
- we had 16
- Q. What was the immediate issue that you had? 17
- A. The immediate issue was notifying each of the 18
- branches individually what had happened. 19
- 20 Q. Wasn't even more immediate than that any case in
- 21 which there was a prosecution founded upon data

- 22 that included the relevant period?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Did Mr Singh take a particular interest in this
- issue because of the Seema Misra case? 25

- 1 this.
- 2 MR BEER: Thank you.
- 3 Sir, I wonder whether we might break until
- 4 2 00
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, 2.00. Thank you very much. 5
- 6 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
- 7 (1.01 pm)
- 8 (The Short Adjournment)
- 9 (1.59 pm)
- 10 MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear
- 11
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thanks. 12
- MR BEER: Thank you. 13
- 14 Good afternoon, Mr Wilson. We were looking
- 15 at the receipts and payments mismatch bug and
- 16 either the record of the meeting or a record for
- 17 the meeting in October 2010, which was sent to
- 18 you by Mr Simpson.
- 19 A. Yes.

- 20 Q. Even if you thought that the receipts and
- 21 payments mismatch issue could not have affected
- 22 Mrs Misra's case because her case was one which
- 23 relied on data under the old Legacy Horizon
- 24 system, did occur to you that it should be
- 25 disclosed in any case involving Horizon Online? 110
 - I honestly don't know whether Mr Singh did, or
- 2 Ms McFarlane, at the time. I can't think back
- 3 other than I recall that -- from -- again, from
- 4 the documents, that I responded pretty quickly
- 5 and copied them into the email and I'm pretty
- 6 sure I will have had a discussion with them
- 7
- probably prior to even speaking to Alan Simpson,
- 8 but I can't recall any further details.
- Q. Can we look, please, at POL00028838 again, 9
- please, and go to page 6, please. This was the 10
- second of the attachments to Mr Simpson's email 11
- 12 to you.
- 13 Yes, Gareth Jenkins.
- 14 Q. It's a three-page, four-page report by
- 15 Mr Jenkins, dated 29 September. If you look at
- 16 the foot of the page, can you see that it seems
- 17 to have been saved in or taken from a C-drive
- 18 attributed to Jarnail Singh?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Can you see that it was printed at 4.38 on the
- 21 8 October?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. 8 October was a Friday and Seema Misra's trial
- 24 started on Monday, the 11, okay?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. What discussion was there about whether Mr Singh 1
- 2 needed to disclose either this document or some
- 3 other document recording information about the
- 4 receipts and payments mismatch bug?
- 5 A. I just -- I don't recall.
- 6 Q. You said in your witness statement, we saw it in
- 7 paragraph 17, that you now accept that the wrong
- 8 decision was made --
- 9 A. Yes
- 10 Q. -- not to disclose it --
- 11 Α. Yes.
- 12 -- or to not disclose it. Who made that Q.
- 13 decision not to disclose the information about
- the receipts and payments mismatch bug? 14
- A. It was my -- I'm saying I made the wrong 15
- 16 decision.
- 17 Q. Yes. So were you the relevant decision maker
- 18 then?
- 19 A. You mean in relation to the Misra file?
- 20 Q. Yes?

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- 21 A. No, I wasn't, I was saying in general terms my
- 22 view was there were two different systems. I'm
- 23 not saying that I communicated that with anybody
- 24 else or that I persuaded anybody else to be of
- 25 that view at all. I can't recall the

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- 1 Q. This note is written by Mr Jenkins and, if we go 2 forward to page 9, please, and look at the last 3 paragraph -- it must be page 8, scroll down, 4 please. Yes, "Communication with [the Post 5 Office]". Mr Jenkins says:
 - "Once we have the information from Section 4 which will enable us to life the full scope of the issue we need to communicate this to the Post Office through the problem management mechanisms. We will then need to get Post Office Limited to agree if/how we should be correcting the data.
 - "Post Office should also be able to check up on POLSAP to confirm that these discrepancies are still visible even though they have been lost in the branch.
 - "... as discrepancies are normally losses, then a lost discrepancy would normally work in the branch's favour and so there is no incentive for the branch to report the problem. Also, if we do amend the data to re-introduce the discrepancy, this will need to be carefully communicated to the branches to avoid questions about system integrity."

Was there a concern within the Post Office

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- 1 discussions. But looking back, that's how
- 2 I viewed it.
- 3 Q. Isn't it likely that you had a discussion with
- 4 Mr Singh, you referred in an email that we saw
- before lunch to meeting with him and Juliet 5
- 6 McFarlane on the Friday?
- 7 Α. Yes
- Q. Mr Singh has printed out Gareth Jenkins' report? 8
- 9 A. Yes
- 10 Q. It's 4.38 on a Friday when this is printed and
- 11 he's got a trial starting on Monday.
- I mean, he may well have printed it out to take 12
- it to court with himself, I don't recall. 13
- Q. If he did, it stayed in his bag because it was 14
- not disclosed. My question is: did you discuss 15
- 16 it with him and Juliet McFarlane, the disclosure
- 17 of it into the Seema Misra trial?
- A. If I'd said to him, for the sake of argument, 18
- 19 it's not disclosable, I don't see why he's
- 20 printing it out on the Friday afternoon at all.
- 21 I think that's probably an indication that he
- 22 was taking it to court.
- 23 Q. The notes we saw showed that Mr Jenkins was
- 24 present at the meeting.
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 that any communication to the branches about the
- 2 problem should avoid questions about system
- 3 integrity?
- 4 A. Well, I think, inevitably, if you're going to
- 5 tell them that this is the problem, people will
- 6 question it. I don't think they can get around
- 7 that. Whether they like us informing the
- 8 branches or not, Post Office Limited are stuck
- 9 with the problem.
- 10 Q. Mr Jenkins was going to be called as a witness
- 11 in a trial that was going to start the following
- 12 Monday.
- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did you or, to your knowledge, Mr Singh speak to
- 15 Mr Jenkins after your meeting to communicate
- 16 what the Post Office's position was concerning
- 17 disclosure of this issue in the Misra trial?
- A. I didn't. I don't know whether Mr Singh did. 18
- Q. Was anything agreed in your meeting with 19
- 20 Mr Singh about what would be communicated to
- 21 Mr Jenkins?
- 22 A. I'm not sure I had a meeting with Mr Singh
- 23 specifically about Misra. I think I had
- 24 a discussion with him and Juliet about the
- 25 problem.

- 1 Q. But you're there on a Friday afternoon with
- 2 Mr Singh, knowing he's got a trial starting on
- 3 the Monday, surely the immediate issue, the
- 4 really immediate issue, is: have we got to
- 5 disclose it?
- 6 A. Well, I go back to what I said earlier, that
- 7 I think if he's copying that out at 6.38 --
- 8 **Q.** 4.38.
- 9 A. -- sorry, 4.38, he must be intending to take it
- 10 to court with him. I mean, I can't see why he
- 11 would print it out otherwise.
- 12 Q. Are you implying that you may have had the
- 13 belief that Mr Singh did intend to disclose this
- in the Misra case?
- 15 A. No, I have no idea. I would like to be able to
- 16 answer your question but I have no idea what was
- 17 in his brain.
- 18 Q. If instructions hadn't been given to Mr Singh or
- 19 Mr Singh hadn't made a decision to communicate
- with Gareth Jenkins, there would be a risk that,
- 21 in the course of the evidence that Gareth
- 22 Jenkins was to give, he might disclose this?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Was there any plan to tell Mr Jenkins what he
- 25 could or could not say when he gave evidence in
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- 1 hold of him.
- 2 Q. You now say that you accept that the receipts
- 3 and payments mismatch bug should have been
- 4 disclosed, I think, to the defence in the Misra
- 5 case?
- 6 A. To everybody, or anybody in the future, yes.
- 7 Q. Is that acceptance or concession made because
- 8 you know that leading counsel for the Post
- 9 Office in the course of the *Hamilton* trial --
- 10 the Hamilton appeal, rather, himself accepted
- 11 before the court that the receipts and payments
- 12 mismatch bug fell to be disclosed in all
- 13 prosecutions?
- 14 A. I wasn't aware of that detail anyway. This is
- something that was in my brain.
- 16 Q. You knew at the time the test for disclosure
- 17 under the CPIA?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 Q. The notes that you'd been sent made it clear
- 20 that the bug impacted on balances --
- 21 **A.** Yes
- 22 Q. -- and the notes, as we saw before lunch, made
- 23 it clear that there was a potential impact on
- 24 ongoing legal cases?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 the Misra case?
- 2 A. No. Certainly not from myself, no. I mean,
- 3 personally, I think that Mr Jenkins, dealing
- 4 with this issue, immediately before Misra,
- 5 I would have thought he would have told
- 6 Mr Tatford, in any event.
- 7 Q. Why do you think Mr Tatford would be involved?
- 8 A. Well, because he was the person who was going to
- 9 cross -- was going to examine him in chief.
- 10 Q. We've seen from a number of communications that
- 11 when any issue concerning disclosure arose,
- 12 Mr Singh contacted Warwick Tatford for his
- 13 advice?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. We've seen that when Mr Singh wanted something
- 16 drafted, he asked Mr Tatford and Mr Tatford
- would sometimes draft letters and, in one case,
- 18 even an email for Mr Singh?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Do you know why, in relation to this issue,
- 21 there was no communication to Mr Tatford about
- the existence of the receipts and payments
- 23 mismatch bug?
- 24 A. No, I don't. It may be that he thought it's
- 25 late on a Friday night, I won't be able to get
 - 118
- 1 Q. Given those three things, how is it that you
- 2 decided that that it need not or should not be
- 3 disclosed?
- 4 A. I viewed it as being a completely different
- 5 system and, therefore, no chance of the two
- 6 colliding.
- 7 Q. What's changed now?
- 8 A. Well, I've thought about it more. Obviously,
- 9 I've seen lots more papers. I've listened to
- the YouTube, some witnesses, and I just think
- that we should have basically disclosed any bug
- 12 at any time.
- 13 **Q.** Can we turn to the duplicated records issue.
- 14 That's the third of the references that you gave
- in that paragraph 17 of your witness statement.
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. In paragraph 17, you say that that too was not
- 18 disclosable because it related to Horizon Online
- 19 and, therefore, didn't affect Horizon Legacy
- 20 cases.
- 21 Can we look, please, at FUJ00122995. Can we
- 22 start with page 5, please, if we just scroll
 - 23 down. Thank you.
 - 24 13 September, Mark Dinsdale to Juliet
 - 25 McFarlane:

"Duplication of transaction records in ARQ 1 a small number of audit requests made during the 1 2 2 returns": period from [Legacy Horizon] migration until the 3 "Juliet, do you think this draft would be 3 resolve will show the duplicate transactions." 4 okay. I'll run it past Penny at Fujitsu and ask 4 What do you understand is being said by that 5 them to 'top and tail' it into a witness 5 6 statement, if you're happy with it ..." 6 A. I think it's saying that, under the old system, 7 Then the draft: 7 there wouldn't be a duplication but under the 8 8 new system there is. "On audits of transactions, there occurs 9 9 Q. And it's afflicting data that is or may be a duplication of records when records were in 10 the process of being recorded purely for audit 10 presented to a court? purposes from the correspondence servers to the 11 Yes. 11 Α. 12 audit servers. This has always been the case; 12 Q. Thank you. Can we move on to POL00169416, and 13 however the mechanism used on Horizon to 13 scroll down to the bottom of the chain, at 14 retrieve audit data took this into account and 14 page 3 at the bottom and onto page 4. This is 15 only presented one instance of such duplicate 15 perhaps an easier to understand explanation. 16 data. As offices have migrated to the new 16 You'll see it's from Penny Thomas to three 17 [Horizon Online] application, any requests made 17 people, Sue Lowther, Mark Dinsdale and Jane Owen 18 in the Post Office: for audit data during this period, the mechanism 18 19 used to filter out duplicates did not remove 19 "We have identified that a number of recent 20 them from the audit data. 20 ARQ returns contain duplicated transaction 21 "The duplicates only occur in the audit 21 records 22 data, and does not affect the actual physical 22 "With Horizon counters, the mechanism by 23 transactions recorded on any counter at any 23 which Data is audited has always worked on the 24 outlet 24 principle that it is acceptable to audit the 25 "This problem has now been resolved, however 25 same data more than once -- in particular if in 122 1 doubt as whether or not it has been previously 1 Post Office that email we've just read, and 2 2 audited successfully. says: 3 "The Mechanism used on Horizon to retrieve 3 "Mark, Alan Simpson and myself have had 4 the data took this into account and only 4 a conference call today to look at potential 5 presented one instance of such duplicate data in 5 problems that this is likely to cause. Firstly, 6 ARQ extracts. 6 the suggested workaround will need to be put to 7 "... it has recently been noticed that the 7 our Legal Team and until that has been agreed 8 [Horizon Online] retrieval mechanism does not 8 any further ARQ requests, including those which 9 have been submitted, will be suspended. remove such duplicates and a quick scan of the 9 10 ARQs provided to the Post Office since the 10 "There are 2 cases currently with the 11 court -- West Byfleet ..." 11 change to the new system indicates that about 12 12 That's Seema Misra's case, yes? 35% of the ARQs might contain some duplicate 13 data. A PEAK has been raised to enhance the 13 A. Yes. 14 extraction [toolkit] ... However until the fix 14 Q. "... and Porters Avenue and I will speak to Lisa 15 is developed, tested and deployed, there is 15 and Jon about these as we need to know what in 16 a possibility that data is duplicated." 16 the way of ARQs and the corresponding statements 17 Skip the next paragraph: 17 have been presented to court." 18 "... we have identified a scenario with 18 Then there is a list of additional cases. 19 Postal Services transactions where multiple, 19 If you scroll down: 20 identical mails items are accepted ... but 20 "... a lot to digest [ask for clarification 21 Postage Labels are printed ..." 21 if you need it]." 22 I don't think I need to read the rest of it. 22 Then if we carry on scrolling up, we'll see 23 Then if we carry on scrolling up, please --23 that's sent on to Jon Longman, who is the

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25 A. Yes.

Investigator in the Seema Misra case.

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thank you, and again -- we can see that Jane

Owen sends out to a number of people within the

- 1 Q. Can we go, please, to POL0061056. This a notice
- 2 of additional evidence in the Seema Misra case.
- 3 If we scroll down a page, please, we will see
- 4 that it's signed off by Mr Singh. Then the next
- 5 page, we'll see it's a witness statement from
- 6 Mr Jenkins -- can you see that --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- of 8 July. Then if we go to page 3, can we
- 9 see "With Horizon counters, the mechanism by
- which data is audited", et cetera? Then the
- 11 next paragraph:
- 12 "In January 2010 a new [Horizon Online]
- 13 application was introduced", et cetera,
- 14 et cetera.
- 15 We see him giving disclosure of the --
- 16 A. Duplicates.
- 17 Q. -- the duplicate issue, don't we?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 $\,$ Q. You've said in your witness statement that it
- 20 was your view that it didn't need to be
- 21 disclosed because it afflicted Horizon Online
- 22 only and not Legacy Horizon?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Why did you take that view?
- 25 **A.** Well, because, like I said before, I saw them as
- 1 Misra case --
- 2 A. When I was making my statement I just recalled
- 3 believing that the two different -- there were
- 4 two different systems and, therefore, disclosure
- 5 was not necessary. Now, that was my memory of
- 6 making the witness statement and, clearly, it
- 7 has been disclosed in this particular case and,
- 8 clearly, I didn't give anybody an instruction to
- 9 that effect.
- 10 Q. Thank you. That can come down.
- 11 Can we turn directly to the Seema Misra case
- then and start with the charging decision. In
- 13 paragraph 5 of your witness statement -- there's
- no need to turn it up -- you tell us that you do
- not know who authorised the prosecution of
- 16 Mrs Misra.
- 17 A. It's probably in the papers somewhere. I just
- 18 couldn't find it.
- 19 Q. Well, I don't think we can tell who authorised
- 20 it either.
- 21 A. Right.
- 22 Q. What piece of paper would you expect to exist to
- 23 show who authorised the prosecution of Seema

- 24 Misra?
- 25 A. Well, I'd expect to see a letter on the file

- 1 two different systems.
- 2 Q. In fact, we can see that disclosure of this bug,
- 3 I'll call it, was given --
- 4 **A.** Yes.
- 5 Q. -- even though, in your view, it afflicted only
- 6 Horizon Online?
- 7 A. Well, I obviously didn't communicate it with
- 8 Jarnail or Juliet because I think Juliet -- was
- 9 this -- this was Juliet's duplicate problem.
- 10 Q. Why was it Juliet's duplicate problem?
- 11 A. Because she was the one on the email who was
- 12 contacted by -- was it Mark --
- 13 Q. Mark Dinsdale?
- 14 A. Yeah, and I think she organised the statement,
- and, whether this is the same statement or not,
- 16 I'm not sure but it certainly was disclosed on
- 17 the Misra case, yes.
- 18 Q. So just help us one more time, then. Why did
- 19 you think it needn't be disclosed and yet it
- 20 ended up being disclosed, because you've drawn
- 21 a distinction between things that affect Legacy
- 22 Horizon only and things that affect Horizon
- 23 Online only --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 **Q**. -- as the basis for the explanation for why the

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- 1 from the Casework Team informing us who the
- 2 decision maker was and that they'd made the
- 3 decision
- 4 Q. So you'd expect an Investigator's report coming
- 5 in with some associated paperwork?
- 6 A. Yes
- 7 **Q.** You'd expect some advice going out from a member
 - of the Criminal Law Team with advice on charge?
- 9 **A.** Yes.

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- 10 Q. Then you would expect a letter from the Casework
- 11 Team saying Mr X or Mrs X has decided to
- 12 authorise prosecution?
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. In a case like Seema Misra, would you have seen
- 15 papers in and out like that?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. So to what extent would you familiarise yourself
- with the issues, or would you simply say, "This
- is a letter concerning Seema Misra, that's got
- 20 to go to Jarnail"?
- 21 A. Yes, I received the post every day, unless
- I wasn't in, in which case I delegated it to
- 23 whichever lawyer, senior lawyer was in, and so
- 24 I will have seen the post, divided it up, and
- 25 I will have taken it around to the lawyers and,

1 whether	they were in c	or not, and I'd put it in
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- 2 their in-tray, because they may be in later in
- 3 the afternoon. So I would see post coming in to
- 4 the office, yes.
- 5 Q. To what extent did you engage with the contents,
- 6 rather than seeing to whom it was addressed and,
- 7 therefore, to whose in tray it should go to?
- 8 A. Oh, no, I think if there was something in the
- 9 contents which was interesting or worrying or,
- 10 for whatever reason, I wanted to discuss it,
- 11 I would have taken it to the lawyer and
- 12 discussed it with them.
- 13 Q. So, at the time, you were presumably aware that
- 14 Mrs Misra had been charged with both theft and
- 15 false accounting and had pleaded guilty to the
- 16 false accounting charge albeit the Post Office
- 17 didn't accept that plea and was seeking
- 18 a conviction for theft?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. When you gave evidence back on 12 October, you
- 21 told us that you had directed the lawyers in the
- 22 Criminal Law Team not to charge both theft and
- 23 false accounting?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 **Q.** Did you discuss with Mr Singh why Mrs Misra had 129
- 1 accounting as an alternative to theft?
- 2 A. I can't remember now but I imagine where there
- 3 were two separate incidents which would justify
- 4 separating the two charges.
- 5 Q. Is it fair to say that some lawyers within the
- 6 Criminal Law Team took a different view to you
- 7 on the propriety and desirability of charging
- 8 both?
- 9 A. No, that's a fair comment.
- 10 Q. What reasons, if any, did they give for taking
- 11 a different view to you?
- 12 A. I can't remember. I mean, they may have
- 13 attempted to argue what we've just been
- 14 discussing about charging them both. I don't
- 15 know.
- 16 Q. Did anyone give you an explanation along the
- 17 lines of "If we put false accounting on as
- Count 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 [or whatever] we often get
- 19 pleas to those"?
- 20 $\,$ A. I don't think there would be that -- I don't
- 21 think they would say that. They might think it
- but I don't think they would say it to me.
- 23 Q. Can I turn to some other disclosure issues in
- 24 Misra. You've told us already, candidly, today,
- 25 that you accept that the wrong decision was

- been charged with both theft and false
- 2 accounting?
- 3 A. I don't know whether I did on the Misra case but
 - I certainly remember having discussions with
- 5 both Jarnail and Juliet in relation to putting
- 6 both sets of charges together because of the
- 7 case of R v Eden, and it was a bone of
- 8 contention that I did have with them.
- 9 Q. What was the nature of your bone of contention?
- 10 A. That they should be following what R v Eden
- 11 said

- 12 Q. What was your understanding of what Eden said.
- 13 A. Basically, you have to pin your colours to the
- 14 mast.
- 15 Q. We've heard some expert evidence who said that
- the Court of Appeal in *Eden* made it clear that
- 17 there will be cases where it is appropriate to
- 18 have a charge of false accounting as
- 19 an alternative charge to theft. Did you know
- that at the time?
- 21 A. Yes, I read Eden, it was a Post Office case. It
- 22 was one of the first cases that was drawn to my
- 23 attention by my predecessor.
- 24 Q. What did you understand to be the circumstances
- 25 in which it was appropriate to charge false

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- 1 taken on disclosure in relation to issues that
- 2 you believe related only to Horizon Online and
- 3 did not afflict Legacy Horizon.
- 4 But you don't mention in your witness
- 5 statement documents that could or did relate to
- 6 the Horizon system before the switch in 2010.
- 7 I just want to explore some of those with you,
- 8 if I may?
- 9 A. Right.
- 10 Q. Can we start, please, with POL00044557. If we
- 11 go to the last page of this document, please,
- 12 you will see it's an Advice from Warwick
- Tatford, dated 5 January 2010. You remember
- 14 when we were looking at that long disclosure
- 15 request that was cut into an email?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. Eventually, Mr Singh sent that on to Mr Tatford
- 18 asking for his advice -- do you remember we saw
- 19 that this morning --
- 20 A. Yes, yes, yes.
- 21 $\,$ **Q.** -- and this was the reply. If we go to page 3,
- 22 please, and look at paragraph 7., Mr Tatford
 - 23 advises:
 - 24 "I also think that our disclosure duty
 - 25 requires us to ask Fujitsu whether they are

1	aware of any other Horizon error that has been
2	found at any sub post office. I anticipate that
3	there will be none, but it is important that the
4	check is made."

5 Did you see this advice?

- 6 Α. I don't recall seeing it, no.
- 7 Q. Would it be normal that, as part of the process
- 8 for post coming in, post going out, that you see
- 9 advices like this?
- 10 A. If it came in via the post, yes.
- Q. Was there any system in place for you to see 11
- significant documents that came in by email 12
- 13 only?
- A. I had access to each of the lawyers' email 14
- addresses for when they were on holiday but 15
- 16 I can't say, other than when they were on
- 17 holiday, I accessed their emails.
- You weren't checking whilst they were still 18 Q.
- 19 there?
- 20 Α. No.
- 21 Q. Did that piece of advice that we see there ever
- 22 make its way through to you, so far as you can
- 23 recall?
- 24 A. I can't recall, I'm sorry.
- Q. Can you recall whether it made its way through 25
- 1 "When Gareth completes his statement could
- 2 he also mention whether there are any known
- 3 problems with the Horizon system that Fujitsu
- 4 are aware of. If there are none could this be
- 5 clarified in the statement."
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Would you agree that what Mr Tatford has advised
- 8 has been watered down?
- 9 **A.** Um ...
- Q. Maybe I can help you. The first respect in 10
- which --11
- 12 A. Fujitsu.
- 13 Q. Exactly. The first one was asking for
- 14 a third-party provider of the computer system,
- 15 so a third-party disclosure source, whether it,
- 16 the corporation, was aware of any other Horizon
- 17 problem at any sub post office.
- 18 Α. Yeah.
- That's been translated to an address to 19
- 20 an individual to mention something?
- Yeah, I mean, I'm not seeking to argue with you 21 A.
- 22 but the second sentence also goes on to say,
- 23 "are any known problems with the Horizon system
- 24 that Fujitsu are aware of". So he's sort of
- 25 semi-redressing it.

- 1 to you, in the context of any other case, that
- 2 prosecution counsel was advising that Fujitsu
- 3 should be asked of any other Horizon error that
- 4 has been found at any sub post office? That's
- quite a broad statement, I think, isn't it? 5
- 6 Yes. I don't recall.
- 7 Q. Presumably, if you drew a distinction between
- Horizon Online and Legacy Horizon, such advice 8
- might conflict with that distinction? 9
- 10 A. Yes, but again, I'm not sure I communicated it
- 11 with either Mr Singh or Ms McFarlane and
- I certainly wouldn't have communicated it with 12
- 13 counsel.
- In any event, if you remember the formulation 14
- there of Mr Tatford: 15
- 16 "... our disclosure duty requires us to ask
- 17 Fujitsu ... any other Horizon error that's been
- 18 found at any sub post office."
- 19 Can we go forward, please, to FUJ00152902
- 20 and look at page 2, please. Can we see an email
- 21 here from Mr Longman, dated 1 February, so just
- 22 after that advice, and can you see paragraph 3
- 23 of Mr Longman's email to Fujitsu?
- 24 Α. Yes.
- 25 Q. He says:

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- 1 He's narrowing and then broadening it?
- 2 Yes
- 3 Q. Did this translation or transliteration of
- 4 Mr Tatford's advice, asking the Post Office to
- 5 address the corporation, into any mention in
- 6 a witness statement, get revealed to you at the
- 7 time?
- A. No, I don't think so. I understand, though, 8
- that Mr Jenkins did actually put in a witness 9
- statement, I'm pretty sure, in the Misra case. 10
- Q. He did and, before he did -- and I'm not going 11
- 12 to take you through it all in the light of your
- 13 answers -- he said that he was unhappy or
- 14 unwilling to answer directly question 3?
- 15 A. Without the data.
- Q. No. He was unhappy or unwilling to answer 16
- 17 directly question 3.
- A. I have to say that I'm surprised at that. 18
- I thought he'd said that there was none. 19
- 20 Q. This kind of exchange of information, would you
- 21 expect it to be disclosed in criminal
- 22 proceedings?
- 23 A. If he's saying he can't give an answer to that,
- 24 and he's working in Fujitsu, definitely.
- 25 You were responsible, in the sense of being Q.

- 1 accountable for the work of your lawyers in the
- 2 Criminal Law Team?
- 3 A. Absolutely.
- 4 Q. But were you also not responsible because others
- 5 sought your guidance on how to approach issues
- 6 of Horizon integrity as we've seen in the emails
- 7 of this morning?
- 8 A. Yes, and is this about me endeavouring to help
- 9 them?
- 10 Q. Yes.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. To what extent was the Post Office's strategy,
- in the prosecution of Mrs Misra, informed in
- 14 your understanding by an objective of deterring
- 15 other subpostmasters from raising concerns about
- 16 Horizon?
- 17 A. That should not have been a concern at all.
- 18 Q. I know it should not have been: to what extent
- 19 was it?
- 20 A. I don't believe it was.
- 21 Q. You've read, I think, what the Court of Appeal
- 22 said about the Seema Misra case in the *Hamilton*
- series of appeals?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 $\,$ $\,$ $\,$ Q. $\,$ In the light of that, do you agree, on

- 1 Q. You tell us in your witness statement, it's
- 2 paragraph 15.4, that you do not know, one way or
- 3 the other, whether anyone gave Mr Jenkins any
- 4 explanation as to the duties of an expert
- 5 witness in the Seema Misra case?
- 6 A. No, I mean, I assume that Mr Tatford would have
- 7 taken him through that during the course of the
- 8 trial.
- 9 Q. You say that in paragraph 15.4 --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- where you're addressing the question of
- 12 whether you or anyone else explained the duties
- of an expert to Mr Jenkins, and you say that you
- 14 believe Mr Jenkins would have been questioned in
- 15 court --
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. -- about his qualifications, experience, and the
- 18 basis for his opinions?
- 19 **A.** Yes.
- 20 Q. Are you by that suggesting that whether
- 21 a prosecution witness was being called as
- 22 an expert and whether their evidence was
- 23 admissible as expert evidence was a matter to be

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- 24 determined by the court at trial?
- 25 A. No, I don't think I'm saying that. What I'm

1 reflection, that the Post Office and the

- 2 Criminal Law Team did not fulfil its duties
- 3 under either the Code for Crown Prosecutors to
- 4 evaluate the evidence in support of the relevant
- 5 charges nor discharge its disclosure obligations
- 6 under the CPIA?
- 7 A. I wouldn't seek to argue with the Court of
- 8 Appeal.
- 9 Q. You confirm in your witness statement, in
- 10 relation to obtaining expert evidence, that,
- 11 firstly, you gave no instructions to Mr Jenkins
- 12 in the course of the Seema Misra case.
- 13 A. I can't remember giving any instructions to
- 14 Mr Jenkins in any case.
- 15 Q. That's paragraph 15.3 of your witness statement.
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. You confirm that you do not know whether
- 18 Mr Singh or anyone else in the Criminal Law Team
- 19 gave Mr Jenkins such instructions in the *Misra*
- 20 case?
- 21 A. I mean when you say "instructions", you mean
- 22 directions to do something?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24 A. I can't remember directing any witness to do any
- 25 particular thing.

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- 1 saying is that him -- counsel would have
- 2 questioned Mr Jenkins, so it was clear to the
- 3 court that he understood that his duty was to
- 4 the court and not to those of us who were
- 5 instructing him.
- 6 Q. That may be so and that may be a necessary part
- 7 of adducing expert evidence in court. We're
- 8 interested in the antecedents stage, ie what
- 9 happened before. Are you suggesting that
- 10 because, when it got to court, counsel may ask
- 11 questions about qualifications, experience and
- basis of opinions, there was no necessity to do
- any of that beforehand?
- 14 A. No, we clearly got it wrong with how we
- 15 instructed Mr Jenkins in terms of his expertise,
- and I remember you going through a very long
- 17 list with me on the first day of my evidence,
- and I believe I accepted that what you were
- 19 saying was right and that we were wrong -- or
- 20 I was wrong.
- 21 Q. I was just checking that what you now say in
- 22 paragraph 15.4 of your second witness statement
 - 23 is not a gloss on that, ie because
 - 24 qualifications, experience and basis of opinions
- are addressed at court, there's no need to do it

1		beforehand?
2	A.	No, I'm not saying that at all. I'm accepting
3		what you said to me on the first occasion that
4		I gave evidence and I'm not trying to gloss it.
5	Q.	Thank you.
6	A.	I'm not excusing myself.
7	Q.	Thank you very much, Mr Wilson.
8		Can we turn to what happened after the
9		trial, then, and look at POL00093686. Look at
10		page 5, please, foot of the page. This is sent
11		by Jarnail Singh's secretary. If you just see
12		in the top right there it says, his secretary
13		"on behalf of Jarnail Singh", sent on 21 October
14		2010 to Mandy Talbot and others, not including
15		you.
16	A.	No, I'm included.
17	Q.	Are you?
18	A.	Yeah, third line down.
19	Q.	Oh, I'm so sorry. Yes, I completely missed you.
20		Looking at the content, Mr Singh says:
21		"After a lengthy trial at Guildford the
22		above named was found guilty of theft. The case
23		turned from a relatively straightforward general
24		deficiency case into an unprecedented attack on
25		the Horizon system. We were beset with
		141
1	_	I understand the trial concluded
2	Q.	Yes.
3	Α.	and at
4	Q.	
5	Α.	14.58. I know from looking at my diaries on
6		that particular date I wasn't in the office,
7		certainly in the morning. I was in an East
8		London Mail Centre and I don't know how long
9		I stayed in the East London Mail Centre but what
10		I do recall is when I saw this email I was quite
11		surprised, not only about the people that it had
12		gone to, some of whom I have no idea who they
13		are, but also about the content, because this is
14		not a report that I would have prepared or any
15		other lawyer would have prepared, and you can
16		see that on the <i>Henderson</i> case, where I do the
17	_	report on the <i>Henderson</i> . That's how
18	Q.	It's just the facts?
19	Α.	Yeah, absolutely.
20	Q.	The second thing that Mr Singh told us was that

1		an unparalleled degree of disclosure requests by
2		the defence. Through hard work of everyone,
3		counsel Warwick Tatford, Investigation Officer
4		Jon Longman, and through the considerable
5		expertise of Gareth Jenkins of Fujitsu we were
6		able to destroy to the criminal standard of
7		proof (beyond all reasonable doubt) every single
8		suggestion made by the Defence.
9		"It is to be hoped that the case will set
10		a marker to dissuade other defendants from
11		jumping on the Horizon bashing bandwagon."
12		"Jarnail Singh."
13		The subject of the email is called "Attack
14		on Horizon"; can you see that?
15	A.	Yes.
16	Q.	When he gave evidence, Mr Singh said that you or
17		Mandy Talbot selected this distribution list for
18		him and told him who to send it to; is that
19		correct?
20	A.	I certainly didn't.
21	Q.	Would it be usual for Mandy Talbot, in Civil
22		Litigation, to tell Jarnail Singh, the case
23		holder in Criminal Litigation, who to send
24	_	an email to?
25	Α.	No. His email is on the same day as 142
		172
	_	
1	Q.	The third thing he told us was that he typed
2		these words or more accurately asked his
3		secretary to type these words, including "Attack
4		on Horizon", even though he personally did not
5		believe that the Seema Misra case involved
6		an attack on Horizon. Did he ever express such
7 8		sentiments to you: "I've been forced to write an email, the title to which and the contents
9		with which, I disagree"?
10	Α.	No.
11	Q.	He said, fourthly, that a collection of people
12	Œ.	dictated the contents to him, perhaps involving
13		counsel, perhaps involving you, perhaps
14		involving other lawyers, but then you saw
15		a draft of the email and you approved the final
16		draft, which is his then-secretary sent out; is
17		that true?
18	Α.	No.
19	Q.	Did you draft any part of this email?
20	Α.	No, I did not.
21	Q.	Did you authorise the sending of this email in
22		any way?
23	A.	No.

Horizon" was dictated to him, perhaps by you; is 24

Q. Did you share the view expressed by Mr Singh 25 that the Horizon integrity issue was a passing

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the title of the email, "Seema Misra --

Guildford Crown Court -- Trial -- Attack on

21

22

23

24

25

A. No.

that correct?

- 1 bandwagon upon which people could jump?
- 2 **A.** No.
- 3 Q. Can we turn to POL00169170. So we can see what
- 4 happened to Jarnail Singh's email, if we scroll
- 5 down, please. We can see just the email there
- 6 at the foot of the page and then, somehow, in
- 7 this version of it -- we can't see how it got
- 8 there, but somehow -- it's got from the
- 9 distribution list at the bottom of the page on
- 10 to David Y Smith, Rod Ismay, who was on the
- 11 distribution list, Mike Moores, Mike Young and
- 12 Paula Vennells, yes?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. David Smith, he was the Managing Director of the
- 15 company at the time; is that right?
- 16 A. I don't know.
- 17 Q. David Y Smith?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 Q. Paula Vennells was Head of Network. Post Office
- 20 Network?
- 21 A. I recognise Paula Vennells' name because I think
- 22 she became the Chief Executive of --
- 23 Q. Subsequently. At this time, I think she was
- 24 Head of Network?
- 25 A. Right.

- 1 people, like Susan Crichton, the General
- 2 Counsel. Do you see any pattern emerging
- 3 between the emails?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Both followed trials which had challenged the
- 6 integrity of Horizon, yes?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Both were gleeful that the challenge was
- 9 defeated?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Both victories were seen as a way of sending
- 12 a message out to the subpostmaster community?
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. Both were evidently of interest and importance
- 15 to senior people within the Post Office, weren't
- 16 they?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. You say in your statement that you cannot recall
- 19 what you thought at the time about the outcome
- 20 of the case but you were surprised at the
- 21 audience?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 **Q.** Why were you surprised at the audience?
- 24 A. I didn't realise that it was being watched,
- 25 effectively, by pretty senior people within Post 147

1 Q. Then if we go on further up the page, please, we

2 can then see Mr Ismay redistributes the email

- 3 back to everyone who was on the first list --
- 4 can you see that --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- including you?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 $\,$ **Q**. "Dear all -- please note Dave Smith's thanks to
- 9 you all for your important work on this case.
- 10 "Dave and the [Executive Team] have been
- 11 aware of the significance of these challenges
- 12 and have been supportive of the excellent work
- going on in so many teams to justify the
- 14 confidence we have in Horizon and in supporting
- 15 our processes.
- 16 "This is an excellent result and a big
- 17 thanks to everyone."
- 18 So Rod Ismay here is making sure that
- 19 everyone saw how pleased David Smith was with
- 20 the outcome, yes?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. This circulation list includes some of the same
- 23 people that we saw in the congratulatory email
- 24 after the Castleton trial, including you, Mandy
- 25 Talbot and Rod Ismay, as well as a successor
 - 146
- Office Limited.
- 2 Q. How has that come about, as Head of Criminal
- 3 Law, surely you should have been aware that the
- 4 Managing Director, David Y Smith, and the
- 5 Executive Team were aware of the significance of
- 6 the challenges that the *Misra* case presented?
- 7 A. Well, I wasn't aware. They weren't contacting
- 8 me; I wasn't contacting them. Mr Singh wasn't
- 9 telling me that lots of people were interested
- to to the state of people from the
- 10 in it
- 11 **Q**. As far as you were aware, was it just another
- 12 run-of-the-mill case, then?
- 13 A. Well, it certainly was when I allocated it to
- 14 Jarnail but, in terms of disclosure, it took on
- a life on its own but, I mean, I didn't view it,
- at any particular stage, as a test case, which
- 17 clearly other people were viewing it as. For
- me, it was another case with a lot of
- 19 disclosure.
- 20 Q. Given the defence that Mrs Misra was running, in
- 21 short that Horizon had created fictitious
- 22 shortfalls in her accounts --
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- 24 Q. -- if she had been acquitted, do you think that
- 25 would have opened up the strong possibility of

4

- attacks on past convictions secured on the backof Horizon evidence?
- 3 A. I think, looking back now, I think that probably
- 4 you're right. I think, having seen the amount
- 5 of disclosure and then being told by a jury
- 6 "We're not going to convict", would have been
- 7 a defining moment, yes.
- 8 Q. It may have called a halt to Horizon
- 9 prosecutions?
- 10 A. It may have done, yes.
- 11 Q. Would you agree that, although your department
- 12 would have been in the vanguard of driving that
- 13 process of looking back at past convictions and
- 14 halting current prosecutions, the implications
- would have been felt across the entire Post
- 16 Office estate, ie they would have had effects
- 17 not just on prosecutions?
- 18 A. Inevitably, yes.
- 19 Q. Can you therefore now understand the relief
- 20 that's expressed in these emails that she was
- 21 convicted?
- 22 A. I saw the -- well, from the senior people?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24 A. Not from Jarnail Singh?
- 25 Q. Well, from both, actually.

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- 1 sent to you, after your email about not setting
- 2 up an independent expert evaluation of the
- 3 integrity of Horizon, after your sight of the
- 4 Ismay report, you can't have been in any doubt
- 5 that the business was interested in cases which
- 6 challenged the integrity of Horizon, can you?
- 7 A. Well, I wouldn't have been in any doubt seeing
 - this that the business was interested in the --
- 9 the result of cases.

8

- 10 Q. Well, therefore, you can't have been surprised11 at the audience of this "bandwagon" email?
- 12 **A.** Well, it was a surprise.
- 13 Q. But why? If --
- 14 A. Because I didn't --
- 15 Q. If, after all of the events which had happened,
- 16 the last round, the big challenge, was Lee
- 17 Castleton, after the proposal to get an expert
- 18 evaluation of the integrity of Horizon, which
- 19 you, on balance, argued against, after the
- 20 disclosure issues that we've looked at, after
- 21 the Ismay report, you knew what was riding on
- this case, didn't you, and, therefore, how
- everyone would be interested in its outcome?
- 24 A. I really don't see that as being in my brain,
- 25 no. I think I was quite surprised. I mean, the 151

- A. Well, I saw Jarnail Singh as being relieved on
- 2 the basis that it was probably a stressful
- 3 period for him and that lent towards the
 - language that he's actually used. So when I saw
- 5 the first email, whilst I was surprised, I put
- 6 it down to stress because I think, had I not --
- 7 or believed that that was the position, I think
- 8 I'd have had a word with him about his use of
- 9 the language because it was inappropriate.
- 10 With the senior people here, yes, I mean
- 11 I probably wouldn't have seen a congratulatory
- 12 email like this at all if the case had been --
- 13 if Ms Seema Misra had been acquitted.
- 14 **Q.** You were on the distribution list, as you
- 15 rightly pointed out, of the original email --
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. -- and of this reply, after its done the rounds
- 18 amongst senior people within the Post Office.
- 19 You didn't pull Mr Singh up on it, did you?
- 20 A. No, as I say -- I said just now, I thought his
- 21 reply was probably generated by a relief --
- 22 relieving his stress.
- 23 Q. Or is the truth that you were also personally
- 24 invested in the outcome of Seema Misra's case?
- 25 After the Lee Castleton congratulatory email

15

- 1 Lee Castleton thing I had virtually nothing to
- 2 deal with, because all I did was say, "Yes, I'll
- 3 come to court and explain why Mr Singh was
- 4 acquitted". The Rod Ismay report, I had very
- 5 little to do with that. I think I may have
- 6 given some information about cases that we'd
- 7 been -- prosecuted but I had very little to do
- 8 with that and was quite surprised, because I'd
- 9 forgotten about the pending report, when it came
- 10 through.
- io inrougi
- 11 And, yeah, these things were happening over
- 12 an extended period of time and they weren't
- always in the front of my memory. I'm not
- 14 trying to make an excuse. Maybe I should have
- been aware that there was a big interest in this
- 16 but all I can remember about the final email
- 17 here was being surprised at the number of people
- that clearly had been interested in it and that
- 19 I was unaware of.
- 20 Q. That can come down. Thank you.
- We've looked at a series of emails of what happens when the Post Office is successful in
- 23 civil proceedings or criminal proceedings. Can
- 24 we look at what happens when the opposite comes
- 25 about.

1		Anthony Utting, Tony Utting, gave evidence	1		jury as
2		on 17 November this year and he told us that,	2		suppos
3		when the Post Office lost the case, there would	3		figures
4		be a report, which was written by counsel, that	4		Post O
5		would go to the Criminal Law Team and the	5		to ansv
6		leadership team about why it had been lost; is	6		W
7		that correct?	7	A.	There
8	A.	Certainly, if we lost a case, I would ask	8	Q.	The jur
9		counsel for a report on the case, giving a view	9		reliabili
10		as to why he believed or she believed that we'd	10		a subp
11		lost it, yeah.	11		case, s
12	Q.	What would you do with that report?	12		the Po
13	A.	Well, that would be forwarded up to my line	13		court.
14		manager, whether it was Andrew Wilson or Tony	14		of this
15		Utting, or whoever.	15	A.	I don't
16	Q.	What was the purpose of doing that?	16		should
17	A.	Well, the purpose was, if there was a problem	17		would l
18		identified by counsel, we would try and rectify	18		extraor
19		it or understand what went wrong and provide	19		could h
20		training, or whatever was needed.	20		the init
21	Q.	In January 2007, Mrs Susan Palmer, after	21		probler
22		a three-day trial in which she had raised	22	Q.	We ha
23		Horizon integrity issues, was acquitted of three	23		The on
24		charges of false accounting with the jury	24		when t
25		acquitting her after about ten minutes. The 153	25		is? We
1		by the Post Office?	1		Ca
2	Δ	Well, it could be that it wasn't by email.	2		that, M
3	Α.	I mean, counsel may have	3		that PC
4	0	Okay, reports or any document or piece of paper.	4		shows
5	Α.	I have no idea how the Post Office disclosed all	5		authori
6	Λ.	these documents on you. But I did ask for on	6		Thank
7		every case that we lost, I asked for a report	7		Ca
8		from our counsel who is dealing with it and, if	8		You we
9		it was an agent's case, I'd also ask for	9		case, y
10		an agent to give me a report. So I will have	10	A.	Yes.
11		got a report. I'm pretty confident about that.	11	Q.	Can we
12		I don't recall it, though.	12	Q.	scroll to
13	MD	BEER: Thank you very much, Mr Wilson.	13		is, is th
14	IVIIN	Sir, I wonder if we might take the afternoon	14		Investi
15		break now until 3.20.	15	A.	Yes.
	CID		16	_	date
16		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, very well.	17	Q.	Yes.
17		BEER: Thank you, sir.		Α.	
18	(3.0	(A short breek)	18	Q.	Then if
19	(2.0	(A short break)	19		essent
20	•	20 pm)	20		charge
21	WK	BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear	21		yourse
22	e i n	us?	22	Α.	It's not
23		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, Thanks, yes.	23	_	to see.
24	WK	BEER: Thank you.	24	Q.	Have I
25		Good afternoon, Mr Wilson.	25		through

ked the question, "What was Mrs Palmer sed to do if she did not agree with the that the Horizon system produced?" The Office representatives at court were unable wer that question. as there a post-trial report in that case? will have been. I can't remember. ry raised in public a question as to the ity of the Horizon system and what ostmaster was supposed to do if, in that she did not agree with the figures, and st Office was unable to answer it at Was any review undertaken in the light outcome? recall the case at all. I imagine there have been a review. I imagine there have been a review. But it seems to me rdinary that they don't know that she nave reported that to -- I can't remember ials of the group that dealt with ms. Yeah, I'm surprised at that. ven't got a review or a report back to you. nly emails we've got are gloating emails he Post Office wins. Do you know why that e've got no reviews of when cases are lost 154 an we turn -- in fact, before we turn to Is Gallafent has kindly pointed out to me OL00049716 -- needn't be displayed -that David Pardoe was the person who ised the prosecution of Seema Misra. you. an we turn, please, to Allison Henderson. ere the relevant lawyer in Mrs Henderson's es? e look, please, at POL00044501. Can we o the foot of the page, please. This

nis right, a memorandum from the

gator to you --

d 20 April 2010?

f we scroll up, please. Is this,

ially, a memorandum seeking your advice on

es? Just take a moment to read it to lf.

the traditional report that I'd expect

picked the story up sort of halfway 25 through? If you look just towards the bottom of

1		the page where it's being displayed there, where	1		That certainly matches the material that we
2		it says, "I hope we can continue with	2		•
					have got.
3		charge(s) of theft and false accounting".	3		If, as you said the outset of today, that
4	Α.	Yes, I think so. The normal report is slightly	4		ARQ data was fundamental in at least those cases
5		different to that.	5		where Horizon data was being questioned or the
6	Q.	Yes. You tell us in your witness statement	6		integrity of Horizon was being questioned, why
7		I wonder whether we can turn it to up, then,	7		wasn't ARQ data sought in this case?
8		please, page 21 of your witness statement. At	8	A.	Well, I think it will have been sought had she
9		paragraph 33, you refer to some documents	9		maintained her not guilty plea but I think the
10		earlier in your statement, and you say:	10		defence statement of 16 November, crossed with
11		"I believe, after having reviewed the	11		a telephone call of either the same date or the
12		documents, that the first time I became aware	12		date before, with the defence solicitors, who'd
13		that the integrity of Horizon data was being	13		telephoned me to say that it was in counsel's
14		questioned was upon receipt of the amended	14		hands, but it was likely to be a guilty plea.
15		defence statement dated 16 November 2010	15		And then five or seven days later, counsel had
16		I received an indication that Mrs Henderson was	16		had counsel to counsel had had a telephone
17		highly likely to plead to false accounting. The	17		call where the defence said that she would be
18		receipt of the challenge complaining of the	18		pleading to she would plead to false
19		malfunction of Horizon would have raised	19		accounting and would not be challenging Horizon.
20		an obligation to serve on the defence any	20		Had she maintained a not guilty plea, we
21		material that assisted the defence or undermined	21	_	would have been looking at ARQ data, ARQ data.
22		the prosecution."	22	Q.	Can we look, please, at that train of events,
23		Then you say this:	23		POL00055807, a letter of 18 November from
24		"I do not believe that ARQ data was ever	24		defence solicitors Belmores to you. Question:
25		sought in this case."	25		"We act on behalf of the above named and
		157			158
1		wonder whether you might accept a plea to false	1		would have discovered the whereabouts of the
2		accounting in this matter as well as full	2		missing sum.
3		repayment of the [£12,000-odd] outstanding."	3		"She categorically denies appropriating any
4		To what extent was repayment of alleged	4		money from [the Post Office].
		TO What exterit was repayment of alleged	5		money nom fine rost Onicej.
5		lanana ayan manda a samditi an af assantanan by			
6		losses ever made a condition of acceptance by			" not in any financial difficulty of
7		the Post Office of a plea?	6		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or
	A.	the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is	6 7		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases.
8	A.	the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not	6 7 8		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually
8 9	A.	the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is	6 7		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases.
	A.	the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not	6 7 8		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually
9	A.	the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe	6 7 8 9		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the
9 10	A. Q.	the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think	6 7 8 9 10		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to
9 10 11		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this.	6 7 8 9 10 11		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be
9 10 11 12		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement	6 7 8 9 10 11 12		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]."
9 10 11 12 13		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement said, POL00044503.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]." Can we see what your response was to the
9 10 11 12 13 14		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement said, POL00044503. Defendant doesn't dispute that £12,000-odd appears to be missing	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]." Can we see what your response was to the defence statement, POL00055783. At the top of the page, 17 November:
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement said, POL00044503. Defendant doesn't dispute that £12,000-odd appears to be missing "[She] offers no particular explanation and	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]." Can we see what your response was to the defence statement, POL00055783. At the top of the page, 17 November: "Have received a defence statement today,
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement said, POL00044503. Defendant doesn't dispute that £12,000-odd appears to be missing "[She] offers no particular explanation and does not understand why there is a discrepancy, however does believe that any discrepancies are the result of a malfunction of the Horizon	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]." Can we see what your response was to the defence statement, POL00055783. At the top of the page, 17 November: "Have received a defence statement today, despite the telephone conversation [today]. A hard copy has been put in the post today. " the defence allege that any discrepancy
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement said, POL00044503. Defendant doesn't dispute that £12,000-odd appears to be missing "[She] offers no particular explanation and does not understand why there is a discrepancy, however does believe that any discrepancies are the result of a malfunction of the Horizon computerised accounting system. [She] believes that any discrepancy could have been discovered	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]." Can we see what your response was to the defence statement, POL00055783. At the top of the page, 17 November: "Have received a defence statement today, despite the telephone conversation [today]. A hard copy has been put in the post today. " the defence allege that any discrepancy was as a result of the Horizon system." Then last paragraph:
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		the Post Office of a plea? To say I wasn't interested in repayment is underplaying the statement but that was not a primary concern of mine, and I don't believe I made it a condition with Belmores. I think they were offering this. Can we just look at what the defence statement said, POL00044503. Defendant doesn't dispute that £12,000-odd appears to be missing "[She] offers no particular explanation and does not understand why there is a discrepancy, however does believe that any discrepancies are the result of a malfunction of the Horizon computerised accounting system. [She] believes	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		" not in any financial difficulty of good character and has not moved any monies or made significant purchases. "[She] accepts that she is contractually obliged to pay the amount of £12,000-odd to the Post Office and has instructed her solicitors to approach prosecution as to how best this can be [achieved]." Can we see what your response was to the defence statement, POL00055783. At the top of the page, 17 November: "Have received a defence statement today, despite the telephone conversation [today]. A hard copy has been put in the post today. " the defence allege that any discrepancy was as a result of the Horizon system."

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system was at fault that would not be

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an acceptable basis of plea for the

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reduced to the alleged sum in a matter of

minutes. Further investigation by the auditor

1 prosecution." 2 Can we look, please, at POL00046865. Look 3 at page 7, please. This is Allison Henderson's 4 questionnaire as part of the Complaint Review 5 and Mediation Scheme. Can you see at 6 paragraph 6, the second bit of it: 7 "She [that's Mrs Henderson] was advised to 8 plead guilty to false accounting in return for 9 dropping the theft charge. She was also told 10 that she could not mention any problems with 11 Horizon in court." 12 Can you see that? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. I think you know that the Court of Appeal, in its Hamilton judgment, insofar as it concerns 15 16 Allison Henderson, noted that the Post Office 17 conceded that it was improper to make the 18 acceptability of Mrs Henderson's plea to false 19 accounting conditional upon making no issue of 20 the Horizon system. The Court of Appeal 21 continued: 22 "In our judgment, such conduct on the part 23 of a prosecutor is improper. The Post Office 24 had dropped the theft charge and so could no 25 longer advance any case that she had stolen the 1 the basis of plea to false accounting 2 conditional on making no issue of the Horizon 3 system? 4 A. Yes. I think what I've done is wrongly worded 5 it. What I should have said was that, in the 6 event that we have a disagreement about 7 culpability, then it'll probably have to be 8 dealt with as a Newton hearing, or words to that 9 effect. Yes, I've put it in the wrong way. 10 I accept that. Q. In Mrs Henderson's case, did you disclose the 11 12 receipts and payments mismatch bug 13 documentation? 14 A. No. Q. Did you disclose the Rod Ismay report? 15 16 A. No. 17 Q. Why was that? A. The Rod Ismay report, as far as I was concerned, 18 was a vindication of the Horizon system and 19 20 I didn't see that as undermining our case. Q. Did you expressly consider it? 21 22 A. Did I expressly consider --

1 money. The Post Office concedes that that 2 should have left the way open to Mrs Henderson 3 to suggest that there was no actual loss and she 4 had only covered up a shortfall that Horizon had created." 5 6 Do you accept, as you did before, what the 7 Court of Appeal says? 8 I wouldn't seek to argue with the Court of 9 Appeal at all, in any shape or form, but my --10 the reason I was putting that in there was in 11 the event that she did plead guilty to the false accounting, then I refer back to what I put in 12 13 my witness statement a number of times 14 concerning the agreement. If there wasn't 15 an agreement between the prosecution and the 16 defence, in terms of the difficulties -- I'm 17 phrasing this really badly -- the difficulty in 18 the case, then you'd effectively have a Newton 19 hearing. 20 I mean, that was what I was trying to do but 21 I accept that I put it in a very different and 22 difficult way in that document that you've just 23 shown me, yes. 24 Q. With hindsight, to you accept that it wasn't 25 proper to make the acceptability of the plea or 1 When Mrs Henderson lodged her defence case 2 statement or her defence statement, did that not 3 trigger an obligation to review what material 4 existed within the Post Office generally, 5 without going to Fujitsu in the first instance? 6 A. Yes, it would have triggered disclosure, yes. 7 Is it right that there wasn't a central 8 repository, whether physical or on a server, for 9 investigators and prosecutors to access, of all 10 information relating to alleged or established problems with Horizon? 11 12 A. Yes, it's right. I know it was suggested by 13 counsel in an earlier case, who represented the 14 subpostmasters and mistresses, a large number of 15 them, and I think it was an opportunity we 16 missed. 17 Q. Was active consideration ever given to that, to have a central repository at which established 18 problems with Horizon, some of which we've seen 19 today, or alleged problems with Horizon, could 20 21 be accessed? 22 A. Not that I recall, but as I say, I think it was 23 an opportunity missed that we should have done 24 something like that, yes.

Who within the Post Office was responsible for

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No, basically because I felt that it didn't

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24 **A**.

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Q. It for disclosure?

undermine our cases.

		·	ne i ost onice nonzon n	шч	quiry	12 Decembe
1		thinking of such an idea and carrying such	1		is that right, advising there was suf	ficient
2		an idea into action?	2		evidence of a realistic prospect of o	
3	A.	Well, I could have done and I should have done,	3	A.		
4		but I don't think it ever occurred to me and	4	Q.		
5		I don't think anybody ever suggested it as	5	Α.		
6		a good idea.	6	Q.		056596.
7	Q.	Can we turn, lastly, to Khayyam Ishaq's case and	7	A.		
8		turn up paragraph 50 to 53 of your witness	8	Q.		
9		statement which is on page 27. You say:	9		2011	,
10		"I did not have a role in relation to	10	A.	Yes.	
11		disclosure."	11	Q.	in the case of Khayyam Ishaq. If	we go to
12		You weren't aware that Mr Ishaq had raised	12		the last page, if we scroll down, we	
13		Horizon integrity issues in the course of the	13		it's written by you.	
14		prosecution and you had no involvement in the	14	A.	Oh, right, yes. I was under the imp	ression that
15		prosecution after you moved to the Royal Mail	15		I hadn't started the case.	
16		Group in 2012; is that right?	16	Q.	If we go back to the first page, plea	se.
17	A.	Yes.	17		"In my opinion [paragraph 1] th	ie evidence is
18	Q.	Who took over responsibility from you when you	18		sufficient to afford a realistic prospe	ect of
19		moved in 2012?	19		conviction on the charges set ou	t on the
20	A.	Mr Singh would have been the lawyer in Post	20		attached Schedule."	
21		Office Limited.	21	A.	In that case, there is a mistake, the	n, in my
22	Q.	But you had overall responsibility for the case	22		witness statement because I put at	answer
23		until April 2020; is that right?	23		number 47 the charge was drafted	by Martin Smith
24	A.	Yes.	24		of Messrs Cartwright King.	
25	Q.	You, a year earlier, had authorised prosecution,	25	Q.	Whereas, in fact, it's you?	
		165			166	
1	Α.	Well, that's showing me as me, isn't it?	1		Questioned by MR JAC	OBS
2	Q.	Did you ever analyse or reduce to writing such	2	MR	R JACOBS: I just have a quick quest	
3		analysis of why there was a realistic prospect	3		I act for 156 subpostmasters and m	
4		of conviction?	4		were affected by this scandal.	
5	A.	No. I don't think so.	5		I want you to cast your mind ba	ack but not
6	Q.	Your advices tend to follow this format, namely	6		very long, just to 9.15 this morning	
7		a statement as to there is a realistic prospect	7		Mr Beer asked you a question and	he said:
8		of conviction and then the rest of the memo	8		"If you were asked from 2000 o	onwards, and if
9		turns to evidential queries that need bottoming	9		there was any change in the answe	er from 2000
10		out?	10		until, say 2012, who at board level	was
11	A.	Yes.	11		responsible for the conduct of crimi	inal
12	Q.	You don't say why there is a realistic prospect	12		prosecutions, what would your answ	wer have been?"
13		of conviction?	13	A.	Yes.	
14	A.	No, no. I don't.	14	Q.	Do you recall that question?	
15	Q.	Was there a separate record kept of why there	15	A.	Yes, I do, yes.	
16		was a realistic prospect of conviction?	16	Q.	So I'll remind you of your answer so	we've got
17	A.	I don't think so, no.	17		it on the transcript.	
18	Q.	After April 2012, did you have any involvement	18	A.	I think I said the Secretary, didn't I?	,
19		in the proceedings against Mr Ishaq?	19	Q.	You said the answer would be the	Company
20	A.	No.	20		Secretary. Then you went on to sa	y:
21	MR	BEER: Thank you very much, Mr Wilson. Those a	are 21		"Yes, I think there were probab	oly two,

25 **A.** Yes.

22

23

24

their names."

22

23

24

25

the only questions I ask. That document can be

I think there are some questions, including

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taken down, please.

from Mr Jacobs, to start with.

possibly even three while I was there and, for

the life of me, at the moment, I can't remember

- 1 Q. Now, Howe+Co have been quite diligent and we've
- 2 found Bond documents, the names of the Company
- 3 Secretaries in Post Office Limited who were in
- 4 place from the years when you were in place,
- 5 2000 to 2012. Our clients are very interested
- 6 to know the names of the individuals who would
- 7 have known, or ought properly to have known,
- 8 what was going on with the Horizon system and
- 9 the --
- 10 A. The reason I said that I think it was the
- 11 Secretary, it was because I know that my direct
- 12 line, the Security Director, reported to the
- 13 Secretary.
- 14 Q. All right. Right.
- 15 A. So that was my rationale.
- 16 Q. Yes. So your evidence is still, then, that your
- 17 understanding is that the person at board level
- 18 who was responsible for the conduct of criminal
- 19 prosecutions was the Secretary?
- 20 A. Yes
- 21 Q. It might help remind you of the names, if I give
- you those names, and you can confirm whether
- that's right. So from 1999 to 2010, the Company
- 24 Secretary was Jonathan Evans.
- 25 A. Right.

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- 1 MR JACOBS: Okay. Well, I am just going to ask to
- 2 see if I have any more questions.
- 3 I don't, thank you very much.
- 4 MR BEER: I think Mr Henry has some questions.

Questioned by MR HENRY

- 6 MR HENRY: Thank you, sir, Mr Wilson. I represent,
- 7 among other people, Seema Misra.
- 8 I suggest your evidence today has revealed
- 9 that the Criminal Law Team was the submissive
- 10 servant of the Post Office's commercial
- 11 interests or perceived reputational advantage.
- 12 Do you agree with that?
- 13 A. No, I don't.
- 14 Q. That your department's duties as a private
- 15 prosecutor were twisted, degraded or suborned in
- 16 the service of the Post Office's interests as
- 17 a business; do you disagree?
- 18 A. Yes, I do.
- 19 Q. That prosecutorial standards and duties were
- 20 subordinated routinely to ruthless commercial
- 21 imperatives; that's right, isn't it?
- 22 **A.** No
- 23 $\,$ $\,$ Q. $\,$ And that far from displaying candour and
- 24 disclosing information concerning system errors
- 25 to subpostmasters and criminal and civil courts,

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- 1 Q. Does that ring a bell?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. He was one of the three?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Then from 2010 to 2011, for a period of about
- 8 18 months, it was Susan Crichton, who also held
- 9 the role of General Counsel; do you recall that?
- 10 A. She was General Counsel?
- 11 Q. She was also, it seems, the Company Secretary as
- 12 well.
- 13 A. Right. Okay, I didn't understand that.
- 14 I didn't know that.
- 15 Q. Okay. So she wasn't one of the three that
- 16 you -- the two or three, that you --
- 17 A. No, she wasn't one of the three I was thinking
- 18 about.
- 19 Q. The third one, from July 2011 to 2017, and we
- 20 know that you went to Royal Mail in 2012, is
- 21 Alwen Lyons, is he one of --
- 22 A. I've never heard the name.
- 23 Q. So you can definitely confirm, from what we've
- 24 now been through, Jonathan Evans?
- 25 **A.** Yes.

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- 1 your department sought to suppress such
- 2 information?
- 3 **A.** No
- 4 Q. You have said, in respect of the documents that
- 5 you received on the 8 October 2010 -- and we'll
- 6 come to one of them very briefly in a moment --
- 7 that, without wishing to be facetious, you said
- 8 that you must have had a bad day at the office
- 9 when you decided that the contents of those
- documents, concerning the receipts and payments
- 11 mismatch bug were not disclosable; do you
- 12 remember saying that?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. I suggest that it was not an isolated error and
- 15 that this was part of -- whether it was reckless
- 16 or Nelsonian -- a policy of taking perverse
- 17 decisions on disclosure to protect the Horizon
- 18 system; what do you say about that?
- 19 A. No, I didn't take decisions to protect Horizon.
- 20 Q. Could we go, please, to FUJ -- there is
- 21 an equivalent POL document but if we could go to
- FUJ00081584, please. Now, the people in this
- document, some of them were known to you, were
- 24 they not, apart from Mr Simpson?
- 25 A. The only name I recognise there, apart from Alan

1		Simpson, is Gareth Jenkins.	1		with what is recorded at the branch."
2	Q.	Not Mr Winn of POL Finance?	2		Then emphasis, please, with the following
3	A.	No.	3		words:
4	Q.	Not Julia Marwood, who was an Investigator and	4		"If widely known could cause loose of
5		part of Network?	5		confidence in the Horizon system by branches.
6	Α.	No.	6		"Potential impact upon ongoing legal cases
7	Q.	Not Emma Langfield, who was part of the Post	7		where branches are disputing the integrity of
8		Office's Problem Management Team?	8		Horizon data."
9	Α.	No.	9		I emphasise "ongoing legal cases".
10	Q.	None of those?	10		Then finally:
11	Α.	No.	11		"It could provide branches ammunition to
12	Q.	You read that document presumably on the	12		blame Horizon for future discrepancies."
13		afternoon of the 8 October?	13		Now, none of those concerns, you agree,
14	Α.	Was I copied into an email with it?	14		Mr Wilson, would count for anything in the
15	Q.	It was sent to you by Mr Simpson.	15		discharge of your duties under the Criminal
16	Α.	Oh, right. This is the right, okay, yes.	16		Procedure and Investigations Act if that
17	Q.		17		material was disclosable.
18	ų.	please. This is all predicated on the effect of	18	A.	Sorry, say that again, please?
19		the receipts and payments mismatch bug. Very,	19	Q.	None of those concerns would count for anything
		very quickly, because learned Counsel to the	20	Q.	if the material was disclosable. In other
20			21		
21		Inquiry has all ready gone through it:	21		words
22		"The branch has appeared to have balanced,		Α.	Yes, no, I understand what you're saying. Yes,
23		whereas in fact they could have a loss or	23	_	l agree with you.
24		a gain.	24	Ų.	Yes. Right. Is there any record of you
25		"Our accounting systems will be out of sync 173	25		remonstrating with Mr Simpson about that or 174
1		drawing that to his attention?	1	A.	No, I wasn't suppressing the vulnerabilities.
2	A.	I don't know.	2		I didn't agree with the solutions. I my view
3	Q.	Do you accept that this document, in which	3		was that all of the subpostmasters and
4		a number of people from the Post Office,	4		mistresses should have been told about the bug.
5		together with a number of people from Fujitsu,	5	Q.	Well, you accept, do you not, that, by this
6		were present, reveals a fear that, if flaws in	6		time, October 2010, concerns about the Horizon
7		Horizon became widely known, that subpostmasters	7		system and this was the finding of
8		might exploit this?	8		Mr Justice Fraser concerns about the Horizon
9	Α.	That's what it's saying.	9		system had been in existence for 10 years by
10	Q.	Yes.	10		this time?
11	A.	I'm not saying I agree with it though.	11	A.	Yes, if that's that's when they first became
12	Q.	But you see and you accept, that that is what it	12		known, yes.
13		says?	13	O.	You have, in your evidence today, conceded that
14	Α.	Yes, I can't dispute what it says.	14	٠.	you were aware from 2005/2006 about suggestions
15	Q.	Right, and that, therefore, the mindset might be	15		about system vulnerability, haven't you?
16	α.	that it would provide branches ammunition to	16	A.	I'm not sure of the dates but I've agreed with
17		blame Horizon for future discrepancies, in other	17	Λ.	what counsel put to me, yes.
18		words people could take dishonest advantage of		^	Well, could we, please you've just said that
			18	Q.	
19		it; that must be the import of what that is	19		you didn't agree with the solution, so it
20	A	saying?	20		follows that you must have read the solutions in
21	Α.	Yes.	21		detail, if you were going to disagree with them.
22	Q.	Right. What I suggest is that you became aware	22	Α.	Yes.
23		of that document, you forward it to Mr Singh,	23	Q.	Could we go to solution number 1, please.
24		you forward it to Ms McFarlane but the	24		I want to concentrate, please, on solution
25		vulnerabilities were suppressed, weren't they?	25		number 1:

"Alter the Horizon branch figure at the 1 informing the branch." 1 2 2 counter to show the discrepancy. Fujitsu would Now, your evidence earlier today was that 3 have to manually write an entry value to the 3 you believe that that referred to an individual 4 4 local branch account. visit to each branch to go to, not figuratively 5 "IMPACT -- When the branch comes to complete speaking or metaphorically speaking, the counter 5 6 next trading period they would have 6 but to the actual counter, to alter the data. 7 a discrepancy which they would have to bring to 7 That was your evidence. 8 account." 8 A. Yes. 9 Then this: 9 Q. I suggest that that evidence is untenable in 10 "RISK -- this has significant data integrity 10 view of the last sentence: concerns and could lead to questions of 11 11 12 'tampering' with the branch system and could 12 13 generate questions around how the discrepancy 13 14 14 was caused." 15 That must be the discrepancy referred to in 15 16 "IMPACT", do you agree? 16 17 A. In the "IMPACT" above? 17 dishonest. 18 Yes, in the line immediately above. 18 19 Α. When the branch comes to next -- yes. 19 20 Q. So a discrepancy would have appeared out of thin 20 21 21 air, which they would then have to bring to 22 account 22 23 Then the final sentence: 23 24 "This solution could have moral implications 24 25 of Post Office changing branch data without 25 1 A. Well, I didn't read it like that and I never 1 2 believed that there was a backdoor into the sub 2 3 3 post offices. 4 Q. Mr Wilson, did you make any attempt to clarify 4 completely. 5 the disturbing contents of those passages that 5 6 I have put to you? 6 7 7 I think what I did was I spoke to Jon Longman --8 Alan Simpson, and said that the only acceptable 8 9 solution in relation to these -- in relation to 9 10 10 this issue was to inform every branch, every 11 subpostmaster what the problem was and to have 11 12 12 it fixed in line with, I think, the suggestion 13 that was in the second attachment by Mr Jenkins. 13 14 Q. Mr Wilson, that wasn't the question I asked you. 14 15 I asked you: did you do anything to clarify what 15 A. I do now. 16 appears to be an obvious interpretation of 16 17 remote access? Did you do anything at all to 17 18 clarify with anybody the disturbing contents of 18 what I have put to you? 19 19

20 A.

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24

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Well, I didn't understand it to be remote

Q. I suggest that it cannot be interpreted in any

Well, I didn't understand it to be.

other way, Mr Wilson. It must be remote access.

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That, of course, would have been disclosable,

"This solution could have moral implications of Post Office changing branch data without informing the branch." Well -- it could have moral implications. If they're not telling the branch that they're altering the data at the counter, that's Q. Of course it would be but we're not talking here about them coming along and saying, "I need to do something with your terminal at the branch, the terminal which is on the counter". What we're talking about here is the covert insertion of data, authorised by the Post Office and implemented by Fujitsu. That's what we're talking about, aren't we? 178 whether it was Legacy Horizon or whether it was Horizon Online, wouldn't it? A. Well, that would have stopped prosecutions Q. Of course it would. But moving on -- and this is the final matter -- do you not agree --I mean, you say that it is now, in retrospect, clearly disclosable, but do you not agree that a continuum of error, whether it be in Legacy Horizon or Horizon Online, in other words complaints about the fragility of the system and instances of system error, would be disclosable in a Legacy Horizon case, even if it were to refer to Horizon Online? Q. Why didn't you then? A. Because I believed that there were two separate systems and that the new Horizon, as I phrase it, was not impacting on the old Horizon. 20 Q. But if you look at it in this way -- and surely 21 this would have been apparent to you -- the old 22 system was perceived to be subject to bugs, 23 errors and defects and so, therefore, a new 24 system, which was attempting to be more robust 25 than the previous system was being rolled out; 180

1		correct?	1		in relation, of course, albeit at a distance,
2	A.	Yes.	2		but nevertheless in relation to the laudatory
3	Q.	You follow me?	3		plaudits you received from David Y Smith, Rod
4	A.	Yes.	4		Ismay and Paula Vennells, weren't you?
5	Q.	Yet the new system, contrary to expectations,	5	A.	No, I wasn't inviting plaudits. I was
6		results in these covert balancing errors of	6		surprised. I didn't know most of the people on
7		which subpostmasters are completely blameless	7		the list. I had never met either of the three
8		and totally unaware. That must be disclosable,	8		that you've just named. I didn't realise that
9		mustn't it, because it goes to the ability of	9		the interest was as such as it's been
10		Fujitsu to actually implement a correct system?	10		demonstrated in the document. I'm very sorry,
11	A.	Well, I agree with you now, yes.	11		but I didn't.
12	Q.	Does this not and, again, I ask this and	12	MR	HENRY: Thank you very much.
13		I ask you, please, to reflect carefully before	13	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Anyone else?
14		you answer, does this not reveal a symbiotic	14	MR	BEER: No, that's it, sir.
15		relationship between Fujitsu and the Post	15	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Well, thank you for returning to
16		Office, the Post Office protecting Horizon at	16		give evidence, Mr Wilson. It's been a full day
17		all costs, for both its own reputation, and	17		for you but I'm grateful for your participation
18		Fujitsu aiding and abetting it to serve its own	18		in the Inquiry.
19		commercial interests as well?	19	THE	WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
20	A.	I think at a high level, having considered all	20	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: 10.00 tomorrow, Mr Beer?
21		of the documents that I've seen, and listened to	21	MR	BEER: Yes, that's right, sir. Thank you.
22		arguments like you're putting now, from counsel,	22	(4.0	0 pm)
23		that, at a high level yes, there was	23		(The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
24		a protection of Horizon.	24		the following day)
25	Q.	Of course, you were involved in that high level	25		
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